

MARCH 2024

# NEWSLETTER



*“The Chancellor has missed an opportunity to deliver resilience for food producers.”*

NFU President  
Tom Bradshaw

Mr Hunt also announced plans to abolish Multiple Dwellings Relief, with guidance suggesting there will be engagement ‘with the agricultural industry to determine if there are any particular impacts for the sector that should be considered further’.

### APR reassurance

Farm businesses gained an important reassurance on the tax treatment of land entered into environmental land management schemes, when guidance accompanying the Budget said that APR (agricultural property relief) from inheritance tax would be extended from April 2025.

In its response to a consultation last year, the NFU had stressed that was a key ask to prevent undermining the uptake of ELMs, and the government’s wider environmental aspirations.

“We welcome the government backing the NFU’s call for the extension of APR to land in Environmental Land Management schemes as it will remove a barrier of entry for a number of farm businesses and give farmers more choice about how to use their land,” Tom said.

“But the extension of this beyond ELMs may have an adverse impact on food production and farm tenancies and we will work with Treasury to assess those implications.”

### ‘Missed opportunity’

Meanwhile, rural areas could also benefit from increased devolved funding, among them Buckinghamshire, Warwickshire and Surrey.

The Chancellor’s big set-piece featured a much trailed further 2% cut to the headline NI (National Insurance) rate for employees, which will decrease to 8% for more than 27 million workers, saving the average worker £450, and a cut from 8% to 6% for the self-employed.

*Continued P3...*

## NFU: SPRING BUDGET ‘DOESN’T GO FAR ENOUGH’

**The NFU has welcomed some of the announcements in the Chancellor’s Spring Budget but has warned that it falls short of providing the stability the farming sector needs – with a change to the taxation of FHLs (Furnished Holiday Lettings) impacting an important element of many diversified businesses.**

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced that tax reliefs for FHLs would be abolished in a bid to increase the properties available for more permanent rental.

The NFU strongly opposed similar plans in 2009 and will do so again.

“Agricultural businesses are facing a challenging economic backdrop, with input costs at persistently high levels and at least a 50% reduction in direct farm payment support due this year,” said NFU President Tom Bradshaw.

“The announcement on the abolition of the Furnished Housing Letting regime is a significant concern as it’s an important source of diversification for farm businesses which underpins resilience. We will be looking to engage further with Treasury on this announcement.”

**FUEL NEWS: Fuel Duty Freeze Extended In Budget**  
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**AGRISOUTH ARABLE NEWS: Boost Maize Establishment After Waterlogging, Growers Warned Of ‘Clear Risk’ Of Slug Damage To Spring Crops & more**  
Pages 10-11

**PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS: 2024 Farming Equipment And Technology Fund – What’s New? Special Offers & more**  
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**LIVESTOCK POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS: 2024 Nematodirus Risk Map Launched, Early Spring Season Start For Ticks & more...**  
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# BLEATINGS FROM RAMSAK HQ...



*Dear Reader*

*Welcome to March! Only a couple of weeks to go before the clocks go forward and hopefully the promise of some better weather. Don't forget that if you have a shortened window of opportunity to get spring crops drilled we have members who can help with cultivating and direct-drilling for example, so please do give us a call.*

*This week saw the Chancellor delivering his last Spring Budget prior to the election, and whilst most of its contents have not come as a great surprise to anyone, you can read more on the key points in the next few pages. RAMSAK accountants Kreston Reeves have out together a fabulous and comprehensive report. This was badged by the Chancellor as a 'Budget for Long Term Growth'. Whether he is around to see if there is any long term growth will depend on whether the electorate believe this to be the case!*

**The RAMSAK Team**

**01622 815356 or email [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk)**



## TRACTOR DRIVING FARMERS STAGE 'GO-SLOW' PROTEST IN DOVER OVER CHEAP FOOD IMPORTS

**In the second protest of its kind in eight days, farmers staged a "go-slow" protest over cheap food imports and threats to Britain's food security, ITV News's Olivia Guthrie reports**

British farmers driving tractors staged a slow-moving protest near the Port of Dover today, claiming they are being undercut by cheap foreign food imports.

Around 20 tractors parked at Tesco Extra in Whitfield to raise awareness of a threat to food security in the UK and to "win over" members of the public.

It is the second protest of its kind in the area in eight days, with organisers fed up with supermarkets not paying what they feel is a fair price for homegrown produce.

"What we're looking for is a levelling of the playing field," farmer Andrew Gibson told ITV News's Olivia Guthrie.

Speaking to FarmingBritain.tv ahead of Saturday's protest, his brother, Jeff Gibson, said: "British farmers can't compete with cheap foreign imports and we're going to be left in a situation where we cannot feed the British public.

"The biggest problem we're going to face as an industry and the British public in future years is, what happens in the next crisis, what happens in the next Covid, what happens in the next Ukraine war?"

"We need to make people realise that food security in this country is really under threat.

"If nothing is done, if the Government trade deals go through, we're going to have points in the future ... when the UK's supermarket shelves are empty and they're going to be empty for a long time."

Mr Gibson added that the police were aware of the protest and that he believed the general public will "rally behind farmers".

The east Kent farmer said: "We're not going to be tearing up motorways, we're not going to be spreading Government buildings in manure. We're going to do this peacefully and we're going to exercise our right to peaceful protest."

Mr Gibson said farmers have to make a real effort to win over the British public to show them how "unfair the current system is".

Source: [www.itv.com/news/meridian](http://www.itv.com/news/meridian) 17 February 2024

...NFU: SPRING BUDGET 'DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH' Continued from front page:

Mr Hunt announced a continued freeze on fuel duty, with the 5p 'temporary' reduction renewed again for 12 months, a freeze on alcohol duty, and a £200m extension of the 'recovery loan scheme', under which the government guarantees 70% of bank loans for small and medium-sized businesses, until 2026.

Some £6 billion will be invested to boost efficiency and modernise outdated IT systems in the NHS, while Mr Hunt said that non-domicile tax arrangements would be axed and replaced with something 'simpler and fairer'.

In one of the more surprising moves, the higher rate of capital gains tax on residential property was reduced from 28% to 24%.

Other announcements centred on child benefit, green industries growth, arts funding, and a new duty on 'vaping' products.

Ahead of the Budget, the NFU had written to the Chancellor calling for measures to help farm businesses mitigate volatility and build stability.

"Where some of the headline announcements, such as an extension to agricultural property relief and a reduction of National Insurance for the self-employed, could offer some benefits to agricultural businesses, the Chancellor has missed an opportunity to deliver resilience for food producers," Tom added.

Source: [www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com), 17 February 2024

## TAX BARRIER TO LAND MANAGERS ENGAGING IN ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT SCHEMES REMOVED IN SPRING BUDGET

**As part of the 2024 Spring Budget, the government has finally published its response to last year's consultation on the potential expansion of Agricultural Property Relief (APR) for land used for environmental purposes. The consultation was carried out in response to concerns from land managers that once land was taken out of agricultural production and given over to environmental delivery it would no longer qualify for 100% tax relief.**

"The government has announced that from 6 April 2025 land managed under an environmental agreement with, or on behalf of, the UK government, Devolved Administrations, public bodies, local authorities, or approved responsible bodies will be eligible for APR," says Jason Beedell, Rural Research Director for Strutt & Parker.

"This is good news and is something that Strutt

Continued...





& Parker, working with the Energy & Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) think tank, submitted evidence to support last year. It is a move which should give farmers and landowners clarity and confidence that they can enter into long-term habitat creation, nature recovery, climate mitigation and flood management schemes without being unfairly penalised. It will give them greater flexibility to do more for the environment – in line with the Government’s own targets – at the same time as accessing new sources of revenue.

“We await further detail on what agreements are included and will also follow the working group that will be set up to identify solutions on the tax treatment of ecosystem service markets with great interest.

“Much of the rest of the Budget looks to be a swings and roundabouts situation. There is a section in the Budget documents on farming productivity which restates the recent government announcement on £427m of grants being available to farmers.

“However, this spending on improving productivity should be tempered by planned cuts in Defra’s spending of 12.5% or £0.6m between 2023/24 and 2024/25, and even bigger cuts to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) budget.

“The scrapping of tax reliefs for furnished holiday lets will also be a blow to those rural businesses which have diversified.”

Source: [www.farming.co.uk](http://www.farming.co.uk), 7 March 2024



## POLICE FORCES ACROSS SOUTH EAST INTENSIFY BATTLE AGAINST RURAL CRIME

**Police forces across the south east region have formed a new partnership as part of renewed efforts to intensify their battle against rural crime.**

The South East Partnership Against Rural Crime (SEPARC) consists of Hampshire Constabulary, Thames Valley Police, Sussex Police, Surrey Police, and Kent Police.

Throughout the past couple of weeks, they have undertaken a number of localised and co-operative operations tackling agricultural and environmental criminals.

Operations include disrupting offenders alongside the National Rural Crime Team, providing security advice at service stations and stopping suspicious vehicles on the strategic road network.

The latest figures show that the cost of rural theft in the UK has shot up by nearly a quarter, as highly organised gangs of criminals continued to plague the countryside.  
Lucy Hutson, rural policing lead for Hampshire

Constabulary, said rural crime had an enormous impact on those affected.

“It often sees local businesses suffer serious financial loss, and can destroy the livelihoods of hardworking farmers,” she said.

“It’s so important that people can live in, work in and visit our rural spaces without fear of being targeted by criminals.

“This week of action has given us the opportunity to utilise the skills and expertise of specialist policing teams from our neighbouring forces, to bring the fight to criminals who operate across county borders in the south east.”

In Hampshire specifically, the group focused on thefts of farm machinery and plant vehicles (FMPV), which have increased in frequency.

This type of crime is often perpetrated by transient offenders, who travel across county borders to steal and transport stolen goods.

On Thursday and Friday last week, SEPARC conducted an operation across Hampshire with a view to stopping thieves in transit.

Part of this operation took place in the north of the county, with a second group of officers focusing their efforts at Portsmouth International Port.

Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber said rural crime had a significant impact on the region’s farmers and rural businesses.

He said: “The launch of SEPARC will establish cross-border collaboration between police forces across the South East in tackling the most serious and organised rural crime.

“Thames Valley Police is already making great strides in driving down incidents of rural crime.”

Source: [www.farminguk.com](http://www.farminguk.com), 7 March 2024

## CHANGES TO WASTE EXEMPTIONS — LATEST UPDATES AND WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



**Changes to waste exemptions are coming in England. If you operate waste exemption activities it is important you understand what these changes mean and take appropriate action**

Waste exemptions allow farmers to undertake certain low-risk waste management activities, adhering to technical conditions but without having to apply for an environmental permit.

Farmers have to register the use of each exemption (currently without charge) with the EA (Environment Agency).

### What are the changes?

Following Defra's 2018 consultation on "proposals to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector and introduce a new fixed penalty for the waste duty of care", we have learned that the Environment Agency plans to bring in charges for waste exemptions in England by July 2024 at the earliest.

A public consultation on these charges is planned for May 2024, as part of a wider consultation on other planned Environment Agency charges.

Ahead of these charges, the Environment Agency has been writing to exemption holders to encourage them to review and deregister exemptions that they do not need.

The EA is trying to make it easier for farmers when deciding what exemptions they do and don't need. It allows them to self-serve, rather than ring up and put the request in writing.

This work is part of wider reforms to waste exemptions which was announced as part of the Defra's consultation response. More information on these changes can be found at: [Defra consults on waste crime and waste exemptions](#)

The new legislation for these changes, the new EPRs (Environmental Permitting Regulations), will come into law in July 2024.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE & LINKS](#)

Source: [www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com) (edited), 5 March 2024

farmers in England must carefully plan manure and fertiliser applications to avoid exceeding the crop or soil need.

**There are 8 farming rules for water which farmers must align with where required:**

[Rule 1: Planning use of manures and fertilisers](#)

[Rule 2: Storing organic manures](#)

[Rule 3: Applying manures or fertilisers](#)

[Rule 4: Where not to apply organic manures](#)

[Rule 5: Where not to apply fertiliser](#)

[Rule 6: Reasonable precautions to prevent soil erosion](#)

[Rule 7: Protecting against soil erosion by livestock](#)

[Rule 8: Position of livestock feeders](#)

As part of the inspection of on farm activities undertaken by the Environment Agency's agricultural regulatory inspection officers, compliance with the Farming Rules for Water will be assessed where applicable as part of a farm regulatory inspection. Read our guide on what to expect from an EA inspection to find out more.

In 2022, the Secretary of State issued statutory guidance to the Environment Agency regarding the enforcement of the Farming Rules for Water. This guidance is non-statutory, and does not change the underlying legal requirements, but the EA must have regard to the guidance when making decisions on the enforcement of the rules.

### Caution: legal challenge

The EA's current approach to the enforcement of the Farming Rules for Water, and in particular the EA's approach to the statutory guidance, is currently subject to a legal challenge. So, while the EA's current position is that it will not ordinarily take enforcement action, beyond advice and guidance, where farmers are compliant with the statutory guidance, this may change in the future, depending on the outcome of the legal challenge. It is important that farmers monitor NFUonline and GOV.UK to ensure that they are familiar with the latest position.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL ARTICLE & LINKS](#)

Source: [www.nfuonline.com](http://www.nfuonline.com) (edited), 7 March 2024

## FARMING RULES FOR WATER — WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**Find out what you need to do to comply with the farming rules for water on your farm, plan nutrient applications and manage risk of agricultural run off to help you protect your soils.**

Every farming business in England must comply with the [Farming Rules for Water](#). Engaging in the active application of these rules when undertaking on farm activities will ensure that you are compliant and can help to reduce nutrient applications.

Introduced in 2018 across England, the Reduction and Prevention of Agricultural Diffuse Pollution (England) Regulations 2018, also known as the Farming Rules for



### FARM SALE

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at Goodnestone Court Farm, Graveney ME13 9BZ.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE BROCHURE](#)

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## FARMERS TO SEE NEW HEDGEROW RULES AS DEFRA UNVEILS TOUGHER LAW



**Farmers will have to comply with new hedgerow rules and regulations as the government seeks to pass a new law which further protects them.**

The regulations will include a two metre 'buffer strip' from the centre of hedgerows, with no cultivation or application of pesticides or fertilisers.

There will also be a hedge cutting ban between 1 March and 31 August to protect nesting birds.

Defra said it will roll out a notification process for farmers needing an exemption to cut or trim hedges in August if they are sowing oilseed rape or temporary grass.

The department added that farmers will be provided with advice from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) to help them comply with the new rules.

Civil and criminal sanctions will be undertaken against farmers who caused serious or repeated damage to hedgerows, it warned.

A consultation will be launched to inform the statutory guidance that will be used to enforce the regulations.

It follows a consultation last year which saw over 95% of the 9,000 responses to it calling for more efforts to protect hedgerows in England.

Farming Minister Mark Spencer said: "Farmers have been protecting, planting and maintaining our hedgerows for centuries.

"I want to thank them for their continued efforts to help wildlife thrive on their farms alongside food production.

"I am delighted that thousands of farmers are taking up the support and guidance on offer in our Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive schemes."

Hedgerows provide ecological benefits including wildlife habitats, slowing soil erosion and water run-off, supporting crop pollinators and absorbing carbon.

Over 90,000km of hedgerows are being managed through 16,000 agreements in the Countryside Stewardship and Sustainable Farming Incentive schemes.

And more than 13,000km of hedgerows have been created or restored using Countryside Stewardship grants.

Defra said the new requirements will be introduced soon and will be regulated by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA), who will provide advice to help farmers comply.

Source: [www.farminguk.com](http://www.farminguk.com), 9 January 2024



# ARBORICULTURE NEWS: ASIAN HORNETS: A GROWING CONCERN



**Since 2004, Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*) have slowly but steadily established themselves in Europe and spread to all of France, Portugal and northern parts of Spain. They are now moving into Holland, Belgium and Germany.**

Author: Michael Grindley 06/03/2024

Since 2004, Asian hornets (*Vespa velutina nigrithorax*) have slowly but steadily established themselves in Europe and spread to all of France, Portugal and northern parts of Spain. They are now moving into Holland, Belgium and Germany.

The Asian hornet is a highly aggressive predator of native insects and poses a significant threat to all pollinators, including honey bees.

Since 2016, sporadic incursions into mainland Britain have occurred but were few in number and all were destroyed. However, in 2023, a total of 78 nests were found and destroyed. This is a sevenfold increase on any previous year.

Why am I writing this article for the Arboricultural Association? Well, on the Island of Jersey, they found 338 nests in 2023 and 45% of those were in trees, with 32% being at heights above 10 metres. Having tracked Asian hornets on Jersey, I know from personal experience that their nests are very difficult to spot, even when you are 100% certain the nest is in a particular tree. Last year, on Jersey, a further 24% of nests were discovered in brambles, hedges and shrubs.

**You might now be beginning to understand my concern for you.**

I am trying not to be an alarmist, as the chances at this point in time of encountering a nest are small, but the nests found in 2023 are indicative of what we can expect to come in the future when Europe experiences another 'surge year following a mild winter, such as the winter of 2022/23. The number of nests will increase exponentially should Defra (APHA) be unable to prevent the insect from becoming established.

Should you climb a tree and discover the Asian hornet has taken up residence in the same tree or, in a wooded area, even the adjacent tree, you can expect them to be extremely aggressive by the time you realise there is a nest. Their stings are, I am told, extremely painful and the insect has a habit of flying at the perceived threat and stopping short of flying into it and then, while hovering in front of the intruder, voiding its bowels, effectively spraying the intruder with a fine mist of faeces. If this manages to enter the eyes, it results in a burning sensation and is very uncomfortable but is easily removed with a water flush.

The advice from France on what to do if you unexpectedly encounter a nest close by is to cover your head and face with your arms and run! Now, up a tree, with Asian hornets bombarding you, stinging and also spraying faeces, are you going to be able to take that advice to run?

I recommend that you enhance your examination of a tree about to be climbed or a shrub about to be trimmed by looking for 'traffic' flying in or out. Stand with the edge of the tree in silhouette and look at the sky adjacent to the tree. Spotting activity by a dark insect moving in or out from the foliage will indicate the presence of a nest which you might need to really look hard to find. Be aware the insects may only be leaving or entering the tree in one or two places in the tree's circumference, so the examination should be made all around the tree. Take your time with this. Hopefully, you will find the nest is that of the European hornet, or wasps, or even bees.

With reference to current PPE, the flip down visor attached to your helmet will not provide sufficient protection to your eyes. The advice from Jersey and France is to use goggles that completely cover the eyes. Climbing a tree with a known nest will also require a full body protective suit, helmet and gloves thick enough to prevent stings from penetrating to your skin.

## Life cycle and nests

Like the native European hornet species present in the UK, the Asian hornet queen emerges from hibernation in spring and sets about establishing a primary nest where she will raise the first cohort of workers. Once these have emerged, they will take over the work of nest building and foraging for protein to feed the next batch of young larvae.

As winter approaches, the queen will lay male drones and then female queens. These virgin queens will mate and then leave the nest in search of somewhere to hibernate during the coming winter.

With having to build a nest, feed and incubate the larvae/pupae, the queen takes a few months to raise the first cohort, but thereafter the nest

*Continued...*

expands rapidly. At some stage, the insects will decide to either relocate to a more suitable location and build a secondary nest, which is usually fairly close to the primary nest, or sometimes they will just expand the primary nest.

On the Island of Jersey, the experience has been that about 80% of primary nests are on or in man-made structures and 20% in natural vegetation. With secondary nests, the ratio swings the other way with about 80% being in natural vegetation and most of those, as already stated, will be in trees, bramble, hedges or shrubs.

The primary nest is small, about the size of a small grapefruit, while secondary nests can be very large with up to 6,000 workers, being about the size of a large suitcase that travellers check in as hold luggage at the airport. The primary nest resembles the nests wasps build, with an entrance at the bottom (photo 5). Secondary nests are quite distinctively different to those of European hornets or wasps, oval in shape with the long axis in the vertical plane, with an entrance at about the equator or slightly below the equator (photo 6). The NNSS (Non-Native Species Secretariat) has produced a guide to Asian hornet nest identification which can be downloaded here: [www.bit.ly/48TsfHM](http://www.bit.ly/48TsfHM).

One of the problems we face is that one cannot predict with any certainty where the queens will emerge. They can fly up to 60 kilometres from their birth place but the newly mated queens are adept at stowing away in or under cargo or vehicles in order to hibernate. This cargo and/or vehicle may then move some considerable distance from the 'front line'. We can see this type of local outbreak in the location of nests away from Kent in Plymouth etc. in the time lapse mentioned above.

If a traffic light system were to be adopted to indicate the likelihood of a nest being discovered, then in 2024 **Kent would be in the red zone**, most of the rest of England and Wales would be amber and Scotland would be green. I'll stop here.

In conclusion, **please be vigilant, especially if you do any work in Kent**, but please bear in mind that this insect can pop up anywhere, even in Scotland.

Going forward, the news networks will be carrying stories on how the Asian hornet is spreading and at some stage the authorities may release a statement that the presence of the Asian hornet is now considered to have passed the containment phase and is to be considered as being in the establishment phase. When that happens, I hope you will remember this article and double down on your pre-work inspection of the tree(s) to be worked on.

Michael Grindley is the Asian Hornet Coordinator for the Cornwall Beekeepers Association email: ([cbka.ah@gmail.com](mailto:cbka.ah@gmail.com)) [www.trees.org.uk](http://www.trees.org.uk)

## DETECTING THE EARLY SIGNS OF UNHEALTHY TREES

**Trees can encounter health problems or issues that make them unhealthy or potentially hazardous. Therefore, it is important to identify the early signs of tree health decline.**

Detecting early signs of tree health issues is crucial for routine tree maintenance. The sooner a problem is identified, diagnosed, and addressed, the less likely it is to cause long-term damage. Here are some key signs so you can promptly take action to protect your property, workforce and the public:

- Check for Dead Tree Branches
- Check for Holes in the Trunk
- Check the Leaves
- Leaning
- Root Girdling

Regular inspections are essential for identifying tree issues before they become severe. An inspection by an arborist, an expert in tree care, can help identify problems early and facilitate easier treatment. If you suspect your tree needs assistance, consult a qualified arborist who can assess the situation and provide suitable solutions. These signs are just a few indicators of tree health problems, so there's no need to panic—seek professional advice to address any concerns.

Contact RAMSAK on 01622 815356 or email [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) for your nearest arborist fellow member.



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## FERTILISER: TRIAL BRINGS HOPE FOR FARMER-MADE LOW-CARBON FERTILISER

**New technology that harnesses lightning's nitrogen-fixing properties could revolutionise nitrate fertiliser production and supply, while cutting carbon emissions and improving soil health.**

An 18-month feasibility study between agri-tech start-up Debye and Agri-Tech Centres Crop Health and Protection (Chap) and Agri-EPI is taking place at Chap's vertical farming facility at Stockbridge.

The project to trial Debye's ground-breaking system, which simulates lightning's ability to capture nitrogen in the form of nitrates when it strikes water, is funded by Innovate UK and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council.

Debye's chief technical officer, Dr Burak Karadag, who developed the technology, was originally a space engineer, working on satellite propulsion, when he became interested in the properties of lightning and decided to see if he could apply space technology to challenges on earth.

He explained that their technology uses air, water and electricity to replicate lightning striking water, breaking apart atmospheric nitrogen molecules and creating nitrogen dioxide, which is soluble in water and readily absorbed by plants.

The objective is to develop a 1kW proof-of-concept prototype and to quantify and compare crop yields and quality using nitrogen produced by it to crops grown using standard nitrogen fertiliser.

If the trial is successful, Debye could start small-scale on-farm projects within three years.

Source: [www.fwi.co.uk](http://www.fwi.co.uk), 1 March 2024

## FARMERS URGED TO GUARD AGAINST FERTILISER THEFT AND DANGEROUS STORAGE

**Farmers are being urged to be on the guard against fertiliser theft and to follow safe storage ahead of the busy spring season.**

With poor weather hampering efforts to deliver nutrients to crops, the Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC) is urging farmers to remain vigilant.

The risk of fertiliser theft is currently high, the body warns, and farmers should also follow

safe handling and secure storage advice.

Nitrogen-based fertilisers are at risk of being used in criminal activities such as terrorism, posing a threat to the public if products were to fall into the wrong hands.

And anyone handling these products has a responsibility to store them securely and be vigilant against safety risks, AIC says.

The agricultural supply trade association runs the Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS), which provides an assurance system.

This was created to ensure that the security, safety and traceability of fertilisers meet safety requirements of the government and the farming industry.

Roberta Reeve, AIC services technical manager, said it was vital for farmers to keep fertilisers safe and secure at all times.

"By following the simple guidance on the storing and handling of fertiliser, farmers will help to deter thieves and keep the public and the environment safe from harm."

### What is the advice?

The following advice from AIC is supported by Defra and the NFU:

- Wherever possible, use a Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) approved supplier.
- Wherever possible, keep fertiliser in a secure place away from public view, such as a locked building or sheeted area.
- Carry out regular stock checks and report any loss to the Police immediately by calling 101.
- Avoid leaving fertiliser in a field overnight, and never leave fertiliser in a field for a longer period of time.
- It is illegal to resell ammonium nitrate fertiliser without the correct documentation - farmers are encouraged to report any suspicious sales activity to the police
- Never advertise fertiliser for resale on auction sites, local and trade magazines, or social media.
- Where crop plans change and existing stocks of nitrogen-based fertilisers held on farm are no longer needed, product can be safely resold by contacting the original supplier.

Sources: [www.farminguk.com](http://www.farminguk.com), 1 March 2024

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## BOOST MAIZE ESTABLISHMENT AFTER WATERLOGGING

**Maize growers are urged to allow fields time to fully recover following significant rainfall and flooding before drilling, to ensure crops get off to the best start.**

Severely waterlogged soils can jeopardise maize establishment and hinder effective root development, by limiting oxygen supply in the soil.

Will Andrew, South West regional manager at Timac Agro UK, says although the recent extreme rainfall has been unprecedented, there have been patterns of dry weather occurring later in the spring year-on-year, which means it could pay to delay drilling.

He says: "There are ways growers can manage the impacts of variable weather conditions to ensure effective germination, regardless of environmental pressures.

"Prioritise making the most of farmyard manure (FYM) and strengthen its value by using a starter fertiliser to help the plant establish well, even when drilled later on," he says.

"FYM will play a key role in producing a profitable crop - it's an excellent source of essential phosphate, potash, and nitrogen once the crop is up and away."

Mr Andrew explains it is important for FYM to be well incorporated into the soil prior to drilling.

This ensures adequate breakdown and availability of nutrients for their effective uptake at germination while conditioning the soil to retain precious moisture and strengthen structure.

He says: "The plant needs an easily accessible and consistent source of nutrition from the beginning.

"That's why we also advise drilling seed alongside a microgranular starter fertiliser, such as Physiostart, which provides an instant fix of essential soluble phosphorus and ammoniacal nitrogen from day one."

Seeds should be drilled a depth of 25mm to 100mm depending on moisture reserves and the soil temperature should be 10°C at 10cm deep for seeds to thrive.

"Growers working with drier soils should aim to drill deeper, whereas wetter soils can be drilled closer to the surface," says Mr Andrew.

"Along with planting in optimum soil conditions, using a starter fertiliser acts as an insurance policy

during a tricky growing season, ensuring the crop has what it needs to thrive as soon as it's put into the ground."

For RAMSAK members who can offer further information or advice contact 01622 815356 or email [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk).

Source: [www.farming.co.uk](http://www.farming.co.uk), 27 February 2024



## GROWERS WARNED OF 'CLEAR RISK' OF SLUG DAMAGE TO SPRING CROPS

**Growers are being urged to assess and manage the risk of damage to spring cereals following high autumn slug pressure and a mild, wet winter.**

Slug populations were significant last autumn after favourable breeding conditions in September and October, according to Keith Walters, professor of pest management at Harper Adams.

His research suggests that in many fields of suitable soil types, slugs remained active through until January, when monitoring stopped, and there is a risk this activity has continued into the spring.

Spring cereals are usually considered less vulnerable to slug damage than autumn sown crops due to lower slug populations - hit by cold winter weather - and crops growing away from vulnerable growth stages quicker in warming seedbeds.

But following the absence of any hard, prolonged frost and presence of favourable soil conditions, Professor Walters warns that nothing should be taken for granted this year.

He said: "Don't take any risks. Look very carefully at fields destined for spring cereals, monitor for slugs and be ready to act if slug populations have survived the winter."

Richard Cromie, independent agronomist with Crop Management Partners, agrees, warning that there is a 'clear risk' this spring.

This will be heightened on farms direct drilling into trashy stubbles, or where a cover crop has preceded the spring crop and not been grazed off by livestock.

In such situations, he recommends shallow cultivation to incorporate organic matter and knock slug numbers.

A recent BASIS project trial conducted by the partnership's trainee suggests this tactic can reduce damage in the following crop by about one-third.

*Continued P8...*





**Pulses - the dried, edible seeds of plants from the legume (Fabaceae) family - represent excellent sources of protein, fibre and minerals. They are widely used both as food ingredients and as animal feed. Many UK farmers grow field (faba) beans and peas, but as consumers we are also familiar with other pulses such as chickpeas, lentils, and a wide range of other beans such as adzuki, black, borlotti, butter, cannellini, kidney, mung and of course haricot or navy 'baked beans', most often seen covered in tomato sauce and served on toast!**

Legumes are particularly useful crops because, through a close relationship with nitrogen-fixing bacteria, they typically have a low fertiliser requirement, especially compared to more hungry crops like wheat and oilseed rape, and farmers often include them in crop rotations because of the boost they give to soil fertility.

NIAB have an established research programme in faba bean, led by Dr Tom Wood, and often also work on other pea and bean species, usually on aspects of disease control. Recently, we have also begun to explore the potential of chickpeas, lentils and other legume crops more usually associated with hotter, drier climates, to help farmers provide home-grown ingredients for the rapidly-growing plant-based protein sector.

For example, a new Defra-funded research project 'Cicero' is exploring the potential for domestic chickpea production and aims to pump-prime the UK's first chickpea breeding programme. UK food companies annually import 60,000 tonnes for products which range from stand-alone tins or pouches of cooked chickpeas, packets of dried pulses, through to ingredients of ready meals and bakery products. Cicero will explore the possibility of displacing imported chickpeas through domestic production.

"Chickpeas are a classic example of the challenges the legume sector is facing" says project lead, NIAB's Dr Phil Howell. "Manufacturers must often rely on imports to service the increasing demand for healthy plant-based foods. While this crop can be grown in the UK, its yields and quality are unreliable, because current varieties are not well-adapted. Ultimately, we need better varieties bred specifically for UK conditions, but we also need to improve our agronomy know-how to get the most out of varieties – now and in the future."

Source: [www.niab.com](http://www.niab.com), 8 February 2024

"A stubble rake is better than nothing, but a 2-4in cultivation is best. It will help culturally beat some slugs up, relieve pressure on the following crop and reduce reliance on slug pellets," Mr Cromie said.

With much land still at field capacity it could be a couple of weeks before spring cereal drillings in earnest, so there is time to identify risky fields and monitor slug populations.

However, on larger farms some crops will have to be drilled earlier into less-than-ideal seed beds increasing opportunity for seed hollowing or seedling damage.

Mr Cromie says growers should be prepared to act, targeting ferric phosphate slug pellets at problem fields or areas rather than taking a blanket approach.

"The wet autumn underlined the importance of a high quality, standard sized pellet like SluXX HP, and should be considered if catchy conditions continue throughout the spring drilling campaign.

"That is my preferred product in wet conditions. The larger, well formulated pellets offer a longer period of protection if you have rain soon after application."

Source: [www.farminguk.com](http://www.farminguk.com), 4 March 2024

FOR SUPPLIES AND SERVICES FOR SLUG CONTROL CONTACT RAMSAK ON: 01622 815356 or email [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk)

## NEXT STEPS FOR THE COMBINABLE CROPS DIGITAL PASSPORT

**Following the industry-wide consultation for the combinable crops digital passport there has been an intensive period reviewing the wide-ranging feedback received.**

Headlines from the consultation are:

- Over 400 grower business responses.
- Over 50 merchant, haulier, and processor business responses.
- 80 new questions and feedback points to be reviewed.

The feedback received can be grouped into broad categories. These are of fundamental aspects of what the passport is for, technical queries over specific aspects of grain deliveries, developmental questions on how the system will work and data led questions over governance, security, and data-sharing.

There was also a consistent theme from responses of the need for greater clarity and explanation regarding the costs and benefits. The examination of these costs will form a significant part of the review process. The Leadership Group are clear that all questions raised will be addressed and responses communicated in full.

The longer-term decision on funding and development will be made once this initial process of business case development and review is complete.

Source: [www.farming.co.uk](http://www.farming.co.uk) (edited), 4 March 2024





# HORTICULTURE NEWS



## MAJOR BOOST FOR UK HOPS INDUSTRY

**A major new collaborative project between University of Kent researchers and Wye Hops, together with NIAB, the British Hop Association, The Hop Plant Company and LGC Genomics has been awarded over half a million pounds by Defra through UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) to develop environmentally resilient 'super hop' varieties.**

The £574k five-year project will involve Dr Helen Cockerton, industrial research fellow at the university's School of Biosciences, working closely with hop breeder Dr Klara Hajdu to create hop varieties which are more resilient to drought, pests and diseases.

The organisations point out that while there is a huge potential for UK-grown hops, growers need to overcome a series of major challenges, including Verticillium wilt, which is currently untreatable and able to kill entire hop gardens. In addition, extreme heat and droughts are also becoming more commonplace in the UK.

In what is one of the first hop breeding programmes in the world to use DNA screening, this new project aims to provide a solution to these challenges and supply UK breweries with high quality, sustainably produced, local hops. Dr Cockerton commented, "The tools we will develop through this project will enable us to generate better hops faster than we could achieve through using traditional approaches alone."

Dr Hajdu added, "Through this collaboration we are not only addressing important issues such as the development of climate resilient British hop varieties but also re-establishing a dynamic, research-driven hop breeding programme capable of future proofing the UK hop and brewing industries in the face of evolving challenges."

Source: [www.hortnews.com](http://www.hortnews.com), 27 February 2024

## NFU CALLS FOR AN OVERHAUL OF HORTICULTURAL SUPPLY CHAIN RELATIONSHIPS

**The NFU is calling on government to introduce a Horticultural Buyers Code of Practice as part of a package of recommendations to underpin confidence and profitability in the British horticulture sector and ensure fairness in the**

### supply chain.

The call comes amid ongoing challenges in the sector, including costs of production which have increased by as much as 39% in the past two years and uncertainty about a long-term plan for seasonal workers.

The code of practice would complement and expand on the rules already laid out in the Groceries Supply Code of Practice (GSCOP) and be applicable to all buyers across the supply chain. It forms part of the NFU's recommendations to the Defra horticulture supply chain review consultation. Other recommendations which could ensure a fair and well-functioning horticulture supply chain fit for the UK's food security needs include:

Calling for the government to use its powers in the Agriculture Act to regulate contracts.

Ensuring appropriate enforcement of regulations made under the Agriculture Act by an independent body.

Expanding the role of GSCOP and the GCA (Groceries Code Adjudicator) to include large manufacturers and processors in its scope and include ornamental crops in its remit.

Ensuring the government works together so that GSCOP legislation stays relevant to the industry challenges.

Legally incorporating the GCA's seven golden rules into GSCOP.

NFU horticulture and potatoes board chair Martin Emmett said: "Evidence gathered from our grower members shows just how strained relationships in the horticulture supply chain have become. While growers want to remain anonymous for fear of losing contracts, we have heard examples of unreasonable delay tactics to negotiating contracts, making it difficult to plan for the season ahead and unexpected requests mid-contract. It is vital for Defra to use its powers in the Agriculture Act to address the unfair buying behaviours impacting growers."

Source: [www.hortnews.com](http://www.hortnews.com), 4 March 2024

## ALDI SALAD SUPPLIER UK SALADS APPOINTS ADMINISTRATORS

**Aldi salad supplier UK Salads Limited has appointed FRP as administrators.**

The Grocer has reported that the major Essex-based supplier, which grows a range of fresh produce for retailers including Aldi, has unsecured creditors totalling more than £10m.

According to industry sources, the company has nearly £15m worth of "perfectly good greenhouse crop", including tomatoes, cucumbers and aubergines, in the company's 60 acres of greenhouses waiting for harvest.

Alastair Massey and Glyn Mummery, partners at FRP, were appointed as joint administrators on 28 February.

Source: [www.thegrocer.co.uk](http://www.thegrocer.co.uk) (edited), 1 March 2024



# FORAGE



## HAY AND STRAW PRICES

These figures, from the British Hay and Straw Merchants' Association for Great Britain show average merchant buying prices and are available on a monthly and weekly basis. The downloadable Excel file also shows weekly prices for the key regions across GB. Prices include big bale hay and big square baled barley and wheat straw.



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# LIVESTOCK, POULTRY & DAIRY NEWS

## 2024 NEMATODIRUS RISK MAP LAUNCHED



Following one of the warmest Februaries on record, the threat to lambs from nematodirus is predicted to be extremely variable across the UK. To help you understand the risk to your flock, the Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep group (SCOPS) has launched the 2024 nematodirus risk map.

The forecast predicts the hatch date for nematodirus based on temperature data from 140 weather stations throughout the UK. Use this in combination with your grazing history to assess the risk of nematodirus infection in your lambs.

Lesley Stubbings, an independent sheep consultant and SCOPS spokesperson explains:

“A sudden increase in temperature after a period of cold weather can trigger a mass hatch of *Nematodirus battus* worms from eggs that have laid dormant since the previous season. If this coincides with the time when lambs are starting to take in a significant amount of grass, the result can be devastating.”

Nematodiosis is caused by large numbers of immature larvae that lambs consume from the pasture.

These immature larvae are not producing eggs, so this is the one time of year when faecal egg counts (FECs) aren't as useful. Instead, keep an eye on the forecast – which is a free, online resource – and consider your individual risk factors.

Nematodirus risk factors

- Lambs are grazing pasture that carried lambs last spring
- Lambs are old enough to be eating significant amounts of grass
- Lambs are in groups where there is also likely to be a challenge from coccidiosis (e.g. mixed aged lambs)
- Lambs are under stress (e.g. triplets, fostered, on a young or older ewes)
- A sudden, cold snap followed by a period of warm weather

Links:

[CHECK THE NEMATODIRUS FORECAST IN YOUR AREA](#)  
[LEARN MORE ABOUT NEMATODIRUS](#)

Source: [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk) 1 March 2024

## EARLY SPRING SEASON START FOR TICKS

APHA are warning vets and farmers that the current warm weather may contribute to an increase in early spring tick activity. Consider the possibility of tick-borne diseases when examining sick livestock.

Tick bites can cause significant health problems for cattle and sheep.

Infections (protozoan and bacterial) transmitted via tick bites can lead to severe, and sometimes fatal, diseases. They can also result in hypersensitivity due to irritation and inflammation at bite sites.

Tick activity has two seasonal peaks: one in spring and the other in late summer/autumn.

Clinical signs of common tick-borne diseases:

### Louping ill

- High temperature
- Lack of appetite
- Muscular trembling
- Unsteadiness
- Seizure
- Frequently fatal in sheep

### Tick-borne fever

- Abortion in naïve pregnant cattle and sheep
- High temperature
- Anorexia
- Immune suppression leading to secondary infections

### Redwater fever (bovine babesiosis)

- Increased temperature
- Diarrhoea then constipation
- Red urine
- Abortion in pregnant cattle

### Tick pyaemia (affects lambs up to 12 weeks of age)

- Weakness
- Abscesses in tendons, joints, muscles and brain
- Lameness
- Paralysis

### Habitat, diagnosis and control

Ticks prefer thick, dense vegetation, and as a result are generally found in rough hill ground, forestry and heathland habitats. However, their geographical range is expanding for several environmental reasons, including climate change.

Do not underestimate the importance of accurate diagnosis, as treatment and control options may differ depending on the infection. You can obtain a diagnosis through blood sampling or a post-mortem.

Careful exposure of animals can play an important role in disease prevention through immunity, with tick-control products being used strategically to strike a balance between the development of immunity and disease.

Speak to your vet or animal health advisor for advice and develop a tick control plan tailored to your specific farm's needs. This will ensure the correct control product selection is used only when needed and is timed appropriately.

Source: [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk) 27 February 2024



## DEFRA: Government introduces legislation to reform Veterinary Medicines Regulations

1. Reforms widely supported by veterinary medicines industry
2. Regulations to be made more effective and maintain the UK as an attractive place to market veterinary medicines
3. Further measures to build on success in tackling antimicrobial resistance

The government has (4 March) introduced legislation to modernise the Veterinary Medicines Regulations and maintain the UK as an attractive place to develop and market veterinary medicines.

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 set out the controls on the marketing, manufacture, distribution, possession, and administration of veterinary medicines and medicated feed. They are a critical tool to help protect animal health, public health and the environment.

The legislation will implement the plans set out in the recently published government response to last year's public consultation, which received widespread support from the veterinary medicines sector.

The new regulations seek to reduce regulatory

burden; they facilitate the submission of one marketing authorisation application dossier and enable common packaging to be used across the UK.

Other changes include the introduction of measures to help tackle antimicrobial resistance by increasing restrictions on the use of antibiotics and antibiotics administered via feed.

Abi Seager, Veterinary Medicine Directorate Chief Executive Officer, said:

"I am delighted that this much-anticipated legislation has been brought to Parliament.

"I would like to thank Lord Douglas-Miller for his input, and our stakeholders for helping to shape our thinking, both in responses to our consultation and through other contributions. We eagerly await parliamentarians discussing our proposals, and we hope they support these much-needed changes."

The new regulations build upon wider work on antimicrobial resistance outlined in the UK's 20-year vision to contain and control antimicrobial resistance by 2040, delivered through the UK's 5-year National Action Plan for AMR.

The recent UK-Veterinary Antimicrobial Resistance and Sales Surveillance (VARSS) Report showed that sales of antibiotics for use in food-producing animals fell by nearly 10% in the last year and have fallen by 59% since 2014.

Source: [www.farming.co.uk](http://www.farming.co.uk), 5 March 2024

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# FUEL PRICE OVERVIEW

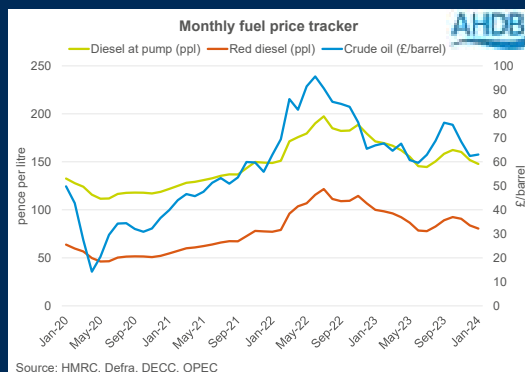
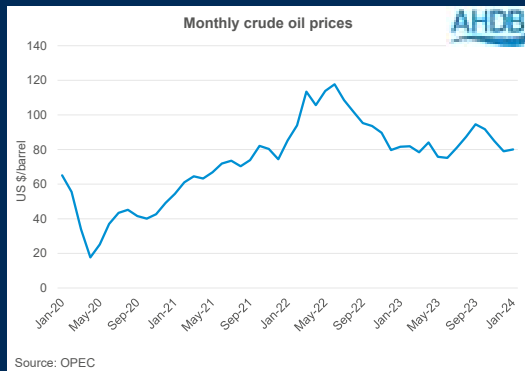
## Monthly

These figures give an overview of the fuel markets, focusing on crude oil and diesel prices on both a monthly and annual basis.

Month	OPEC price (\$/b barrel)	OPEC price (£/barrel)	UK red diesel (ppl)	UK diesel (ppl)
Jan-24	80.84	63.83	90.42	147.63
Dec-23	79.63	62.44	89.79	151.87
Month-on-month change	1.54	1.39	-0.37	-4.24
% change	1.9%	2.2%	-0.4%	-2.7%
Jan-23	81.82	66.00	89.96	171.27
Year-on-year change	-1.58	-2.17	-16.54	-23.44
% change	-1.9%	-3.3%	-18.4%	-13.7%

Source: Defra, OPEC, OREF, RAC

\*Red diesel duty = 11.14ppl from April 2011 to March 2022, 10.18 from April 2022



Visit the OPEC for more on crude prices  
 Figures Courtesy of: [www.ahdb.org.uk](http://www.ahdb.org.uk)



# FUEL NEWS

## FUEL DUTY FREEZE EXTENDED IN BUDGET

**Jeremy Hunt has handed a Budget boost to motorists as the chancellor opted to keep fuel duty frozen for the 14th year in a row.**

In a move expected to cost the Treasury around £5bn, Mr Hunt once again extended the 5p cut in fuel duty introduced by Rishi Sunak in 2022 as wholesale prices soared in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Despite an unforgiving economic landscape, the chancellor is under pressure to entice voters with tax giveaways ahead of this year's general election, with recent polling putting the Conservative Party's popularity at a 45-year low.

Announcing the measure during his Budget statement on Wednesday, Mr Hunt said: "The labour mayor of London wants to punish motorists even more with his Ulez plans but lots of families and sole traders depend on their car. If I did nothing fuel duty would increase by 13 per cent each months."

He added that he had listened to his fellow Tory MPs and a newspaper campaign in the decision to freeze fuel duty for another 12 months, which he claimed would save the average British household £50 next year.

The extension will provide some relief to motorists who saw the cost of petrol soar to £1.91 per litre in June 2022. That has now fallen to £1.45 per litre, which remains well above a low of £1.01 in 2016, according to the RAC.

But the motoring group has expressed concern that the fuel duty cut is not being passed on to customers, warning last December that forecourts had pocketed an extra £184m in the two months prior by failing to reflect the cut in their prices.

And, at a cost of around £74 per UK resident if estimated to total £5bn, it is no small feat for the chancellor to keep the duty frozen. As reported by Politico, Mr Hunt was only deemed to have met his fiscal rules in the Autumn Statement due to an assumption by the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) that fuel duty would increase in March.

The OBR warned last autumn that freezing fuel duty would wipe out 43 per cent of the chancellor's "headroom" in 2028-29 and would mean the national debt would no longer be falling, the website reported.

The decision is also of no minor consequence to the UK's climate ambitions, with analysis by the website Carbon Brief suggesting that cuts and freezes to fuel duty since 2010 have resulted in road traffic CO2 emissions being 24 per cent higher – and the UK's overall CO2 output 7 per cent greater.

Source: [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk) (edited) 7 March 2024

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**Moore Uni-drill**  
We have a 3m Moore Uni-drill for direct drilling operations. This machine is ideal for establishment of wild flowers and grass leys for government environmental schemes.

**Avadex Application**  
Avadex application available for the treatment of herbicide resistant black-grass & sterile brome, using our 24m mounted pneumatic spreading machine.

**Precision Maize Drilling**  
Our Vaderstad Tempo F-8 maize drill offers high speed drilling without compromising singulation and provides the greatest output with the highest quality of drilling.

**Hay & Straw Supply**

- Haylage & Hay
- Wheat & Barley straw

Bale size 120 x 70 & 120 x 90





Stanford Bridge Farm, Station Road, Pluckley, Ashford, Kent, TN27 0RU

Contact Ramsak on 01622 815356  
[www.fgsagri.co.uk](http://www.fgsagri.co.uk)





# PLANT & MACHINERY NEWS

## 2024 FARMING EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY FUND

### — WHAT'S NEW?

**The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) has had its budget increased for 2024, allowing Defra to raise the maximum grants available and introduce new eligible items.**

The FETF is available to farmers, contractors, horticulturalists and foresters and provides grants for equipment and technology that support improvements across three areas:

- productivity
- slurry management
- animal health and welfare.

The maximum amount available for productivity and slurry items is now £50,000 (up from £25,000 in the previous round of the scheme) while the maximum amount for animal welfare options remains £25,000. The minimum grant funding available across all three themes is £1,000.

The grants are based on a percentage of the cost of the item – Defra claims it should cover approximately 50-60% of the average cost.

You can apply for grants from each of the three themes, so, in theory, farmers can apply for up to £125,000 worth of grant funding. However, the scheme is also competitive so you may not receive any, or all, of the funding you apply for.

Guidance notes are available for the scheme, and the application window is expected to open shortly.

#### Productivity

There are now 85 productivity items that are eligible for the scheme, including funding of just over £30,470 towards a 6-metre inter-row hoe and £40,800 towards a 3-metre direct drill with fertiliser placement.

There are 24 new items which are eligible for 2024 including:

- tractor-powered electric desiccator for weed and plant control
- combine-mounted weed seed reduction system
- drone for spraying whitewash on to glasshouses
- closed transfer system for sprayers for containers
- solar-powered water pump
- mobile tractor-powered livestock total feed ration mixer
- forestry harvesting head with bark stripping

[READ THE FULL LIST OF PRODUCTIVITY ELIGIBLE ITEMS HERE](#)

#### Slurry

There are now 17 slurry items available for funding including £11,360 towards the cost of a robotic slurry pusher and £22,050 for a 100m<sup>3</sup> nurse tank.

[READ THE FULL LIST OF ELIGIBLE SLURRY ITEMS HERE](#)

#### Animal health and welfare

There are now 130 animal health and welfare options including some new poultry items.

Eligible equipment includes handling systems, EID devices and weighing units.

[READ THE FULL LIST OF ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ITEMS.](#)

#### Top tips on making an FETF application

- You cannot apply for a grant through the FETF for items that you have already bought, are second hand, ex-demonstration, home-built or bought on hire purchase or lease.
- Care must be taken to ensure all items meet the minimum specification set out in the guidance notes. You can buy a 12m drill if the minimum specification is listed as 6m but must ensure all other criteria for the item are met.
- Successful applicants will be offered a Grant Funding Agreement (GFA), listing the equipment they have been offered a grant for. To claim the grant, they must submit a separate claim form which can only be done once you've paid for and received all the items in your GFA.
- For grants of over £25,000, the RPA will need to see evidence to demonstrate the current viability of your business and how you intend to fund the items before the grant is paid. This evidence can include financial accounts for the most recent three years of trading, latest tax returns, management accounts or a statement of income and expenses from an accountant.
- Applications are made through the online Farming Investment Fund service which is expected to open for applications shortly. Two further application windows, across all three themes, are expected to open later in 2024. The total budget for each grant will be split evenly across the application window.

Source: [www.struttandparker.com](http://www.struttandparker.com), 28 February 2024

## RURAL PAYMENTS AGENCY - GUIDANCE

### Productivity items and specifications – Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) 2024

*Updated 6 March 2024, Applies to England*

Each item in this list has an expected average cost, based on item costs from a cross-section of suppliers.

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will pay you a grant amount of 50% or 60% towards either:

- the average cost of the item – if an item costs you the same or more than the expected average cost in this list
- the actual cost you pay for the item – if an item costs you less than the average cost in this list

*Continued...*



## How applications for productivity items are scored

Applications for productivity items are scored on:

- productivity benefit
- environmental benefit
- level of adoption by the industry

Each productivity item has a score up to 100.

The RPA will give your application a score by:

- adding together the scores for each item in your application (if you apply for more than one of the same item, the item will only be scored once)
- dividing this number by the number of items in your application (if you apply for more than one of the same item, the item will only be counted once)

### Example 1

1 x FETF45: direct drill (item score 67)  
Application score: 67

### Example 2

1 x FETF45: direct drill (item score 67)  
2 x FETF51: retro fitted yield monitoring (item score 59)  
1 x FETF220: real-time in line forage crop analyser (item score 57)

Application score:  
61 (67+59+57 = 183. 183 ÷ 3 = 61)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE FULL LIST OF ITEMS AND SPECIFICATIONS](#)

Some items and specifications in this list have changed from those in the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (FETF) 2023. Some equipment may no longer be eligible.

Source: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk), 6 March 2024



APM are currently offering deal pricing on wearing parts till the end of March but for delivery later on in the year.

The way this works is they fix their price now (typically around 10% cheaper than in season) and then deliver it later on in the year (May, June time) when our main stocks come in.

There's no deposit to pay, it's just a case of securing the incoming stock and fixing the price for parts members will be needing anyway.

This video explains it all:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRN4pCB7cM>

**MARCH - APRIL 2024 SPECIAL OFFERS**  
Tel: 01522 607600

**LEMNER VENTO™ 18-OUTLET AIR SEEDER**  
High capacity seed seeder for all sowing and drilling applications. Features 18 outlets for precision sowing and drilling. Includes 12m working width and 230hp engine.

**£5,700.00**  
(R.P.T. £6,200.00)

**TOUGH MULCHERS**  
TMC CANCELA™ 2.5m and 2.8m models. High capacity mulchers for all types of crop residue. Features heavy-duty construction and efficient mulching performance.

**£13,646.75 ea** (2.5m) / **£12,488.40 ea** (2.8m)

**GREASE GUNS**  
ALEMITE® GREASE GUNS and HEAVY DUTY GREASE GUN. High quality grease guns for all applications. Features long life bearings and easy-to-use design.

**DEFERRED PAYMENT\* AVAILABLE ON ALL PALLET ORDERS OF BALER TWINE, NETWRAP & SILAGE WRAP**

**DON'T FORGET TO USE YOUR RAMSAK MEMBERSHIP TO ORDER. CLICK THE FRONT COVER TO VIEW**

**APM** **JAN-MAR Promotion 2024**  
IMPROVING YIELD TOGETHER

Valid until: 31st March 2024

**Maxipart® - HIGH PERFORMANCE WEAR PARTS**

**MXP**

**Are you ready for spring cultivations and drilling?**

**Free MXP Beanie Hat or MXP Water Bottle**  
With Every **£250 Spend\***

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SMALL ENOUGH TO CARE"

# AIRREX DIESEL INFRARED HEATERS

Prices include delivery to Kent and Sussex



**AH-200i**      **AH-300i**      **AH-800i**  
**£1900 + VAT**    **£2200 + VAT**    **£2850 + VAT**

From £24.00 + VAT a week over 3 years



Call RAMSAK now to order on 01622 815356

(\*Finance prices are for example purposes and are subject to status and for business customers only who have at least 3 years trading history\*)



RRP £70 + VAT

## Receive a **FREE** LTE router with your heater purchase

Allows you to use heaters remotely even without WiFi!

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www.autoquip.co.uk



# FTH HIRE GROUP Why should you hire a roller?



**Compaction is the first step in any major construction job. Rollers work by compacting foundation and base materials, essential if you want a stable surface with significantly increased load bearing capacity.**

Rollers at FTH Hire Group are single and double drum vibratory models which compact materials such as stone, asphalt, gravel and soil by vibrating the naturally loose particles within these materials. This means that the chances of the foundation shifting are greatly reduced due to the tight compaction of particles.

## ROLLER HIRE OPTIONS

RAMSAK members FTH have a wide variety of rollers in various sizes and specifications:

### SINGLE DRUM PEDESRIAN ROLLERS

Suitable for single person operation, these petrol or diesel rollers are ideal for repair and maintenance work on roads, footpaths and landscape environments.

### TWIN DRUM RIDE ON ROLLERS

Available in 800mm or 1200mm widths, they provide great visibility for accurate guidance and can operate flush against curbs, walls and other obstructions.

### TRENCH ROLLERS

At 820mm wide, remote controlled trench rollers are a small, manoeuvrable option perfect for compacting base layers particularly on cohesive soils and clays.

### 13T ROLLER S

With a 2130mm wide drum, it is ideal for heavy compaction work on thick fill layers such as large-scale projects in road construction, motorways and railway tracks.

At RAMSAK we shop around, so you don't have to keeping our prices competitive!

**Contact RAMSAK to find out more and hire today on [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) or 01622 815356**

**Special Winter Telehandler Rates!**

[www.skelton.co.uk](http://www.skelton.co.uk)

[enquiries@skelton.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@skelton.co.uk)



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### COMPACT EQUIPMENT & ATTACHMENTS

- SALES
- RENTALS
- PARTS
- SERVICE



Contact RAMSAK now for a price on 01622 815356 or email: [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk)

### SHOP FROM STOCK! TELEHANDLERS

AGRICULTURE & CONSTRUCTION

We have a wide range of Telehandlers in stock with fast delivery to site available, models include: TL30.60, TL30.70, TL34.65, TL43.80 & TL35.140.



### WHY VERSATILE EQUIPMENT?

- Established In 2003
- First Class After-Sales Service
- Excellent Lead Times
- 3 Year, 0% Finance\*  
\*Subject to T&Cs

# EUROPLANT

## RENTALS

Units 1-3 Leys Ind. Park, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood TN12 6PX

### OPERATED & SELF DRIVE HIRE

- Mini Excavators 0.6-3 Tonnes
- Mid Excavators 5-9T Tonnes
- Excavators 13 - 22 Tonnes
- JCB 3CX Sitemaster
- Dumpers 1-9 Tonnes
- Telescopic Handlers 4m-21m
- Rollers 80ADH, 100ADH, 120ADH
- Ramsak Remote Control Trench Compactors
- Hydraulic Breakers, Augers & Attachments
- Bunded Fuel Bowsers, Static & Wheeled
- Generators
- Transport
- 26 Tonne Beaver Tail
- 32 Tonne Beaver Tail



[hire@europlantrentals.co.uk](mailto:hire@europlantrentals.co.uk)

For a quote or to book call RAMSAK on

01622 815356



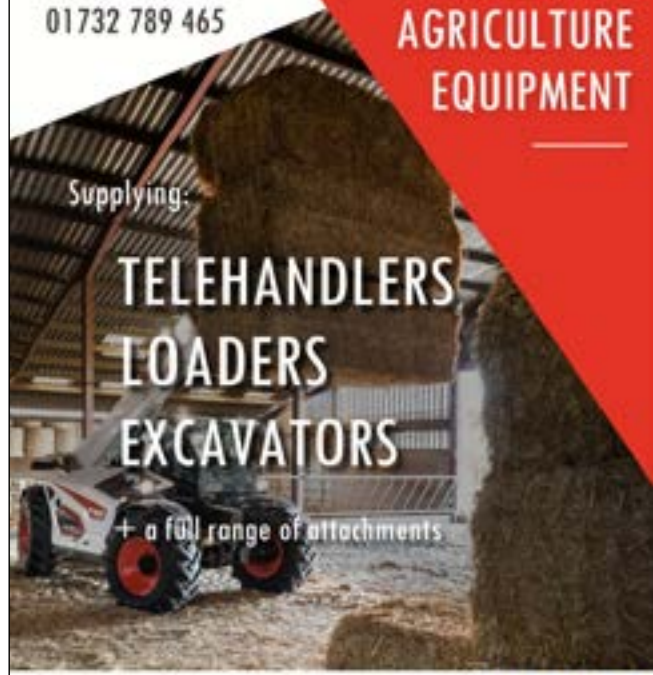
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+ a full range of attachments



Bobcat [versatileequipment.co.uk](http://versatileequipment.co.uk) MECALAC

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CALL 01622 815356 or email [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) to book.



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Whatever your requirements,  
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# MACHINERY LIST FOR SALE & WANTED

## ADVERTISING COSTS

All adverts for used machinery/equipment listed for sale and wanted are subject to an admin fee of £20 for 2 months in the newsletter, which includes an initial 2 weekly circular emails and a Facebook post. For items over £500, commission is applied at 1.5% (up to a maximum of £150) on the sale of your listing via RAMSAK.

**Please ensure you advise us if you have sold/purchased an item through us (or elsewhere) to help avoid outdated adverts, saving us all time and charges being made.**



**£POA NEW!**

### STATIC CARAVANS AND CABINS

A number available. Please contact us for more info.

Location: ME17 3/24



**£11,995 ono REDUCED!**

### MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER SD ALL4 (4WD) Auto

Park Lane Special Edition, Dec 2015, 2 owners, 70,500m, MOT Feb 25. FSH. Very high spec. inc. a/c, nav, full leather and rare double panoramic sunroof. Metallic grey/dark red. Black leather.

Location: ME17 3/24

## OAK, TIMBER & VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Surplus to requirements in following a build. See list on page 24

Location: TN27 3/24



**£300 +VAT**

### BALE SPIKES

Bale spikes with euro brackets

Location: CT4 3/24



**£500 +VAT**

### DISCS

Set of Parmeter fold up discs

Location: CT4 3/24



**£4,500 +VAT**

### BUNNINGS TRAILER

Bunnings trailer (low ride) with dolly - 32' long

Location: CT4 3/24





**£500 +VAT**

**BALE SQUEEZER**

Set of McHale bale squeezers with euro brackets

Location: CT4 3/24

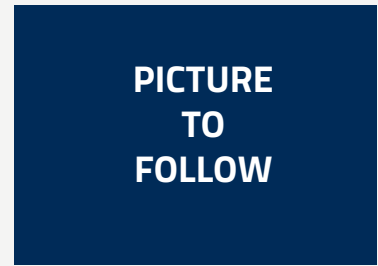


**£3,500 +VAT**

**QUICKIE LOADER**

Quickie 980 loader with JD brackets to fit 6 & 6R series tractors

Location: CT4 3/24



**£750 +VAT**

**MOWER**

Tarrup mower (no skirt but in good working condition)

Location: CT4 3/24



**OFFERS**

**MOBILE HOMES**

Two vans getting to end of useful life, but may be useful to someone. Small contribution offers invited to RAMSAK for admin costs in exchange for removal.

Location: TN11 2/24



**£1,000**

**PORTACABIN**

Buyer to collect. Sound, just one small leak in roof and a rotten patch on base of door. More photos available.

Location: RH19 2/24



**£3,500 ono**

**TOILET BLOCK**

Tatty but sound. Buyer to collect. Three cubicle toilets, a shower and a block of 2 urinals. Plus sinks etc.

Location RH19 2/24



**£4,000**

**SHEEP RACE**

IAE Sheep race with 29-30 separate gates and parts to the race + pins to match. Overall in very good condition and ready to collect. one or two gates have lost the bit where the pin goes in but replacements can easily be welded back on. I am £4,000 will include a footbath. More photos available.

Location: TN12 2/24



**£4,500 +VAT**

**QUAD**

2021 Honda Quad ATV TX420 FM1 petrol 4wd auto gears Datatag registered.

Location: TN3 3/24



**OFFERS**

**METAL BARS**

8 Black Mild Steel Flat Bars - 40mm x 5mm x 2555mm. Weight approx 4kg each. Un-used. Left over from a project. Cost £120 but any sensible offers considered.

Location: ME17 3/24



**£2,000**

**DARI-KOOL BULK TANK,**  
5000 litre, automatic wash,  
regularly maintained.

Location: BN8                      1/24



**£500**

**COTSWOLD TANK  
WASH AUTO CLEAN-  
ING SYSTEM**

Location: TN4                      3/24



**£OFFERS**

**PetSafe Stubborn Dog In**

PetSafe Stubborn Dog IN  
GROUND INVISIBLE FENCE  
& Collar Radio Receiver and  
Extra Wire & Flags (300m total)  
NEW/UNUSED

Location: ME17                      3/24

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS FOR SALE - PHOTOS AND LOCATION AVAILABLE ON REQUEST**

- 9T FEED HOPPER. Very good condition Located BN8                      (1/24)                      £2,500
- Indian Sandstone Patio Slabs (Grey) 600x900                      (3/24)                      £19.99 per m2
- 3 sets aluminium cavalletis (horse jumps) unused                      (3/24)                      £295 no VAT
- Cotswold tank wash auto cleaning system.                      (3/24)                      £500
- POULTRY PANELS 80 to 100 panels for poultry wired up and ready for construction. Located TN27
- SNOW PLOUGH to fit Landrover Defender. 8' Bunce . Ex MOD. Un-used.                      £1.600 +VAT
- PHOTOCOPIER Canon Image Runner Advance. Very low usage.                      £250
- Heavy duty extra long 1.5M PALLET FORKS c/w jcb telehandler fittings(3/24) £500 +VAT
- Road barriers                      (3/24)                      £10 each +VAT
- Reclaimed Kent Peg Tiles, Orange tinge                      (3/24)                      £1 each no VAT
- Block Paving 300 x 150 Light Grey (new)                      (3/24)                      £37.80 per m2 + VAT
- 1100 litre used WHEELIE BINS excellent condition                      (3/24)                      £150 each no VAT
- 240 litre used WHEELIE BINS                      (3/24)                      £20 each
- Wheelie Bins (included) each containing 84 kilos of **Winter Wheat** (3/24)                      £50 each

A RAMSAK member has the following available surplus to requirements in TN27 following a build:

**OAK & TIMBER & VARIOUS BUILDING MATERIALS AVAILABLE**

- Lots of new Oak beams.
- Lots of old Oak beams.
- Various sizes of soft wood timber.
- Large pack of wood wool insulation.
- Some Celotex.
- Underfloor heating pipe.
- Misc drainage connections (man holes, adaptors).
- Large amount of helicoil fixings.



# WANTED

We have members looking for the following items. Please contact us if you have anything available, with information, price and photograph to: [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk)

- Laddingford [Newman] engineering single leg subsoiler with PTO drive. Do you have one lying around? Call us!
- Portacabins/Caravans

## **FOR SALE - SECOND HAND PRESSURE WASHERS**

### [Karcher PC 100/M1](#)

£718.80 inc. VAT

SECOND HAND, Karcher PC 100/M1, a new innovative solution for removing oil, grease, soot, etc. from all kinds of parts. A water based non-toxic, PH neutral cleaning detergent without solvents is used to achieve excellent cleaning results. Organic particles like oil, lubricant and other greases from the parts biologically degenerate.

### [Nilfisk Scrubtec 344 B](#)

£1,896 inc. VAT

Explore the exceptional cleaning capabilities of the second-hand Nilfisk Scrubtec 344 B. Engineered with advanced technology and built for durability, this scrubber offers reliable performance in commercial and industrial settings. With its ergonomic design and efficient operation, it's the ideal choice for those seeking quality cleaning equipment at a cost-effective price. Discover the value and reliability of the Nilfisk Scrubtec 344 B for your cleaning needs. Comes with the chemical solution kit.

### [Karcher BR 75/140 ride on scrubber dryer](#) POA

The Karcher BR 75/140 Ride On Scrubber Dryer offers superb performance and high versatility. The Karcher BR 75/140 R Ride On Scrubber Dryer features a 750mm roller scrubbing head and has a maximum cleaning width of 1140mm and despite of the Karcher BR 75/140 R Ride On Scrubber Drier's capacity of 140 Litres they are narrow and extremely manoeuvrable, easily fitting through doorways or high bay warehouse aisles View the video: [Karcher br 75/140 scrubber dryer](#) 4/23

### [Nilfisk MC 6P-170/1600 cold pressure washer](#) £1,200 inc. VAT

The MC 6P range of cold water pressure washers brings together an unbeatable working life and durability, high cleaning performance and optimal ergonomics for the most demanding heavy duty cleaning tasks for industry, agriculture, shipping, transport sector and food industry.

The MC 6P is equipped with the NA6 wobble disc pump with 4 ceramic pistons and robust construction optimised for intense use greater than 5 hours per day. The NA6 pump is inspired by our longest lasting and renowned pump and offers unbeatable lifetime.

### [V Tuf Torrent 3](#)

£660 inc VAT

Prepare to transform your cleaning routine with the remarkable V-TUF Torrent 3. This versatile cleaning powerhouse has undergone meticulous engineering to completely redefine the concept of portable cleaning. Featuring an 'easy-pull' frame, a cutting-edge 15HP engine, an oversized pump, and comprehensive thermal protection, the Torrent 3 is tailored to effortlessly tackle demanding tasks with exceptional ease and efficiency.

### [PC 15/250 petrol pressure washer](#)

£900 inc VAT

Second hand PC 15/250 petrol pressure washer.

A true embodiment of versatility. This powerhouse is designed to excel. heavy-duty, industrial, and commercial cleaning applications, making it your go-to solution for various cleaning needs.

The heart of this exceptional machine lies in its reliable Honda GX engine. Which in turn will ensure unwavering performance and durability. It is equipped with a 2:1 gearbox and a 1450 RPM Inter pump, the pressure washer is built to endure and deliver top-notch results.

**All of these machines have been fully tested by engineers. Refurbished machines offer excellent value for money and comes complete with a three-month warranty. Please click on the blue title for links to more information and photographs. Contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for info.**



## WINDSOR DOUBLE FIELD SHELTER (5.4m x 3.0m) available for installation 15/03/2024!



Windsor Double Field Shelter (5.4m x 3.0m)

- Frame: Ex 75mm x 50mm stress graded framework at maximum 610mm centres
- Cladding: Ex 125mm x 19mm redwood shiplap kiln dried
- Kickboard: 11mm OSB kickboard to 1050mm high (approx. half height)
- Roof: Ex 100mm x 50mm stress graded roof joists at maximum 610mm centres in joist hangers. Black corrugated bitumen sheets with zinc ridge capping
- 900mm unlined front overhang
- Guttering – Front guttering and one downpipe
- Galvanised skids
- FREE TOW KIT
- We use stainless steel nails, all timber is tanalised, pressure treated.

Total: £3,465 excl. VAT (including delivery & Installation within 40 miles of TN21 9HJ)

**10% discount £3,118.50 excl. VAT (including delivery & Installation within 40 miles of TN21 9HJ)**

For the full specifications, please contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) (3/24)

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTS

### PROPERTY FOR SALE, TO LET & WANTED



#### BUILDINGS & YARDS AVAILABLE - ASHFORD AREA

Buildings and yard space available for agricultural and commercial use at several locations within 5 miles of Ashford. Units ranging from 400ft<sup>2</sup> to 8000ft<sup>2</sup>. Gated sites with CCTV. Good access with parking and turning areas. Opportunity for long-term leases for the right tenants. Viewings strictly by appointment via RAMSAK. 3/24

#### DEPOT REQUIRED - COVENTRY/RUGBY

We have someone looking for a small to medium sized secure depot for a Grounds Maintenance team in the Coventry/Rugby area for the purposes of housing plant & equipment and associated sundries with enough outside space to place a skip for general waste and some outside storage for materials. If you are able to help, email us the details or call us on 01622 815356.

#### BUILDING & YARD REQUIRED - KENT

A RAMSAK member currently based in South East Maidstone is looking to move location to somewhere closer to the M20 corridor between Wrotham and Hollingbourne. Cont'd...

Building circa 5-6000 sqft required, with yard space and parking for approximately 20 vehicles. They are happy to carry out building works and modifications (i.e forming of offices) Preferably to purchase or would consider renting. (2/24)

Contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for info.



#### COMMERCIAL UNIT FOR RENT NR WOODCHURCH, ASHFORD for B8 Storage & Distribution extending to a total of circa 540m<sup>2</sup> (5812ft<sup>2</sup>)

£45,000 per annum

New build property for first occupation  
30m long x 18m wide x 5.2m to eaves  
80mm composite insulated roof cladding;  
60mm composite insulated side cladding  
Secure yard with electric gates, security fencing, CCTV & full-time resident on site  
Concrete access from road to roller shutter door. Hardstanding at side of access  
Electric, water & CAT 5 cable connected  
Secure roller shutter door (6m x 5m)  
Secure steel personnel door. High strength concrete floor. Block built toilet & single-office  
Electricity metered & charged in addition to rent. Phone/internet to be set up & paid by tenant. Photos taken March 2024  
Leasehold basis - minimum 1 year term, longer preferred, fully repairing, tenant to insure contents & refund Landlord pro-rata buildings insurance, all outgoings tenant's responsibility, 1 month rent deposit  
Not currently assessed for rates, if rated to be tenant's responsibility.  
Contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for info. (3/24)

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTS CONTINUED...

## PROPERTY & LAND cont'd...

**RESIDENTIAL FLAT TO RENT - ASHFORD AREA**  
1 bedroom residential flat available in working commercial yard in Ashford area. £700 pcm including services & rates, but excluding telephone & internet. (1/24)  
Please contact [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) for more information.

**OAST AND YARD TO RENT - RYE, TN31 (IMMEDIATE AVAILABILITY)**  
Converted Oast formerly used as a paint shop and storage and yard for a hoarding company, which is now quitting... due to having outgrown the site.  
The Oast is on 3 floors - ground floor 1,444 sq ft, first floor 900 sq ft plus loo and kitchen, second floor 727 sq ft which has 2 Offices and storage area. Total area 3,071 sq ft.  
Outside is a good size L shaped yard with added storage both open and secure.  
The property has security gates as does the whole farm.  
There is added storage available if necessary  
3 phase electricity  
Fibre optic to be installed.  
The unit is on a working farm with a residential element and another commercial site.  
This property is available to lease immediately.  
Please contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for more information.

## SITUATIONS VACANT AND WANTED

**PLUMPTON COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIPS**  
The full offer of apprenticeships currently available can be found [HERE](#).

## OTHER

**WELL ROTTED HORSE MANURE WANTED**  
Collected using 8 wheel grab lorries. Contact RAMSAK on [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk)

**WANTED—LARGE VOLUMES OF STANDING OAK/TIMBER** Various members seeking to purchase all grades and species of standing timber. Ref: 1254/P & Ref: 1506/P



**BULLS FOR SALE - ASHFORD, KENT (TN27)**  
Aderdeen Angus, Simmental and Limousin bulls for sale. All bulls have worked, progeny can be seen. Price on application. 3/24



**CRUSHED FIELD BEANS AVAILABLE**  
Hammer milled field beans in one tonne bags  
An ideal source of protein for those who mix their own rations. £295 per tonne ex farm (TN19). 3/24

**WINTER WHEAT IN WHEELIE BINS**  
Wheelie bins (included) each containing 84 kilos of Winter Wheat (TN19) 3/24 £50 each

**PAS110 & PAS100 Compost Available - South East**  
A trusted supplier, compliant with PAS110 and PAS100 standards, offering high-quality compost and digestate for your agricultural and horticultural needs. Available in convenient 900-litre bulk bags or bulk loose loads, we cater to your specific requirements. Our soil amendments are suitable for various applications. Contact RAMSAK on [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk) 3/24

**CHARCOAL FOR SALE**  
Contact RAMSAK for more information on 01622 815356.

**CLASSIFIED ADVERT CHARGES**  
**£20 ADMIN CHARGE FOR MEMBERS,**  
**£40 FOR NON-MEMBERS.**

Contact [lynsey@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:lynsey@ramsak.co.uk) for more information.



## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES RAMSAK

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Helping our members manage, support and grow their business is at the heart of your co-operative and we are able to cover a diverse array of professions from legal services to accountancy, land agents to energy consultancy, insurance advisors to training bodies.

**We are constantly working on increasing the range of advisors and consultants available to you as a Member of RAMSAK with just one call to the office on 01622 815356!**

## KRESTON REEVES: SPRING BUDGET INSIGHTS

**The Chancellor has delivered his last Spring Budget prior to the election. This was badged by the Chancellor as a 'Budget for Long Term Growth'. Whether he is around to see if there is any long term growth will depend on whether the electorate believe this to be the case!**

The lifting of the High-Income Child Benefit Charge threshold, and widening of the taper reduction, prior to fundamental changes in future years is very welcome.

There are some property tax changes, which will impact those who rent out furnished holiday homes and those who acquire portfolios of properties or properties with annexes, and those selling residential properties. The most fundamental change is in the taxation of 'non-doms' which you can read more about below, together with other significant changes.

**Spring Budget insights (CLICK THE TITLE FOR THE LINK TO FULL INFORMATION):**

- [Top implications for businesses and individuals – Spring Budget 2024](#)
- [Implications for charities and not-for-profits – Spring Budget 2024](#)
- [Overview of the changes to the non-dom regime – Spring Budget 2024](#)
- [Foreign Income & Gains \(FIG\) regime – Spring Budget 2024](#)

- [Changes to taxation of trusts settled by non-doms – Spring Budget 2024](#)
- [Significant changes in property taxation afoot – Spring Budget 2024](#)
- [Changes for Furnished Holiday Lets – Spring Budget 2024](#)
- [Audio-Visual Expenditure Credit \(AVEC\) – Spring Budget 2024](#)

### Spring Budget summary

Download your copy of the Kreston Reeves Spring Budget summary [HERE: https://www.krestonreeves.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Spring-Budget-Summary-2024.pdf](https://www.krestonreeves.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Spring-Budget-Summary-2024.pdf)

**For more than accountancy, business and wealth advice.**

Email: [enquiries@krestonreeves.com](mailto:enquiries@krestonreeves.com)

Visit: [www.krestonreeves.com](http://www.krestonreeves.com)

Source: [www.krestonreeves.com](http://www.krestonreeves.com), 7 March 2023

## FOCUS ASSURED: SOLAR PV FUNDING

**The Government has announced round 2 of funding in the Improving Farm Productivity with up to £100,000 towards Solar PV.**



You can apply for a grant for capital items to improve farm and horticulture productivity through:

- the use of robotic or automatic equipment and systems to aid crop and livestock production
- wavelength specific LED lighting for horticultural crops
- advanced ventilation control units
- solar photovoltaic (PV) systems

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will prioritise funding for projects that:

- improve productivity
- improve the environment
- introduce innovation
- introduce technology to address labour shortage (farm productivity projects)
- The more your project meets the grant's funding priorities, the higher your application will score.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

Contact RAMSAK now for more information on members who can assist!



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## 2024 GUIDE TO UK EMPLOYMENT LAW CHANGES: WHAT EMPLOYERS MUST KNOW

The Government has backed a number of private members' bills which are now coming into force. In addition to the usual annual increases to statutory rates, there are several important changes that employers need to know about:

### Record keeping under working time regulations

From 1 January 2024, the rules requiring employers to record their employees' daily working hours have been relaxed. Instead, employers need to keep records to show compliance with the Working Time Regulations 1998.

### Increased flexibility in taking paternity leave

Following the birth or adoption of a child, an eligible father or partner can take one or two weeks' leave. The rules have become more flexible, allowing the employee to take the leave in two blocks of one week, rather than one block and allowing leave to be taken during the first year, rather than within eight weeks of the birth or adoption. Employees need to give notice 28 days in advance of each period of leave, rather than by 15 weeks before the expected week of birth. The notice provisions are unchanged for adoptive parents. The changes apply where the expected week of birth or the date for placement for adoption is on or after 6 April 2024.

### Changes to law relating to holidays

Following Brexit, the Government has made relatively few changes to areas of employment law that were

previously determined by European law. One area that is set to change is the law on holidays and holiday pay.

The changes include the introduction of two new definitions of workers and new rules relating to them, including rules about carrying forward leave. The new rules are intended to simplify the rules for workers, such as those who work term-time only and are paid by the hour, and casual workers. The most significant changes are outlined below.

### Calculation of holiday entitlement

For leave years starting on or after 1 April 2024, holiday entitlement for some workers will accrue at a rate of 12.07 per cent (or a higher percentage if they are entitled to more than the statutory minimum) of the number of hours worked in each pay period. Provided they meet the new definition of a part-year worker or an irregular-hours worker, this should simplify calculating holiday entitlement.

### Rolled-up holiday pay

Employers of part-year workers and irregular-hours workers will be able to opt to pay them rolled-up holiday pay; an uplift to pay of 12.07 per cent for holiday pay, rather than calculating and paying holiday pay at the time the worker takes holiday. Again, this applies to workers who meet one of the new definitions and in relation to leave years starting on or after 1 April 2024. Rolled-up holiday pay had previously been declared unlawful by the European courts.

### Carry forward of leave due to coronavirus

The right to carry forward leave where it could not be taken due to coronavirus ended on 1 January 2024. Workers must have used up any such leave by 31 March 2024.

### Extension of National Living Wage

From 1 April 2024, the National Living Wage, the highest band of the minimum wage, will apply to 21-year-olds, rather than workers aged 23 and over.

### Increases in statutory pay rates

Employers should prepare for the annual increases in the following rates:

- **National minimum wage from 1 April 2024:**
  1. apprentices from £5.28 to £6.40 per hour;
  2. workers aged 16 to 17 from £5.28 to £6.40 per hour;
  3. workers aged 18 to under 21 from £7.49 to £8.60 per hour; and
  4. national living wage – now from aged 21 and over, from £10.42 to £11.44 per hour.
- **Sick pay** from 6 April 2024 increases from £109.40 to £116.75 per week;
- **Family-related statutory pay** from 7 April 2024, the rates of statutory maternity pay, statutory paternity pay, statutory adoption pay, statutory shared parental pay and statutory parental bereavement pay increase from £172.48 to £184.03 per week.

### Enhanced family-friendly protection in redundancy situations

In a redundancy situation, a woman on maternity leave is given priority to be offered any suitable

*Continued.....*

alternative employment. From 6 April 2024, this protection will be extended to any employee who:

- is pregnant and has told their employer that they are pregnant;
- has returned to work from maternity leave, adoption leave, or shared parental leave and the baby was born or placed for adoption within the previous 18 months; or
- has told their employer that they were pregnant and has had a miscarriage within the previous two weeks.

#### **Extended right to request flexible work**

From 6 April 2024, employees will be able to ask to work flexibly from the first day of employment, rather than needing 26 weeks' service. Also expected to come into force on 6 April 2024 are a number of changes to the process. These include allowing an employee to make two requests to work flexibly in a 12-month period; previously only one was allowed. Employers will have to consult with employees about their request and reach a decision within two months, reduced from three. An updated Acas statutory code on requests for flexible working is also expected to come into force in April 2024.

#### **New right to carers' leave**

From 6 April 2024, employees with a dependant with a long-term care need can ask for one week's unpaid leave every 12 months to care for that dependant. This is a right from the first day of employment. Employees must give notice of a minimum of three days or at least twice the amount of notice as the period of leave, if longer. In some circumstances, employers can postpone the leave for up to one month.

#### **TUPE consultation changes**

For transfers taking place from 1 July 2024,

the option to consult directly with staff, rather than elect employee representatives, will be more widely available. Direct consultation can take place if the organisation has fewer than 50 employees, or if fewer than 10 employees will transfer regardless of the size of the organisation. Currently this option is only available to employers of fewer than 10 employees.

#### **Duty to prevent sexual harassment of employees**

From October 2024, employers will be under a duty to take reasonable steps to prevent the sexual harassment of their staff during employment. Tribunals will be able to increase compensation by up to 25 per cent if an employer breaches this duty.

Other changes are expected in 2024, but are yet to be confirmed.

**Should you require any advice on Employment Law, please contact RAMSAK for details of our members that can assist. 01622 815356 or email [enquiries@ramsak.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ramsak.co.uk)**

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