

Bletsoes

EST. 1881

Thrapston: 01832 736755

www.bletsoes.co.uk

Stratford: 01789 721643

The Market Report

APRIL PROFESSIONAL PONDERINGS

Whilst we are in unprecedented times, which is impacting upon many daily lives, we guess that for those of you in the lambing shed or finally getting on with Spring field work, little has changed!. We appreciate that many diversified rural businesses could be facing significant issues at the current time and we're here to help where we can.

Bletsoes professional team have adapted, in order to meet the requirement to operate from home and we are all still actively working on your behalf. With BPS beginning to reach full swing, the Agricultural team are busily working on 2020 applications and contacting clients to obtain cropping information and details of changes, in order to progress the claims. It goes without saying that technology is playing one of the most vital roles throughout this whole process and where possible we are using video conferencing, although we are similarly happy to work through things over the phone. Annual stock takings, finalising grass keeping arrangements, continuing compulsory purchase schemes, tenancy matters, valuations and dealing with ongoing land sales, are some of the areas of work that are also keeping us busy. Rest assured, we are still here to help and provide professional support and practical advice to those who require it, simply phone the normal office number 01789 722677 and you will be directed to the most appropriate individual within the team.

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

Oakleigh House, Thrapston,
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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.



To assist businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief and rural rate relief, the government has introduced the Small Business Grant Scheme. We are conscious that this may apply to clients running enterprises such as farm shops and livery businesses. This scheme will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to eligible businesses, to help meet their ongoing business costs. Small businesses whose premises have a rateable value between £12,000 and £15,000 and who receive tapered relief also qualify for the scheme. To be eligible the business needed to be receiving relief as of 11th March 2020. Your local authority should write to you if you are eligible for this grant and payments for the scheme are to be made directly into the bank accounts of businesses which currently pay their rates by debit card. Please do get in contact with the local authority if you consider you are eligible and where you need to provide additional information such as bank account details. We are aware that some local authorities have been inundated with calls regarding the scheme. If we can assist at all in respect of the Grant please do contact us.

If you have applied for the Countryside Productivity Small Grant (CPSG) Scheme in Round 2, please be aware that although the claim deadline for all claims was originally set as midnight on 31st May 2020, this has now been extended to **midnight on the 31st July 2020**, due to the impact that COVID-19 is having on the ability of some suppliers to meet the original deadline. Remember that all items must be in place at the location stated in your application and operational, before you submit your claim. If you require any assistance with your claim please contact a member of the Agricultural Team.

We have had reports from several clients that they are yet to receive their annual claim forms for ongoing ELS/HLS agreements, which should have been received in March. It may be that your contact details are not up to date, so in the first instance you can check your contact details are correct by signing into the Rural Payments Service online. We are awaiting further guidance from the RPA on this matter, but if you have not had your claim form do please contact a member of the Agricultural Team for assistance.

On a more positive note, the application window for new Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship Applications is open until 31st July, but you must have requested an application pack by 30th June. As yet there is no news of an extension on this deadline. The Mid-Tier scheme offers a variety of management options for arable, grassland and woodland. There are capital grants available alongside your management agreement, or through a specific capital items only grant.

The range of capital items is extensive, including grants to improve farmyards as well as more traditional environmental grants for ponds and hedgerows. The Wild Pollinator and Farm Wildlife Package is a simplified scheme of management only options and is most similar to the old ELS. If you are coming out of an Environmental Stewardship agreement; have taken on new land that's not in an agreement, or simply want to apply for an environmental scheme for the first time, a member of the Agricultural Team can assist you with your application.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Easter

Nicola Clayton-Bailey
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Find out how you can support FCN by visiting **fcn.org.uk**

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REPORT FOR TUESDAY 7TH APRIL

259 Prime Sheep forward today. Old Season Lambs achieved a top of 206p or £96 to take an SQQ average of 198.5p. Store Lambs sold to £76 and Ewes to £75.

A lot of speculation about levels of trade around the country, but as ever, this needs to be kept in perspective. How many were forward compared to a 'normal' week? What weights? Breeds? Conformation? Finish? Heavies seem harder to place at the moment, whereas handy weights for the home market are a little better trade. Trade for ewes has also lifted from last week.

30 Standards - Sold to £76.62 or 199p for 38.5kg lambs from Bruce Minett, Rollo Deutsch sold his 38kg lambs to 198p or £75.24, DJ & M Edwards sold 37kg lambs to £70.67 and PD Bird saw £64.38 for 37kg lambs.

To		From		Average	
199p	£76.62	174p	£64.38	196.5p	£74.50

95 Mediums - John Bourne & Son topped the day at 206p for 40kg lambs, Nicola Noble saw 205p for her 40.5kg lambs and Ben Hemmings also realised 205p for his 43kg lambs, Bruce Minett sold his 42.5kg lambs to 203p, Rollo Deutsch topped per head in the is category at £90.45 or 201p for 45kg lambs, at 200p 43kg & 40kg lambs shown by DJ & M Edwards and at the same price Fred & Anthony Heath with 45kg lambs realising £90.

To		From		Average	
206p	£90.45	170p	£69.70	199.5p	£84.76

83 Heavies - Mark Greenaway saw top price in the section with his 46kg lambs at 202p, Nicola Noble sold 48kg lambs to 200p to top this weight bracket at £96, Ben Hemmings 46kg lambs sold to 197p. Fred & Anthony Heath sold their 48kg lambs to 184p and Rollo Deutsch sold 49kg lambs to 170p.

To		From		Average	
202p	£96.00	169p	£83.30	182.5p	£88.41

17 Over 52kg - Fred & Anthony Heath realised best price in this section at 176p or £95.04, DM Harris realised next top at 161p or £84.53 for 52.5kg lambs, John Bourne & Son sold his 58kg lamb at 150p or £87, and a 74kg lamb from Newfield Horses Ltd sold to 120p or £88.80.

To		From		Average	
176p	£95.04	120p	£84.53	160.5p	£90.63

6 Cull Ewes & Rams

A cautious entry after last weeks reported prices around the country. Topping at £75 for a Texel from Edward Brain & Sons Ltd with his other two at £70. Nicola Noble saw £61 for hers and DM Harris sold her Blue d'maine ewe for £60.

To	From	Average
£75.00	£60.00	£66.17

28 Store Lambs

Stores still in high demand for the time of year, probably due to the good weather and some grass. Prices topped at £76 for Kevin Elgar with others to £66, others sold to £55 from John Bourne & Son.

To	From	Average
£76.00	£55.00	£66.43

Please contact the auctioneers to book your sheep in prior to the sale and for a forecast of the trade. In these extraordinary times, please do not just drop off your sheep and expect the trade we saw a month ago. We are happy to discuss reserve prices and, unlike deadweight sales, if the trade fails to match your expectations, sheep can be taken home. Please talk to us, as the demand for different weights can vary week by week, depending on the strength of demand for export and the home trade.

CADE LAMBS

Large or Small Quantities available off the farm, Texel Cross.
Contact Chris 07721 717655. Located Nr Milton Keynes

COLLIE PUPPIES FOR SALE

Working Parents, Ready 18th April.
1 Dog £175 & 1 Bitch £200.
Contact John 07854 653175 or Oli 07854 548521.

SHEEP DOG PUPPIES FOR SALE

¼ Kelpie ¾ Collie, 4 Dogs & 2 Bitches.
Both Parents Working with Cattle & Sheep. Ready in 2 Weeks £250.
Stratford upon Avon Area. Contact Brian 07815 005115.

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT PONDERINGS

The rules, regulations and restrictions connected with the coronavirus crisis seem to change on a daily basis.

As you may have seen, a number of big housebuilders have decided to close down construction on their sites and to close their sales offices. In some instances, they are suspending negotiations, on the purchase of additional land, saying that they will come back to the deals, once the dust has settled down.

Some promotion companies are taking the same stance and looking to suspend negotiations.

However, other housebuilders and promoters have contacted us, to confirm that, in terms of land buying opportunities, or the promotion of sites, it is very much "business as usual". Indeed, one or two companies have approached us to say that if negotiations stall with other companies, we should pick up the phone to them.

So, difficult and complicated times but, having spoken with our team, planning and promotion work at Bletsoes seems to be as busy as ever. Please contact us, if you wish to discuss any Projects.

Speaking for myself, after 5 or 6 weeks working from home, following my knee operation, just as I was beginning to get mobile again, the coronavirus restrictions were introduced so that I am now coming up to 2 months of working from home. I am coping, but I am not sure the same can be said for my wife!

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Click the link to view our Stratford Facebook page for further
Up to date information about our sales pre and post sale.

<https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLivestockMarket/>

Bletsoes Procedures for Markets and Sales in Light of the Covid-19 Restrictions

Update 18th March 2020

We have received guidance from DEFRA via the Livestock Auctioneers Association regarding the running of the livestock market and other sales. We are pleased that DEFRA has noted the importance of livestock markets continuing to operate as an important part of the food supply. 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, while taking reasonable precautions.

We are delighted 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 cattle, sheep, pigs, goats and calves as normal, subject to the following precautions:

1. We will restrict the attendance within the market to as few as possible
 - Only those that are selling or buying should attend – onlookers and the public are asked not to attend
 - 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
2. The market canteen will be closed, but we are looking at whether we can setup a limited service served outside in the open air
3. All non-essential food chain supply sales, such as the fur and feather, machinery, shrub and plant sales, etc. are cancelled until further notice
4. We have arranged suitable hand washing facilities – in the gents wc, ladies wc
5. We will limit any queuing in the market office so the queue is outside in the open

6. Most of the pens are outside in the open with good ventilation

We have listed above the groups the government have advised as being vulnerable. Those households with vulnerable people within them should not simply send a younger and healthier person to the auction to sell their stock as there could be a risk of that younger person taking the virus home with them, if it is circulating in the market. If you are vulnerable or have a family member at home who is vulnerable, we would ask you to simply deliver your animals to the market, dropping the stock off at the loading docks, remaining in your vehicle and we will deal with them at the sale. Likewise if you wish to arrange collection of stock from the farm, please speak to Al or Jake.

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
- try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell

Don't

- 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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