

Bletsoes

EST. 1881

Thrapston: 01832 736755

www.bletsoes.co.uk

Stratford: 01789 721643

The Market Report

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

Tuesday 25th February

Sale of In-Lamb Sheep

Tuesday 3rd March

Collective Machinery & Equipment Sale

Saturday 7th March

At Thrapston Livestock Market

Sale of In-Lamb Sheep & Sheep with Lambs at Foot
Fur, Feather & Miscellaneous Items

Saturday 21st March

At Thrapston Livestock Market

Sale of Ewes with Lambs at Foot
Mid Month - Fur, Feather & Miscellaneous Items

Agricultural & Development Consultants, Chartered Surveyors, Auctioneers & Estate Agents

Oakleigh House, Thrapston,
Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ

Alastair Brown: 07885 804450
Jake Wagstaff: 07487 526803

CPH: 29/242/8000 NN14 4JU
CPH: 43/266/8000 CV37 8LP

Bletsoes is the trading name of Henry H Bletsoe & Son LLP, a Limited Liability Partnership registered in England & Wales under Partnership Number OC371369. Regulated by RICS, Registered office: Oakleigh House, Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ. We use the term 'partner' to refer to a member of the LLP or an employee or consultant with equivalent standing and qualifications.



February Professional Ponderings

Here to Help

Once again it falls upon on me to write this month's Professional Ponderings in what seems like the first time for a long time. I for one will be glad to see the back of January, as it was yet another wet and dreary month with the exception of the odd day shooting here or there! By the time this is published, Boris will have delivered Brexit and all of our concerns regarding immigration and our sovereignty will have disappeared! Joking aside, irrespective of your stance on Brexit, or your political persuasion generally, it is clear that the Tories emphatic victory in the general election has had a positive impact on the economy generally; it remains to be seen whether this is a short term lift or the start of an upward curve. Despite all the 'doom and gloom' being reported, suffice to say that you are not alone – Bletsoes are here to help and have the capacity and expertise to do so. To use the infamous Latin phrase coined by Horace "Carpe Diem" and seize the day.

Agriculture is back in the headlines following the introduction of the Agriculture Bill to parliament in the middle of January. We live in uncertain times, and I am afraid that agriculture is no exception; uncertainty is not exclusively a threat to business, it can also be an opportunity. The future of agriculture will largely depend on the emerging Agriculture Bill. There are a great many unknowns what the final Agriculture Bill will look like, but the headlines are:

- Shift away from the European Union Common Agricultural Policy and Direct Payments.
- Move towards "Public Money for Public Goods", such as financial reward for cleaner air, water, reduce flooding etc.
- Phasing out Direct Payments over the 7 year "transition" period, which will start from next year (2021) and will see Direct Payments reduced to nil by 2028.
- Emphasis on soil and protection of soil and rewarding those that protect soils and possible regulation on agrochemical use.

Amidst that uncertainty concerning the Agriculture Bill, there is clearly continued pressure on the industry from many directions, whether that be the growing trend to move away from eating meat, or the continued pressure surrounding climate change. The agricultural industry has proved time and time again that it is flexible, and I'm sure overcoming these latest challenges will be no exception.

Much of this pressure and the concerns are of course outside of our control and dictated by the media, and it is perhaps a waiting game. However, there are of course some measures that can be taken at a farm level to reduce the pressures and strains on the farming business, should the industry be detrimentally effected; I believe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sajid Javid MP conceded that Brexit would inevitably cause short term pain. Those measures might be:

- Refinancing borrowings whilst interest rates remain low.
- Reducing reliance on the Basic Payment Scheme, perhaps by entering into alternative schemes, such as Countryside Stewardship.
- Considering share farming/contract farming arrangements.
- Increasing farm diversification, even if that is small scale, such as letting out barns for non-agricultural use (subject to planning).
- Generally increasing efficiency on the farm.

Every farm business is different but many of the issues that we see are very similar, and we feel that we are well placed to assist your farming business to adapt to the threats and opportunities that these uncertain times bring.

Following Verity's update concerning BPS 2019 payments, the RPA have issued a further update on progress concerning BPS, Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship 2019 payments, as well as indicative 2020 plans for those schemes.

In short, the RPA have apparently paid 97% of all eligible BPS payments in respect of 2019; the BPS 2020 application window, as well as the Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship Annual Revenue Claim window, should open in March 2020; and the Countryside Stewardship application window for agreements with a 1st January 2021 start date should open in February 2020. As ever, if you are having issues with payments from the Rural Payments Agency, then do please do let us know and we will try to assist you where possible.

We are continuing to assist clients who have telephone masts situated on their land. There remains a great deal of pressure from the telephone mast operators to reduce rents, and an equal amount of reluctance from landlords to accept reduced rents. As such the industry has reached a stalemate. It will be interesting to see whether the government will intervene, as this current stalemate could substantially slowdown the rollout of 5G, which is of high priority to the government. Incidentally, landowners are now being warned of the hidden risks and responsibilities associated with having telecommunication masts on their land. The advice from industry experts is to request information and radiation exclusion zones from the operators of telecom masts located on the land. Telecom masts do emit radio waves which can effect health and therefore require exclusion zones to protect people. Due to the technology used with 5G these exclusion zones will be expanded significantly. When applying for planning permission for a larger mast, operators are only required to confirm that their masts will comply with industry set guidelines. As such, landowners may not be able to assess the effects of the mast on buildings, land or other activities. For landowners, there could be unforeseen issues with buildings, which could be within the exclusion zone, potentially putting workers, businesses or livestock at risk.

Finally, we are in the process of renewing Grasskeeping Agreements for the forthcoming grazing season. If you have any surplus grazing or require any grazing, then please do not hesitate to contact me, so that we may add you to our database.

I am not scheduled to write the Ponderings again until October, so I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for the remainder of the 2020 harvest farming year and hope that the weather improves.

Chris Templar
Salaried Partner



FarmWell
INFORMATION | SUPPORT | RESILIENCE

Helping you & your farm business
stay strong and resilient

Visit farmwell.org.uk

Special Entry of In-Lamb Sheep
Tuesday 11th February

15 Purebred Texel Theaves - Not Had Lambs
*Scanned 200%, due 1st April to Beltex Ram,
Hept Vac P, Wormed & Fluked*

****Best and Final Offers Deadline****

A deadline of **12 noon Friday 7th February 2020** has been set for Best and Finals Offers to be received for the Buildings and Land off Ladbroke Road, Bishops Itchington, Warwickshire.

For further Information please contact Grace Millbank (01832 732241 or grace.millbank@bletsoes.co.uk)

REPORT FOR TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY

314 Prime Sheep, Cull Ewes & Rams, Store Lambs & Breeding Ewes

314 sheep entered and with only 189 Hoggets forward, we were very short on entries and with another week of increased trade it was a shame not more sheep were at Stratford today, to be sold at the current prices. Don't miss out if you have some to market. The SQQ today was 228p, over 14 pence dearer than last week, to take a top of £119.84 or 249p. The ewes topped at £115 to average £77.13. A surprise entry of in-lamb ewes forward today, so unfortunately some potential buyers would be very disappointed to discover they sold to £90. Store lambs sold to £71 for a mixed bunch of long term entries.

41 Standards - Top price of the day at 249p for a 34kg Beltex lamb from Charles Vernon-Miller; next top saw Sue Collett at 232p for 33kg Texel x lambs; Mike Gibbs sold a pen of 34.5kg Charollais x lambs to 227p and some weighing 39kg at 225p; J Ballard, with a Charollais ram weighing 35kg, saw a return of 218p.

To		From		Average	
249p	£87.75	218p	£76.30	227.33p	£81.84

92 Mediums - Charles Vernon-Miller matched the top price pence per kilo at 249p in this section, with three 44kg Beltex lambs; WR Haines returned 230p for his 41.5kg lambs; Ray & Pam Stone sold their 41.5kg lambs to 229p; along with Sue Collett and GF Heath & Son weighing 39.5kg and 40.5kg respectively; with heavier lambs from the Heath's at 225p for 45.5kg lambs; and Mark Taylor saw 225p for his 40kg lambs.

To		From		Average	
249p	£109.56	225p	£90.00	228.37p	£95.48

51 Heavies - Celia Plunkett in the top spot again this week, with two smart Texel lambs selling to 227p and weighing 52kg; at the same price WR Haines saw 227p for his 46kg Suffolks; RP Hutchings sold 47kg Charollais lambs to 226p and his 51kg lambs sold to 215p; and JM Ballard saw 213p for 48.5kg lambs and 212p for 51kg lambs.

To		From		Average	
227p	£118.04	212p	£103.31	218.70p	£107.27

4 Over 52kg - Just four in this section weighing 56kg, lambs from Celia Plunkett returned a price of 214p or £119.84.

To		From		Average	
214p	£119.84	214p	£119.84	214p	£119.84

1 Hogget with Teeth

Only one with teeth forward today, a Texel from JM Ballard, weighing 60kg, selling to £94.80 or 158p, just showing what a difference it makes when hoggets have pushed up their teeth.

To		From		Average	
158p	£94.80	158p	£94.80	158p	£94.80

64 Cull Ewes & Rams

RW Kerby had a good day with his entries, topping at £115 with Suffolks, a pound behind that at £114, a Charollais x ewe and his Mules sold to £86; but not quite beating top spot in the Mules, with ewes from RP Hutchings realising £87; Celia Plunkett sold Suffolks to £101 and £97 for 2 Charollais x ewes; RP Hutchings sold to top at £98 for 2 Charollais x ewes; Andy Tuffen saw a top of £95; JD Weaver sold theirs to top at £86; and a Texel Ram sold to £83.

To		From		Average	
£115.00		£31.00		£77.13	

61 Store & Breeding Sheep

14 crossbred Theaves, entered by Rollo Deutsch came forward today, in lamb to the Beltex with singles and doubles, due in April, sold to £90 from £83, for some Welsh x ewes.

Store lambs sold to £71 for a pen of 14 from Tristian Hill, with others to £66; WD & NM Willison Ltd saw their top pen of Herdwick x lambs at £69, and their similar bred, but smaller other lambs, at £50; and AJ Astell & Son saw a return of £65 for their lambs.

On Tuesdays at the market, Rev. Richard Wilde, Methodist Minister, will be in attendance at the market for a chat, if you need to talk.
swc.katetennyson@gmail.com www.woodsidemethodist.org.uk

PRODUCE, SUNDRIES, PLANTS, HATCHINGS EGGS, FRESH VEGETABLES & POULTRY

A great day at Stratford, with strong numbers throughout all sections. Hatching Eggs are increasing in numbers for the up and coming season. Sundries boasted strong variation, with something for every buyer. The first Monthly Collective Sale of the year was held this week, with a timely large entry of sheep equipment for lambing. The sale started at 10am, with the order of sale as follows:-

Plants

Great numbers entered this week, with all bedding plants showing fantastic numbers, highlights include Mini Daffodils at £1.00, Hyacinths at 90p, Primroses at 60p and Cyclamens to 50p. Planted tubs all topped out at £3.40, with Garden Ornaments at £4.50. With winter drawing out, Log prices are still holding strong, with bags coming to £5.20 and Kindling at £2.80.

Produce

Fantastic quality on show this week, with vendors reaping the rewards, seeing Potatoes to £3.80, Leeks to £2.00, Carrots at £2.00, Sprout Stems at £1.20 and Cauliflowers at £1.10. Dressed Game numbers were slower this week, but demand still high, Dressed Pheasants came to £2.40.

Hatching Eggs

The best number entered so far this year, with variation key to trade. Trays of Hen Eggs topped out at £3.00 for the very best, Duck Eggs saw the usual competition reaching £5.60, Goose eggs saw a peak at £1.20 per egg, and trays of a dozen Quail eggs found 50p across the board. More specialist entries consisted of half a dozen Aracuna eggs at £3.00 and half a dozen White Silkie eggs topped at £2.20.

Poultry

Another week of fierce competition for the best buys. All birds are sold per bird, with the highlights including Geese at £15.50, Golden Pheasants to £10.00, Buff Maran POL at £11.50, Pekin pullets up to £5.00 and Cockerels to £2.00.

Collective Sale of Machinery & Implements

This week Stratford Market held the first monthly Collective Sale, with a well received range of entries from different vendors. The highest volume of entries comprised of sheep equipment, with a Poldenvale sheep handling race making £170.00 and 3 similar 10ft panels coming to £96. Sheep ring feeders topped at £80.00, alongside feed troughs at £10.00 per trough. There was a large entry of quality IAE galvanised, 6ft sheep hurdles, peaking at £13.00 per hurdle. Other entries of note saw a 3m Logic weed wiper come to £200 and a Harrington turnover crate make £500.00. The next collective sale will be held on 3rd March, with all other sales on the first Tuesday of the month. For increased publicity and advertisement, we encourage items to be entered at least one week prior to the sale, with on the day entries still being accepted. For future entries, please contact either Alastair or Jake.

Fur & Feather	Prices
Geese	£15.50
Buff Marans POL	£11.50
Golden Pheasants	£10.00
Pekin Pullets	£5.00
Mini Papiilon Does	£2.50
Cockerels	£2.00
Brown Hens	£1.00
Collective / Sundries	Prices
Sheep Handling Sys	£500.00
Logic Weed Wipe	£200.00
Galv Sheep Hurdles	£130.00
Feed Troughs	£50.00
Saw Bench	£50.00
Multi Tool	£28.00
Stihl Stone Saw	£24.00
Work Bench	£20.00
Welding Mask	£10.00

Plants & Shrubs	Prices
Plant Holder	£14.00
Logs	£5.20
Garden Ornaments	£4.50
Kindling	£2.80
Mini Daffodils	£1.00
Hyacinths	90p
Primroses	60p
Fresh Produce	Prices
Potatoes	£3.80
Easting Apples	£3.20
Mixed Vegetables	£2.60
Dressed Pheasant	£2.40
Carrots	£2.20
Cabbages	£2.20
Hatching Eggs	Prices
Duck Eggs	£5.60
15 Maran Bantams	£3.40
Trays Hen Eggs	£3.00

**For further information on this section, please contact
Jake Wagstaff 07487 526803 or jake.wagstaff@bletsoes.co.uk**

NEW **'Drop In' Service**

Chris Templar will now be offering a 'drop in' clinic on a market day for all of your land and property issues. Chris is an Agricultural Valuer and Chartered Surveyor, who specialises in:

- Farm Agency – Sales and Lettings
- Agricultural Tenancy matters including rent negotiations and surrenders
- Setting up and management of Contract Farming Arrangements
- Basic Payment Scheme including brokerage of Entitlements
- Environmental Stewardship and RDPE grant schemes
- Valuations of Agricultural Property
- Compulsory Purchase and Utilities including Telecoms Masts
- Option and Promotion Agreements
- Development Land Sales
- Strategic Land Promotion
- Planning Applications, Appeals and Planning Agreements
- Agricultural Planning and Diversification
- Renewable Energy Projects and Schemes

Please call in to see Chris for an initial, no obligation consultation. To avoid disappointment, please book an appointment with Chris between the hours of 8am and 4pm on a Market Day.

You can contact Stratford office on 01789 722 677, or Chris directly on chris.templar@bletsoes.co.uk or 07595 488 417.

We look forward to assisting you throughout the year ahead.



Chris Templar
Salaried Partner in Agriculture Team

For all your Farming needs

- Animal Health
- Feed & Feed Supplements
- Livestock Equipment
- Timber & Fencing
- Fertiliser & Seed
- Workwear & Wellingtons
- Topping and Lambing essentials

For all your agri needs contact Clive
Barrington-Cramp on 07966 711978
or Paul Fisher on 07860 206564

01280 816011

The Creamery, Brackley Road, Buckingham, MK18 1JD



Farm Equine Pet Clothing Garden

molecountrystores.co.uk

2020 Vision



Bespoke on-farm auctions
and regular collective sales

01789 722677
www.bletsoes.co.uk

Agricultural & Development
Consultants, Chartered Surveyors,
Auctioneers & Estate Agents

Bletsoes
— EST. 1881 —