

# Bletsoes

— EST. 1881 —

Thrapston: 01832 736755

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

Stratford: 01789 721643

## The Market Report

### Forthcoming Special Sales

**Saturday 16th February at 11.00am**  
Hay, Straw & Fodder Sale  
At Thrapston Livestock Market

**Tuesday 19th February**  
Brexit Meeting  
*At Stratford Livestock Market,  
see page 8 for further information*

**Tuesday 26th February at approx 11.00am**  
Stratford Collective Sale of In-Lamb Sheep  
*Please forward your entries to Alastair,  
for advertising & cataloguing purposes*

*For further information regarding any of the sales  
please contact Alastair Brown - 07885 804450*

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

Oakleigh House, Thrapston,  
Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ

Alastair Brown: 07885 804450  
Shaun Barron: 07969 097704

CPH: 29/242/8000 NN14 4JU  
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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.



## **February Professional Ponderings**

I have the pleasure of introducing myself as Bletsoes new Agri-Business Consultant, with the role of ensuring the quality delivery of business management, environmental, regulatory and technical services to Bletsoes clients. Whilst in recent years my experience has involved managing mixed farms in Northamptonshire and Cheshire, the bulk of my 30 years' experience in agriculture has been in arable and business management consultancy. Hence, I'm looking forward to renewing acquaintances and getting to meet as many new faces as possible in the coming months. Where opportunities exist to enhance business performance, I am here to assist.

Whilst disarray continues to reflect our political climate, exiting the EU without a deal will hopefully not happen - the worst of all worlds for UK livestock farms especially. However, irrespective of the Brexit outcome, UK farming faces new challenges and influences going forward – not least the phasing out of BPS by 2027 and greater emphasis on environmental management. On the upside, our production and welfare standards are amongst the highest in the world (which clearly any Brexit deal needs to protect) with new potential export markets in Asia, including China with the fastest growing middle class economy. Greater self-sufficiency, and protecting food security and internal markets against an over-dependence on food imports also needs to be grasped - genuine reasons to feel positive about the future.

Farms better able to compete in whatever trading scenario emerges will be those who critically challenge the performance of their business; are keen to consider new opportunities; adapt to market and regulatory requirements; and recognise that cost of production, irrespective of enterprise, is more important than turnover. Whatever your situation, Bletsoes are here to help. Please do contact me if you wish me to assist with a review of your current farming business.

**Matthew Hague - Agri-Business Consultant**

**[matt.hague@bletsoes.co.uk](mailto:matt.hague@bletsoes.co.uk)**

## **2019 Schemes & Grants - Update**

### **Basic Payment Scheme**

The RPA have confirmed that 93.4% of BPS 2018 Claimants had received their payment by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018. It's difficult for us to confirm this, as client's often only contact us when there is something amiss! We can check your payment is correct on our in-house calculator, so do please contact us with a note of what you have (or have not) received.

The 2019 BPS application window opens on 13th March 2019 and the deadline for submitting claims will remain as **15<sup>th</sup> May 2019**.

The online land and entitlements transfer functionality on the RPA service has now opened. We have demand for Entitlements already therefore please contact us with details of those you may have available or any you wish to purchase.

### **Countryside Stewardship**

The 2019 Mid-Tier Application window will be opening in **February**, if you are thinking of entering into this scheme, then please get in touch. Further dates will be confirmed, however it is useful to note that in 2018 Application Packs needed to be requested by the end of May.

The RPA are progressing with 2018 Mid-Tier Applications with a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. If you have not yet heard from the RPA, they are aiming to get all Agreements out by **28<sup>th</sup> February**.

### **Countryside Productivity Small Grant Schemes**

This aims to help farmers buy equipment to boost production and increase yields. The Application Window is due to open in early February.

Members of our team will be attending a **CAP Briefing on 12<sup>th</sup> February** where we hope to receive confirmation of application window dates etc. We will update you once we have further information.

For any queries contact the Agricultural Team - 01789 722677

## REPORT FOR TUESDAY 5TH FEBRUARY

### **480 Sheep forward at Stratford**

A few more forward this week and prices held much better than many auctions around the country, who saw a drop on their averages by anything from 1p to 14p. Our SQQ today was 194.1p to top at 210p. A new buyer around the pens this week, which made up 7 buyers with 10 accounts, hardly enough sheep to go round. If you have some to market why not come and give us a try, this friendly little auction with lots going on and plenty to see, has a very quick turn around time from dropping your stock off to seeing them sold and GUARANTEED payment in one week. BACS payments can be arranged to save a trip to the bank. Contact Alastair for further information.

**1 Lights** - Just one forward in this section, a 30kg lamb from NP Read which sold to 187p.

To		From		Average	
187p	£56.10	187p	£56.10	187p	£56.10

**66 Standards** - Top price of the day went to Charles Vernon-Miller with his usual smart Beltex lambs weighing 36.5kg topping at 210p, next top in this section with some easycare type 38kg lambs was Messrs Fisher-Pinfield who sold to 195p, with others ½ a kilo heavier at 194.5p, Pip Careless also achieved 194.5p for his 38.5kg lambs, Bruce Minett topped at 194p for 38kg lambs, lighter lambs from Abingdon & Witney College topped at 190p weighing 33.5kg.

To		From		Average	
210p	£76.65	188p	£63.65	195.6p	£73.04

**135 Mediums** - Another pen of lambs over the £2 per kilo mark was a pen of 40kg lambs from M Ironmonger, next top went to S & J Lambert with 39.5kg lambs selling to 197p, Mark Taylor topped at 195.5p for 42.5kg Charollais, Fred & Anthony Heath topped at 195p for the same weight, with slightly lighter lambs at 194.5p. Pip Careless with a pen of 12 Charollais, 43kg topped at 194p along with a number of others at the same price, M Ironmonger with 40kg lambs, S & J Lambert with 43kg lambs and NP Read with 39.5kg lambs.

To		From		Average	
203p	£86.11	183.5p	£76.63	193.25p	£82.80

**86 Heavies** - GF Heath & Son topped this section with a pen of 46kg lambs selling to 192p, Rollo Deutsch topped at 189.5p with his 46.5kg lambs, JE Bury sold his pen of 12 to top at 184.5p for 47.5kg, Pip Careless was just half a penny behind with 46.5kg lambs. Heavier lambs, 50.5kg topped at 178p for JE Bury and 169p for P & E Poultry, 51kg lambs sold to 165.5p from D Chapman and 51.5kg lambs from Rollo sold to 158p. Top price per head went to JE Bury with his 50.5kg lambs at £89.89 and Rollo close behind with 48.5kg lambs at £89.24.

To		From		Average	
192p	£89.89	158p	£81.37	181.74p	£87.18

**6 Over 52kg** - Two pens of lambs forward both weighing 52.5kg topping at 160p or £84 for P & E Poultry and 158p or £82.95 for Chris Slatter.

To		From		Average	
160p	£84.00	158p	£82.95	158.67p	£83.30

**73 Store Lambs** - Not as many about and only long term keep on offer. Topping at £60 for some Beltex lambs, M Furlong topped at £58.50 for some Cotswolds, Andy Tuffen topped at £56.50 for a pen of 20 Texels, M Ironmonger topped at £50.50, Adam Kelly topped at £46.50 for his tiny but smart Texel lambs, a pen of easycare lambs from Messrs Fisher-Pinfield topped at £37.50. If you have some there is still demand, but be quick after the announcement from the Farmers Weekly some buyers may be a little disheartened, though there is still plenty of gambling men out there, every cloud has a silver lining. Contact Alastair for further details.

To		From		Average	
£60.00		£15.00		£47.10	

**113 Cull Ewes & Rams** - Top price went to Will Spencer with a Suffolk ewe at £90 which was equalled with 6 Texel ewes also £90 for M Ironmonger, Andy Burrows topped at £86 for his 6 Suffolk ewes, with others at £71. A Hay entered an Oxford Down that sold to £85, S & J Lambert entered a Texel to top at £84, Hadley Farms Ltd topped at £80 with their Texel type ewes and the same price for a wether, a pen of 6 Texel ewes from M Ironmonger sold to £71. Rams sold to £91 for S & J Lambert with a Texel, and a Pedigree Jacob sold to £79 for A Hay. If you have some to market please ensure you contact Alastair with your entries, so he can inform the potential buyers.

To		From		Average	
£90.00		£21.00		£64.93	

## Produce, Fur & Feather, Hatching Eggs & Miscellaneous items

Once again a very busy day in all sections, especially the poultry with some super specimens forward this week, which will be doubled up next week with the special entry. Still plenty of fresh, home grown vegetables about too. Eggs sold to a premium today with some quality brown and coloured types going under the hammer, along with all sorts in the miscellaneous section. If you have any questions please contact Brian Pile 07778 970628.

Fur & Feather	Prices	Plants & Shrubs	Prices
Ducks	£13.00	Birdbath	£12.00
Wyandottes	£10.00	Gnome	£5.00
POL White Pekins	£7.00	Logs	£3.50
POL Cuckoo Maran	£7.00	Trough	£3.00
POL Buff Orpingtons	£7.00	Hyacinth	£2.00
Lavender Araucana	£7.00	Polyanthus	£1.00
Seabright Cockerel	£5.50	Orchid	£1.00
Dutch Bantam Hens	£5.50	Primroses	80p
Copper Black Maran	£4.00	<b>Fresh Produce</b>	<b>Prices</b>
Sussex / Bluebells	£4.00	Layers Pellets	£7.50
<b>Sundries &amp; Miscellanea</b>	<b>Prices</b>	Mixed Corn	£7.00
Brinsea Octagon Eco	£50.00	Brace of Rabbits	£3.50
Makita Radio	£45.00	Purple Sprouting	£1.30
Brinsea Ovation Eco	£45.00	Cauliflower	£1.30
Air Rifle	£40.00	Brace of Pheasants	£1.00
Tools	£30.00	Leeks	£1.00
Strimmer	£26.00	Potatoes	£1.00
Cable	£25.00	<b>Hatching Eggs</b>	<b>Prices</b>
Rope	£20.00	Tray of Duck	£6.00
Mirror	£13.00	Tray of Hen	£4.00
		Goose	£1.00



\*\*\*\* NEXT WEEK \*\*\*\*



A Special Entry of Quality Poultry  
Approx 11.30am

To Include:

30 Point of Lay Pullets including,  
Bluebells, Sussex, Amberlinks & Rhode Rocks

## **FOR SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY**

20 Pedigree South Devon Bulling Heifers.  
2 Pedigree South Devon Bulls.  
Contact Shaun Barron 07969 097704

## **SIMMENTAL BULLS FOR SALE**

Selection of Young Simmental Bulls Available  
12-15 Months Old Sensible Priced  
TB4. From Show Winning Herd  
Contact Shaun Barron - 07969 097704 (ref A/C)

## **BREEDING SHEEP FOR SALE**

100 Texel x Double Theaves In-lamb to the Beltex due 10th March.  
200 North Country Mule Theaves In-lamb to Continental Rams due 10th April.  
80 North Country Mule Ewe Hoggs In-lamb to Beltex due 15th April onwards.  
For more information on any of the above please  
Contact Shaun Barron 07969 097704

## **FOR SALE**

Pebworth Poll Herefords  
Young bulls & heifers, a few in calf cows  
Hi Health cattle Award winning  
Contact: Nick - 07894074041 Email: [Nickt509@aol.com](mailto:Nickt509@aol.com)  
Stratford-upon-Avon

## **GEOFFREY HUTSBY FUNERAL**

A service of Celebration and Thanksgiving is to be held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 12.00 noon, at St Georges Church, Newbold Pacey. The family have asked for Family Flowers only, but donations welcome, in lieu, to be divided between Shipston Home Nursing and St Georges Church via R Lock & Son Funeral Directors, The Precinct, Wellesbourne, Warwickshire, CV35 9NL.

# Managing risks affecting your business

Stratford Agri Park, Stratford Livestock Centre, Campden  
Road, Clifford Chambers, Warwickshire, CV37 8LP

Tuesday 19 February 6:30pm – 9:00pm

With Brexit on the horizon, there are many uncertainties facing the British beef and lamb industry. Join AHDB Beef & Lamb for this interactive workshop looking at the threats and opportunities of Brexit, how these can be tackled through careful planning and ways in which you can maximise profitability. The workshop will give you the opportunity to talk to like-minded farmers about the things you can control and how to assess your business under the different Brexit scenarios.

The practical session means you will go home having identified some areas that you want to work on. But also armed with some tools to help.

## Programme

### 6:30pm Arrival – Light meal with teas and coffees

- Identifying challenges affecting your business over the next five years and potential ways to mitigate risks
- Focusing on controllable challenges
- Self-assessment against key areas and tools for refinement
- Run through Brexit scenarios and calculator

### 9pm Close

To book your **FREE** place ring the AHDB Beef & Lamb events Hub on 01904 771218 or email [ke.events@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:ke.events@ahdb.org.uk)

Booking is essential. If you have any special dietary requirements please contact us as soon as possible. If you no longer wish to receive this information, please email us on [comms@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:comms@ahdb.org.uk)