

## FARMING AND PROPERTY BULLETIN – FEBRUARY 2017

### ***BPS Update***

#### ***2016 Payments***

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) have now paid 93% of claimants their 2016 payment. Please check payments received carefully as we are aware of a number of incorrect payments being issued where land or entitlement changes have not been completed or mapping work is outstanding.

The RPA have now begun issuing 2016 Claim Statements. These are being sent to the registered business address as shown on the online system. They are in the same format as last year, which do not give a field by field breakdown, so it is not always clear why a discrepancy has occurred. If you do not think the payment you have received is correct you should email the RPA on [ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk) setting out as much detail as you can and make the title of your email 'BPS 2016 Payment Query' including your business name and SBI Number.

#### ***Online Land & Entitlement Transfers***

The availability of the function to transfer land and entitlements online has now been delayed until 'mid-February'. Whilst the delay is frustrating it is advisable to wait to use the online system rather than submit paper RLE1 forms due to the length of time the RPA are taking to process these.

#### ***NVZ Designations***

Following the update of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in England farmers should now have received Notice from DEFRA if their land falls in an NVZ. If you're registered with an Agent acting on your behalf with the RPA these notices may have been sent to your agent instead. On receipt of this Notice you should check any changes to your holding on the Environment Agency's website which enables you to check existing and proposed NVZ designations in the 'what's in my back yard' section.

If you disagree with any changes on your holding you must appeal to DEFRA within 28 days of the date of the Notice.

#### ***RDPE Growth Programme***

The growth programme aims to provide funding for projects which promote growth and jobs in the rural economy and is now open for applications from farmers and rural businesses. Grants are available in the following three areas:

- Business Development
- Food Processing
- Rural Tourism Infrastructure

The new handbooks can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-growth-programme>. These give full details of the grants, who is eligible and how to apply.

The application process is competitive and the starting point is to submit an expression of interest to the RPA. If this is considered to be suitable for the scheme they will invite applicants to submit a full application. The programme is open for expressions of interest to be submitted until the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

## **REPORT ON 2017 AUCTION SALE OF HAY AND STRAW**

The Adkin Annual Sale of Hay & Straw held at Ardington, Oxfordshire on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 met with a better than expected trade. With buyers present from across the country and beyond all classes of hay and straw met with a good demand. Given the mild winter to date and reports of very disappointing trade for hay elsewhere the hay trade well exceeded expectations. Straw was again a good trade and in strong demand and more could have been sold to advantage.

We are grateful to our regular venders and buyers for their continued support.

The principle prices were:

### **HAY**

#### **Big Bales (92% Clearance)**

##### **Meadow Hay**

Claas 2100 bales Organic Meadow Hay to £24.00 per bale (Marcham Farms Ltd)

Claas 2100 bales Meadow Hay to £17.50 per bale (Marcham Farms Ltd)

MF2140 bales of Meadow Hay to £14.00 (R Pert & Sons)

##### **Seeds Hay**

MF2140 bales to £34.00 per bale (Napper Farm Services)

NH B9060 bales to £21.25 per bale (GD Lay & Partners)

#### **Conventional Bales (100% Clearance)**

Meadow Hay to £2.72 per bale (Mrs C Ackrill)

### **STRAW**

#### **Big Bales (100% Clearance)**

##### **Barley Straw**

Quadrant bales to £21.00 per bale (Gale Partnership)

Claas 3200 bales to £21.00 per bale (Delafield Brothers)

MF2270 to £20.67 per bale (Woodhouse Farm Partnership)

##### **Wheat Straw**

Quadrant bales to £19.67 per bale (Gale Partnership)

#### **Conventional Bales (100% Clearance)**

Winter Barley Straw to £1.50 per bale (Bitmead Cholsey Partners)

Winter Wheat Straw to £1.16 per bale (Bitmead Cholsey Partners)

We will be pleased to receive enquiries for the very few unsold lots and to receive further instructions for additional lots. Please contact Philip Pocock or Jenna Wald on 01235 862888.