

The Market Report

Professional Ponderings - March 2025

I think you would agree that it has been a wet start to 2025 following on from the same in Autumn 2024, and we can only hope it improves this Spring as the fresh crop of lambs are turned out and people look to plant Spring crops. This will hopefully improve the general mood of the industry, which seems to be low at present, especially on the arable side, following the Government's changes to various policies, not least Inheritance Tax and, after representation by the NFU and CLA, the government do not seem to be budging on their initial proposals.

On a positive note, the sheep and cattle trade seems to be holding up with many farmers travelling further afield for grass keep, notably for well sized blocks especially for people who managed to buy stores well. However, owing to the increase in other costs, grass keep value has not increased much on last year's incomes.

Many farms have Spring tenancies based on Lady Day (25th March) which provides an opportunity to serve Rent Review Notices. A reminder that rents can go up or down, as a Rent Review provides an opportunity for both landlords and tenants to readjust their rents, subject to negotiation and agreement. With the withdrawal of BPS and the phasing out of delinked payments, you may see rents begin to come down, but only time will tell.

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

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This coming Spring, we hopefully have various blocks of land and farms to come to the market, including approximately 20 acres in North Northamptonshire and a pasture farm in South Leicestershire. If you are looking to buy land or farms, please do register your interest with ourselves. If you have land or farms to sell, we will be more than happy to come and visit you and undertake a Market Appraisal. The Inheritance Tax changes may see a change in perspective for owning land as an investment, as time will tell.

In terms of the Government's proposed changes to the Inheritance Tax regime, we can offer support through the process and undertake valuations of land and farms but also machinery and livestock, to assist discussions with accountants, tax advisors and solicitors on the best options for farming businesses to ensure they are prepared.

Encouragingly, at the NFU conference in February, Rt. Hon. Steve Reed the Secretary of State for Environment Food and Rural Affairs announced the following:

- Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) payment rates across a range of options are increased to provide a fairer payment, as many have not been changed for several years with payments being lower than other schemes on various options.
- Countryside Stewardship Capital Grants Scheme will re-open in the Summer following the pause in November due to the unprecedented demand in applications, where farmers were utilising the grants to farm in a more sustainable manner and work towards Net Zero targets, especially with the likes of hedge planting options it had seemed strange for the Government to pause the grants.
- The RPA will honour and process any Capital Grant applications that were submitted before the 24th November 2024, which includes more than 4,000 applications and, if you had an application submitted, one of the team will be in contact when we receive the agreements and summaries from the RPA.
- The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund will open for a further window to allow businesses to develop and support the uptake of modern technology and equipment which is commercially available on the market, with a proposed budget of £30m for Productivity and Slurry, and £16.7m for Animal Health and Welfare. It is advisable to make use of these grants, especially slurry, being the carrot before the stick to follow in future years, with an expectation that rules could be stricter for application of slurry and other nutrients.

- Animal Health and Welfare Pathway will again provide keepers of cattle, sheep and pigs in England access to fully funded vet visits of their choice.
- We will update you on commencement of the above changes.

Additionally, the SFI Scheme is available to maximise income alongside the environment and can provide an additional income alongside current farming practices.

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Agricultural team for initial support and on-going assistance.

George Pullin
Agricultural Team



Thrapston Forthcoming Events

Thursday 6th March
Prime & Cull Sheep

Saturday 8th March
Store & Breeding Cattle, Calves, Sheep & Pigs

Thursday 13th March
Prime & Cull Sheep

Saturday 15th March
Store & Breeding Cattle, Calves, Sheep & Pigs

Thursday 20th March
Prime & Cull Sheep

Saturday 22nd March
Store & Breeding Cattle, Calves, Sheep & Pigs

For further information on any of the sales
Please contact a member of the Market Team

REPORT FOR THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

209 Prime Hogs

A show of power today with a trade to match. Majority showing saw big hogs forward with mid weight export hogs the sharpest trade. SQQ 336.31p/kg. JR Smith & Son topped the pence per kilo at 351p/kg with Raveley Fen Farms topping overall at £200.

Highlights - JR Smith & Son saw a best end showing of Texels forward with 44kgs topping to £153.50, their 41kgs topped to £144, and their heavier hogs saw £162 for 47kgs with 58kgs to £170; BW Costin & Sons penned their usual stamp of best end Charollais crosses at 44.5kgs to £150, with 48kgs to £164 and 57kgs to £189; Park End Farming drew their final load of the season with Texel crosses to £165 for 52kgs; Raveley Fen Farms topped the day overall at £200 with tremendous Charollais at 73kgs, their 61kgs of the same stamp sold to £190; R & M Arrowsmith saw highs for their Suffolk hogs with 64kgs at £187 and 69.5kgs to £185. More hogs are needed to meet buyers demand.

To		From		Average	
Standards (32.1-39kg)					
332p	£126.00	325p	£125.00	327p	£125.33
Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)					
351p	£153.50	327p	£139.00	336.9p	£146.57
Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)					
345p	£165.00	288p	£150.00	317.4p	£157.43
Over 52kg					
332p	£200.00	258p	£155.00	296.2p	£174.67

Cull Ewes & Rams

Trade jumps another gear averaging £128.90. Brookwell Estates topped the day with Texel ewes to £280, with followers at £246 and £210; BW Costin & Sons followed suit with quality Charollais ewes at £204, £170, £169 and £141; PD Freeman saw the trade of the day with Charollais Mule ewes to £195 and Texel rams to £160; R & M Arrowsmith topped the Suffolks at £180 with followers to £171; Raveley Fen Farms saw a flyer with Mule ewes topping to £170; M Towler saw lean meat Lleyne ewes to £147. All lean meat sold over £125. Feeding ewes sold at £91 plus. Very chancy grazing native bred sorts sold around £70.

To	From	Average
£280.00	£40.00	£128.90

Bletsoes

— EST. 1881 —

Saturday 5th April 12.30pm

at Thrapston Livestock Market

A Single Vendor Sale of Poultry

A selection of over 300 Birds - To Include

Bantams – Silver Sussex, Polish, Gold Tops, Sumatra & Silkies

Large Fowl – Light Sussex, Jersey Giants, Legbars, Marans, Araucana, Welsummers & Blue Orpingtons

Hybrid Pullets – Bluebells, Warrens, Black Tails, Leg Horns, Crested Olive Egg Layers & Easter Eggers

Ducks – Runners, Cayuga, Cherry Valley, Khaki Campbells, Call & Mandarins

Mixed Peafowl, Turkeys & Geese

A full list of entries will be available online or sent by request



on behalf of Lincs Poultry & Waterfowl

Held in accordance with current APHA Rules

Agricultural & Development
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www.bletsoes.co.uk

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REPORT FOR FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY

Collective Implement Sale Report

The sun shone for the first time in months on the sale ground, which seemed to give the buyers a lift, some excellent prices were achieved all through the sale. Below are some of the top prices on the day, if you would like to know more about the sale please contact us.

If you have some items to sell, we would be pleased to market them for you. Why not turn your unused items sat around the yard and in the shed into money, to re-invest in a new project?

£12,000.00	Bigab Hook Lift System	£950.00	Mitsubishi Compact Tractor
£3,500.00	Ford 3000 Tractor	£950.00	Am Marc Trailer T/A
£3,300.00	Bailey Bale Trailer	£900.00	Ford Transit Van
£2,450.00	I/W Tri-Axle Flat Trailer	£850.00	Quadzilla Quad Bike
£2,200.00	I/W T/A Builders Trailer	£780.00	Man Cage
£2,050.00	I/W T/A Stock Trailer	£780.00	I/W S/A P6 Trailer
£2,000.00	I/W T/A Flat Trailer	£750.00	Trailer
£1,950.00	Honda Quad Bike	£700.00	Indespension T/A Flat Trailer
£1,800.00	I/W P8 Stock Trailer	£680.00	Gambetti Sprayer
£1,800.00	Iseki Compact Tractor	£650.00	Cast Sign
£1,700.00	Mole Plough	£650.00	Universal Bale Grab
£1,550.00	I/W T/A Builders Trailer	£650.00	JCB Atv
£1,500.00	Pedestrian Mower	£600.00	Fuel Tanker
£1,450.00	Yanmar Compact Tractor	£500.00	Farm Stock Trailer
£1,400.00	Teagle Tomahawk Straw Chopper	£450.00	Wessex Self Propelled Topper
£1,350.00	Grey Fergy Tractor	£410.00	Generator
£1,200.00	Bateson Stock Trailer	£400.00	Caravan
£1,200.00	Yamaha Quad Bike	£360.00	Fence Panels
£1,100.00	Quad Bike	£330.00	Log Splitter
£1,000.00	Riley Saloon Car	£320.00	Flat Land Roller
£1,000.00	Skoda Pick-Up	£300.00	Sprayer
£950.00	Flat Land Roller		

NOTICE

To ensure your entries are listed in the Saturday Store Sale Catalogue, please book in your stock by 4pm on Friday.

HAY, STRAW & FODDER

Fodder Beet

Assist & Loading Facilities

Located Cransley, Northants. Contact John 07774 269403

300 x Claas Quadrant Bales of Wheat Straw

Assist & Loading Facilities

Located Newborough, Peterborough. Contact Robert 07791 036662

60 x 4' Round Bales of Quality Meadow Hay

60 x Midi Sized Square Bales of Quality Meadow Hay

100 x Midi Sized Square Bales of Wheat Whole Crop Silage - Wrapped - Farcet Fen
Stored Undercover

Assist & Loading Facilities

Located Haddon, Peterborough. Contact Tom 07740 301270

150 x 5' Round Bales of Barn Stored Meadow Hay

Stored Undercover on Pallets

Assist & Loading Facilities

Located Rushden, Northants. Contact Roy 07850 867385

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chris@calime.co.uk www.calime.co.uk



REPORT FOR SATURDAY 1ST MARCH

Store & Breeding Cattle

First in the ring a Miniature Hereford bull from Maan Farm which sold to £770; PD Freeman sold his entry to £1180 and £1110 for 12 month Hereford steers with heifers to £960 aged 9-12 months and a 20 month Angus steer sold to £1095; S Hall entered four 19 month Longhorn steers which sold to £940; K Hall entered an 8 month Hereford bull which sold to £860; R Booth sold 10 month Limousin steers to £1000; B Burkitt sold a 10 month Beef Shorthorn steer to £520 and Holstein steers to £460; Corney & Sons Ltd sold 10 month Limousin steers to £1275 from £1020; PG Duffin & Son sold four Welsh Black heifers to £1480; IS & NK Johnson sold their heifers to £2300 from £1860; W Darby & Son sold 16-20 month Limousin heifers to £1280 from £1260; AJ Hassall & Son sold a 24 month Hereford heifer to £2250 and Continental heifers 19-21 months to £1940 from £1690; RA Ford entered twenty South Devon and Angus steers 9-11 months with the Angus selling to £1420 and South Devons to £1360 to average £1305.50; J & D Bavington sold their entry to £1580 from £1440 for 24 month Limousin heifers and £1100 for a 25 month Hereford.

Calves

An entry of ten British Blue calves from JEG James sold to £455 for bulls with the heifers selling to £415.

Pigs

Best pigs sold to £90 for a Pietrain boar from M Lacey; B Burkett sold weaned Black pigs to £50 and a lean boar from JC Agriculture sold to £10.

Goats

Pygmy Nannies sold to £150 for LM Anderson and his billies sold to £110; J & S Bardwell sold Pygmy wethers to £130.

Equine

An entry of ten ponies entered with an 80% clearance. Shetland Colts sold to £350, Shetland Fillies sold to £300, Welsh Section A Fillies sold to £300 and coloured donkeys sold to £385.

Sundries

Over 720 lots forward, though not so many about in the yard this week, but numbers were made up with the plants and shrubs entered. The Smallholders Sale is still being held despite the lack of poultry gatherings on the first Saturday of the month. NEXT Month Saturday 5th of April there will be a SINGLE vendor poultry sale. For more details please see our adverts.

Pet Food

Another chance to save money on your pet food bill, with an entry of 300 lots there were some excellent bargains to be had with something for all types of pets along with food for the wildlife. Bags of dog food ranged from £2 - £12, Yak milk dog chews sold to £38, Rabbit food ranged from £2-£12, Cat food ranged from £2-£10, cat toys £1-£5, also in the sale fish food, wild bird seed and much, much more. The next sale will be in a month.

619 Store & Breeding Sheep

48 Cade Lambs - as predicted following last weeks record high trade a bumper entry of Cade lambs forward this week. All in average £28.92. G Tew topped with a special black lamb to £46; R Stanley saw Continentals to £32; C Smith had Texel to £30 the same as RA Bounds; WF Knight & Son saw their ten Texels to £28. None sold under £26.

244 Store Lambs - another strong trade this week with the grades lessening as vendors see their final draws of the season, averaging £96.24. J & S Bardwell topped at £153 for Cheviot Mule lambs with Blue Texels to £130; W Hammond saw their best shape Texels at £140; S Hobbs saw well grown Texel crosses to £126. All lambs mid to short term of decent breeding saw in excess of £105. Longer term lambs were £85 to £100, longest term were £40 to £67.

67 Feeding Ewes - continuing with the cull trade a strong day averaging £94.45. W Hammond topped to £169 for good meat Suffolks with K Catlin seeing £130 for fat Suffolks. Lean meat mid frame ewes sold in the £80's.

215 In-Lamb Ewes - BW Costin & Son held their genuine flock dispersal with Continental ewes in-lamb to a Texel and due from the first of April, the ewes showed extremely well with buyers drawn from far and wide (within the bluetongue zone) their theaves scanned with singles topped to £205 with the doubles upping the anti selling to £240, £238 twice and £235, the triples sold to £250; H Elsdon penned a smart run of big framed Texel Mule double theaves all scanned with doubles to a Suffolk and Hampshire ram due from the 6th April selling to £255, £250, £240 and £230; P & J Stanbridge saw Texel Mule ewes top to £250 full mouth scanned with twins with the best sold seeing Jacob double theaves with twins to £225 and triplets at £210.

GRAZING LAND AVAILABLE

Approximately 3.78 acres of grazing land available to rent in Old Weston.

Fencing required to make stock proof.

Please contact Verity Garlick at verity.garlick@bletsoes.co.uk for further details.

45 Ewes with Lambs at Foot - the first consignment of the year with a special entry forward. O & J Stanbridge saw Dorper ewes at full mouth with well grown single lambs top to £100 a life with 6-tooth twins at foot selling to £98 a life; Newton Holdings saw the trade of the day with older flock age Shetland ewes with lambs at foot sell to £38 a life for the singles and £39 a life for the doubles.

Sheep Equipment Sale

A good entry of sheep equipment forward with plenty of interest. See below some of the prices achieved.

		PPH	Total
Ritchie Sheep Rollover Crate	1	£ 250.00	£ 250.00
Lamb Creep Feeder	1	£ 230.00	£ 230.00
IAE Lamb Creep	1	£ 220.00	£ 220.00
3' Gate	1	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Sheep Ring Feeder	1	£ 135.00	£ 135.00
Rollover Crate	1	£ 135.00	£ 135.00
IAE Ring Feeder	1	£ 130.00	£ 130.00
Gate in Hurdle	1	£ 130.00	£ 130.00
Lamb Creep	1	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
6' Gate Hurdle	1	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
Walk Through Feed Trough	1	£ 100.00	£ 100.00
3' Personnel Gate	1	£ 90.00	£ 90.00
Qty Wire	1	£ 62.00	£ 62.00
Footbath	1	£ 60.00	£ 60.00
10' Barrier with Gate	1	£ 60.00	£ 60.00
Roll of Sheep Netting	1	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
Sliding Gate in Hurdle	1	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
Hurdles	2	£ 50.00	£ 100.00
10' Barrier with Gate	1	£ 50.00	£ 50.00
Drafting Gate	1	£ 45.00	£ 45.00
Hurdles	2	£ 45.00	£ 90.00
Sheep Netting	1	£ 45.00	£ 45.00
Sliding Gate	1	£ 44.00	£ 44.00
Hurdles	9	£ 43.00	£ 387.00
Guillotine Gate	1	£ 40.00	£ 40.00
Personnel Gate	1	£ 40.00	£ 40.00
Hurdles	7	£ 38.00	£ 266.00
Poldenvale Creep Gate	1	£ 34.00	£ 34.00
Buckets	1	£ 30.00	£ 30.00

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH

STORE & BREEDING SHEEP

O Aslpen

54 Store Lambs

STORE & BREEDING CATTLE

A B Spackman - TB4

1 Pedigree Aberdeen Angus Stock Bull
1 Aberdeen Angus Empty Cow
7 Aberdeen Angus Steers
7 Aberdeen Angus Heifers
Named Sire. Bull is tested BVD clear

5 Years
11 Years
15-23 Months
12-18 Months

T N Thomson - TB4

1 Aberdeen Angus Steer
3 Aberdeen Angus Heifers
1 Aberdeen Angus Heifer
Named Sire

9 Months
14 Months
24 Months

J A Knight & Son

5 Aberdeen Angus Steers
8 Aberdeen Angus Heifers
Named Sires, Suckler Bred, Homebred

10-12 Months
10-12 Months

S G C Hill - Farm Assured

15 Pedigree Saler Heifers - *High Health*
15 Charolais x Heifers
Suckler Bred, Homebred

11-13 Months
12-15 Months

R Booth - TB4

10 Continental Steers & Heifers

12 Months

A J Day & Sons - TB4

17 Limousin Steers

17-24 Months

NOTICE

Please ensure Entry Forms and all relevant paperwork accompany your entries when bringing livestock into the Market.

Entry Forms can be found on our Website, in the Market Office or alternatively please contact the Main Office.

SATURDAY 8TH MARCH

Professionals in the Market

On this day there will be some members of the Agricultural Team out and about, should you wish to have a chat to them.

Bletsoes

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COLLECTIVE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT SALE

Thrapston Auction Centre
Haldens Parkway
NN14 4QT

Friday 28th March at 10.30am

For Entry Forms please visit our website
Or Contact the Main Office on 01832 732241

Important, entries must be returned by
Tuesday 18th March to be included in the catalogue

Auctioneer in Charge: Alastair Brown 07885 804450

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An Auction



Saturday 26th April at 1.00pm

*At Thrapston Livestock Market
Market Road, Thrapston. NN14 4JU*

Entries by Monday 14th April

NO entries will be accepted after this date

For further information contact Beth Kitchener 07736 143630

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Update on Capital Grants

DEFRA have announced that they have secured funding to re-open the Capital Grant Scheme for 2025/26.

The RPA will begin to process 4,040 completed Capital Grant applications that were put on hold in November 2024. If you have previously submitted an application, it will automatically be processed and if approved you will receive an agreement.

The scheme will re-open later this year for anyone who would like to submit a new Capital Grant Application.

Limits will be set on how much you can apply for in each of the 4 categories available. The new limits will be:

- £25,000 for water quality
- £25,000 for air quality
- £25,000 natural flood management
- £35,000 for boundaries, trees and orchards

You can apply for a grant in more than one category but only one application per Single Business Identifier (SBI) can be submitted per year.

If you submitted an application and it was put on hold, the new caps will not apply to you. The RPA will honour the offer as it was when you applied.

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Local property
experts



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fees



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or let only
services available



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flats to large
farmhouses

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