

Bletsoes

EST. 1881

Thrapston: 01832 736755

www.bletsoes.co.uk

Stratford: 01789 721643

The Market Report

MAY PROFESSIONAL PONDERINGS

I am sure it has been a busy month for many of you, with lambing and calving coming to an end and significant Spring field work, following reduced drilling last Autumn. The majority have received some welcome April showers and countryside people have had more time to observe and enjoy Spring changing our landscape. It is a time of year full of promise and despite the obvious current issues we face, our changing seasons do provide a positive, visual reminder that the nature in our countryside will follow its own pattern unhindered.

The Agricultural team have continued to be busy with Basic Payment Scheme applications, stock takings and other ongoing tenancy and rural property matters. On 27th April it was announced that after prolonged discussions, DEFRA and the RPA had finally agreed to extend the annual 15th May deadline to 15th June 2020. This deadline extension applies to BPS 2020 applications, Countryside Stewardships (CS) 2020 revenue claims and Environmental Stewardship (ES) 2020 revenue claims. This means that consequently the deadline for amending applications without penalty (which are submitted by 15th June 2020) moves to 30th June 2020 and the final submission deadline, subject to late claim penalties, moves to 10th July. The deadline for Entitlement transfers remains as 15th May 2020.

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

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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.



We are continuing to work to submit applications as soon as possible and the RPA are encouraging this, to assist with processing of 2020 BPS claims.

As we reported last month, the application window for new Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship Applications remains open until 31st July, and please ensure that you request an application pack by 30th June. These agreements would have a start date in January 2021 and offer some good options on grass land, as well as on arable land including nectar flower mix (AB1), flower rich margins and plots (AB8), as well as winter bird food (AB9). This scheme potentially provides some useful additional income when BPS monies start to decline. DEFRA have previously confirmed that anyone entering CSS now, will not be penalised if they later wish to join the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) in the future. We will be busy working with farmers to prepare Mid-Tier applications over the next three months and would be very pleased to talk through a possible application and assist you to prepare this.

We remain aware that many businesses with existing HLS agreements have still not received their annual claim form either by post or email. Please do ring the RPA on 03000 200 301 to chase this, if this applies to you, in order to ensure you can get it completed and submitted to the RPA by 15th June.

Spring time traditionally heralds the launch of rural property on to the market, and despite the necessity to observe movement restrictions, this year has been no exception. We are currently selling 41.19 acres of pasture at Church Farm, Overstone, which benefits from Change of Use for two agricultural buildings to be converted to create four dwellings. Church Farm is available as a whole or in up to five lots. Last week we launched Land at Wilby near Wellingborough, which comprises a single traditional grass field of approximately 21.32 acres which adjoins Hampton Brook. We are talking to other clients in respect of land parcels which we anticipate will be brought to the market later this year. Please ensure your land requirements are registered with us, so that you are the first to hear of suitable properties.

It appears that as an asset, land is being seen as a safe haven once again and the current tax benefits of land ownership, continue to provide an additional key reason to acquire agricultural land. There is certainly continuing demand for agricultural property at the current time. As well as bringing farms and fields on to the open market, we often negotiate private sales, where it is not appropriate to launch land for a public sale. If you would like to discuss your property assets, we would be very happy to do so, on a strictly confidential and no obligation basis.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that we will all need to get used to a new normal in terms of our day to day lives. At Bletsoes, we continue to be available to advise and add value to your rural businesses and property assets, and we will simply adapt regarding how we deliver this service, in order to keep in line with Government advice.

If you have any matters which you would like to talk through, please do not hesitate to contact the office on 01789 722677 and you will be directed to the most appropriate member of the team, or do please speak to your normal contact at Bletsoes.

Take care and stay safe.

Nicola Clayton-Bailey
Partner

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2020

Tuesday 12th May

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep, Ewes & Lambs

Tuesday 19th May

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep, Ewes & Lambs

Our Sales are Subject to Inspection.

Please adhere to all rules & regulations regarding the running of our auction sales to ensure we can keep them operating.

Keep your distance, Please wash your hands. Spaces have been marked in the rings for buyers

Vendors are to Drop & Go

Buyers Only around the Pens

COVID-19 KILLS

Keep your distance 2 Metres

REPORT FOR TUESDAY 5TH MAY

47 New Season Lambs

2 Lights – Top of the day in the Lights section, went to a pair of Charollais lambs at 245p or £93.10 for B Burrows & Sons.

| To | | From | | Average | |
|------|--------|------|--------|---------|--------|
| 245p | £93.10 | 245p | £93.10 | 245p | £93.10 |

44 Mediums – Selling to £105.16 or 239p for B Burrows & Sons; Mark Greenaway sold to £103.20 or 240p; TR Tame & Son sold their 43kg lambs to £102.77 and took top price in this section per kilo at 241p.

| To | | From | | Average | |
|------|---------|------|--------|---------|--------|
| 241p | £105.16 | 230p | £94.30 | 238p | £99.12 |

1 Over 52kg – Top Price of the day per head went to GC Hodges & Son with a 53kg Suffolk at £107.06 or 202p.

| To | | From | | Average | |
|------|---------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 202p | £107.06 | 202p | £107.06 | 202p | £107.06 |

91 Old Season Lambs

39 Mediums – DJ Tomlin topped this section at 207p with a pen of 41.5kg Berrichon lambs; Mark Greenaway sold his 40.5kg lambs to 200p; Jonathon Page sold 40.5kg lambs to 200p and also at 200p DJ Tomlin with 39.5kg lambs; Kevin Elgar sold his 41kg lambs to 198p and at the same price Mark Greenaway's 44kg lambs.

| To | | From | | Average | |
|------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|
| 207p | £87.12 | 195.5p | £77.22 | 200.5p | £81.46 |

23 Heavies – DJ Tomlin topped the section at 198p for 46.5kg lambs; DC Wiggins sold 3 Suffolk 48.5kg lambs to 195.5p; RB & AR Lewis sold 47.5kg lambs to 194p. Top price per head in the Heavies section, saw DC Wiggins with 50kg lambs at £95.

| To | | From | | Average | |
|------|--------|------|--------|---------|--------|
| 198p | £95.00 | 188p | £92.07 | 192p | £93.96 |

29 Over 52kg – Ben Hemming topped at 189p for 53kg lambs; DC Wiggins sold his 54kg lambs to 188p; Jonathon Page sold a 54kg lamb to 187p; RB & AR Lewis saw 177p or £106.20 for their 60kg Suffolk lambs. Top price per head sold to £110.88 for NG Adams.

| To | | From | | Average | |
|------|---------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| 189p | £110.88 | 144p | £100.17 | 172.5p | £103.19 |

37 Store Lambs

Another good trade for store lambs, if you have some to clear up, do it sooner rather than later, with so many lambs now putting teeth up. Prices topped at £80 for J Page; NG Adams sold his to £76.50; Kevin Elgar sold his to £75 from £71. Smaller longer term lambs sold to £59 from NG Adams.

| To | From | Average |
|--------|--------|---------|
| £80.00 | £55.00 | £73.41 |

69 Cull Ewes & Rams

Mules topped the day from AF & RF Slatter at £72; Tim Withers sold his Continental ewes to £60; also selling to £60 SP & GK Smith; D Albutt sold his ewes to £56.50; other Mules from J Page sold to £55 and £54 from SP & GK Smith.

As heavy hoggets with teeth up have their carcasses split like ewes, we have put these hoggets in the ewe section, which seems to be better than with the hoggets. If any get through to the line with teeth, processors have been deducting £20-£30. Please check your sheep pre-sale, and we will do our utmost to check them on arrival. Selling to £97 for DC Wiggins; DJ Tomlin sold 44kg hoggets to £87.50; Mark Greenaway sold his 2 Texel x lambs to £81.

| To | From | Average |
|--------|--------|---------|
| £72.00 | £10.00 | £45.08 |

27 Ewes & Lambs – selling to £58 per life for young ewes from Nigel Lilley with single lambs at foot and £150 per outfit for aged ewes with doubles; R Hall & Sons sold the Lleyn x ewes with single lambs to £57 per life, from £56.

| To | From | Average |
|--------|--------|---------|
| £58.00 | £50.00 | £54.67 |

BPS ENTITLEMENTS

Bletsoes are selling and buying BPS Entitlements for clients, and we currently have the following lots available:

NON SDA Entitlements

3.41
4.22
3.08
1.23
0.41

If you wish to purchase or sell BPS Entitlements please get in touch with a member of the Agricultural Team - 01832 732241

FOR SALE

2004 20' Twin Axle AW Livestock Trailer
Complete with Aluminium Sheep Decks
£7250 ono - 07970 184954 Robert Baldwyn

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Helpline:
03000 111 999

e-Helpline:
help@fcn.org.uk

Website:
fcn.org.uk

Helpline is open 7am-11pm every day of the year.

Bletsoes Procedures for Markets & Sales in respect of the Covid-19 Restrictions

Update 14th April 2020

As the situation with Coronavirus develops, we regularly receive updated guidance from DEFRA via the Livestock Auctioneers Association, regarding the running of the livestock market and other sales. We are pleased that DEFRA has recognised the importance of livestock markets continuing to operate as an important part of the food supply chain. We are following the advice of DEFRA and adding our own additional measures to do all we can to provide a good service to all our clients and users of the markets, whilst taking reasonable precautions.

We are delighted that we are able to continue to offer a service to the farming community and remain open for business. Until further notice, the sales on Thursday and Saturday at Thrapston and on Tuesday at Stratford will continue for sheep, cattle, pigs, goats and calves, however we are not permitted to sell any breeding stock through the sale ring. The following applies to all sales:

1. We are operating a “**drop & go**” policy in respect of all livestock. Sellers must remain in their vehicles and allow market staff to unload livestock and pass any relevant paperwork through the vehicle window.
2. We will restrict the attendance within the market to as few as possible:
 - Only those that are **buying or working in the market** should attend
 - A register of all Buyers attending each market has to be maintained.
 - If you wish to attend Market as a Buyer, please register in advance with Al & Jake, in order that your attendance is registered and so that you can be allocated a space to stand around the cattle ring for Saturday sales.
 - Any person over the age of 70 should not attend sales
 - Any person that is knowingly ill, showing symptoms of the virus, or has an underlying health issue should not attend sales
 - Children should not attend sales
 - Any lady that is knowingly pregnant should not attend sales
3. The market canteen will remain closed, for the foreseeable future.

4. All non-essential food chain supply sales, such as the Fur & Feather, Machinery, Shrub & Plant sales, etc. are cancelled until further notice.
5. We have arranged suitable hand washing facilities – in the gents wc and ladies wc.
6. We will limit numbers in the market office. so that any queue is outside in the open and you should maintain 2 metres distancing, in any queue.
7. Most of the pens are outside in the open with good ventilation, please ensure you **observe 2 metres distancing at all times.**
8. If you wish to arrange collection of stock from the farm, please speak to Al or Jake, who will be pleased to organise this with you.
9. We are operating a **Private Sale Register**, which can be found on our website, in respect of Store Cattle, Bulling Heifers, Breeding Sheep, Ewes with Lambs at foot as well as Fodder, all for sale by Private Treaty.

Please follow the current government guidance on how to reduce the likelihood of contracting the virus:

DO

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- always wash your hands when you get home or into work
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

AVOID

- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell
- do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean

We look forward to helping you through these uncertain times. Any concerns or queries please speak to Al or Jake. Please take sensible precautions and keep safe.

2020 Vision



Bespoke on-farm auctions
and regular collective sales

01789 722677
www.bletsoes.co.uk

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

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