

# The Market Report

## Professional Ponderings - March 2024

I think many of you will resonate with me when I say that the weather hasn't been on our side in the last few months, and it would be somewhat of an understatement to say that it has caused delays to the start of the farming year. However, as we start Spring and the temperatures begin to warm up, I dare to say (rather optimistically) that we are finally through the worst of the wet weather as we look ahead to a busy couple of months, with the lambing, calving and spring drilling and other arable work.

As I am sure many of you are aware, and ahead of the looming general election, Rishi Sunak promised on the 20th February that £2.4bn will be re-invested back into the farming sector, and announced that payment rates for Countryside Stewardship and the Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will increase on average by 10%. Furthermore, many of you who already benefit from a live SFI Agreement together with the additional management payment will see this management payment double to £2,000 this Spring, and this will apply for all new agreements made up to March 2025. Whilst farmers have been making various global headlines in recent weeks, it is good to see a positive response from our Government who appear to have started to acknowledge the fact that any subsidised income must focus on achieving a balance between long-term benefits for the environment and food production.

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

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## **Further new announcements include:**

- An additional management payment for new Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier Agreements from Summer 2024. Existing Agreement Holders will still be able to benefit from the management payment however they will need to enter into an additional agreement alongside their existing one in order to receive the additional funding.
- A pledge for grants totalling £220 million for farming business to boost productivity and innovation. This includes grants for robotic equipment and rooftop solar under the Improving Farm Productivity Grant; Round 1 proved hugely popular and the initial application window for Round 2 will close on the 21st March 2024.
- A new round of the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund worth £70m, which includes three grants to help buy items to:
  - Improve Productivity
  - Manage Slurry
  - Improve Animal Health & Welfare
- Changes to Permitted Development Rights, which will ultimately look to make it easier to diversify farming businesses by removing existing barriers. This will include changes relating to extending existing agricultural buildings and converting agricultural buildings into residential homes (Class Q).

You will be aware that 2024 is also the start of De-Linked Payments, which signifies a departure from the traditional subsidy framework, the Basic Payment Scheme, that farmers have been accustomed to. Instead of being tied to specific agricultural activities or land use, de-linked payments are decoupled from production, offering farmers more flexibility in their operational decisions. From 2024 to 2027, this new payment structure marks a shift towards a system where financial support is provided without direct correlation to specific farming practices. The rationale behind introducing de-linked payments lies in streamlining agricultural policies, moving away from production-focused subsidies, and encouraging more sustainable and market-oriented practices. By decoupling payments from specific activities, the Rural Payments Agency aims to provide farmers with greater autonomy in their decision-making processes. This transition is part of broader agricultural policy reforms, which it is hoped will foster a more resilient and adaptable agricultural sector.

For farmers and landowners, this shift necessitates a re-evaluation of financial strategies. Previous claimants of BPS will be aware that the emphasis is no longer solely on maximizing production to secure subsidies; instead, considerations must include broader financial planning, risk management, and sustainable practices. The Agricultural team at Bletsoes are working with many clients to prepare applications to the Sustainable Farming Incentive which will complement their existing farming businesses. Furthermore, we are preparing Capital Grant Applications and are advising and assisting rural businesses with applications for grant monies for everything from solar schemes to cattle handling systems.

With spring approaching, the landscape of grazing land sees gradual transformations. Bletsoes has seen an increase in demand for grazing land which may in part result from the recent increases in livestock prices. The heightened demand suggests, if anything, slight potential for increases in the annual grazing licence fees paid dependent upon the specific factors of the grazing parcel and emphasizing the need for farmers and landowners to factor this into their financial strategies.

As the year continues to unfold, reflection and awareness underscores the significance of adapting to this new subsidy landscape while navigating the ever-evolving dynamics found within farming. Bletsoes remains committed in guiding clients through these changes, offering advice to navigate the complexities of de-linked payments and assistance to secure income from SFI and other sources including capital grant applications. In this evolving environment, our commitment to supporting farmers and landowners in strategic planning and decision-making remains constant, ensuring a resilient and sustainable future for the agricultural sector, and therefore please don't hesitate to get in touch with a member of the Agricultural Team on 01832 732241 for initial support and on-going assistance.

*Alex Abrahams – Graduate Rural Surveyor*



# Thrapston Forthcoming Events

**Thursday 7th March**  
Prime & Cull Sheep

**Saturday 9th March**  
Store & Breeding Cattle, Sheep & Pigs

**Thursday 14th March**  
Prime & Cull Sheep

**Saturday 16th March**  
Store & Breeding Cattle, Sheep & Pigs

**Thursday 21st March**  
Prime & Cull Sheep

**Friday 22nd March**  
Dispersal Sale of Game Rearing Equipment - Rampton  
*See main advert for further information*

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

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## **FOR SALE**

8 Tonne Feed Bin  
20ft Tall. £600 plus vat.  
Does also have a 'Chore time' feeder that used to be  
attached that can be purchased separately.

Contact: James on 07879 691976



## REPORT FOR THURSDAY 29TH FEBRUARY

### 262 Prime Hogs

Trade continues at fantastic highs with the SQQ at 347.51p/kg. All meat lambs are wanted with heavyweights sold to no penalties. R & A Sanderson topped the day pence per kilo with best meat 44kg Texels selling to 391p/kg; PM & A Bonner topped the day overall to £196.50 for Texels at 57.5kgs.

**Highlights** - F & SM Stamper sold their Beltex crosses to £173 for 45.5kgs and 56kgs to £195; JLB Farming saw their Texels top to £189 for 49kgs of best meat with 54.5kgs to £193; L Blackman & Son saw a flying trade with Continentals at 57.5kgs to £196 and 50kg Texels to £186.

To		From		Average	
<i>Standards (32.1-39kg)</i>					
369p	£144.00	369p	£144.00	369p	£144.00
<i>Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)</i>					
391p	£173.00	305p	£130.00	346.7p	£149.78
<i>Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)</i>					
386p	£189.00	317p	£146.00	347.4p	£168.48
<i>Over 52kg</i>					
354p	£196.50	341p	£180.00	346p	£189.76

### 64 Cull Ewes & Rams

A stand on trade in the culls with another best end week seeing an all in average to £115.14. L Blackman & Son topped the day at £157 for best shape Texel ewes with their Mule ewes seeing the best trade on the day at £105; Grange Farm saw similar highs with thick meat Charollais crosses to £155; JLB Farming saw another best end draw of ewes topping to £149. All meat shape ewes were over £115, plainer meat types were £100 plus with very little sold sub £90 on the day.

To	From	Average
£157.00	£58.00	£115.14

### **FREE HEALTH ADVICE FOR FARMERS AT THRAPSTON MARKET**

Parish Nursing Ministries UK are hoping to be back in the market in March, subject to funding, to offer health screening, information, and advice to farming families at Saturday markets.

# Bletsoes

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## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 11.00am

at Ashley Farm, Cow Lane,  
Rampton, Cambridgeshire. CB24 8QG

# A Dispersal Sale of Game Rearing Equipment



**To Include:**  
Pens & Pen Sections  
Feeders & Drinkers  
Heaters  
New & Used Accessories



**on behalf of G C & J Horner**

*The sale is due to retirement*

**Contact Alastair Brown 07885 804450**

Catalogues will be available online or by request

## **REPORT FOR SATURDAY 2ND MARCH**

### **Store & Breeding Cattle**

**Feeding cows** sold to £1400 for a Limousin cow from J Bottesch; Messrs Aves sold their cows to £1150; and Padray Farms sold their cows to £1300.

**Store Cattle** - S Bowles sold Dexter steers to £200 and heifers to £120; M & M Hutton sold an Angus steer to £710 and Limousin heifers to £580; PG Duffin & Son sold a Welsh Black x steer to £1050 and their heifers to £1055; WBK Smith & Son sold Simmental steers to £1340 from £1290; R Munns sold an Angus steer to £1265; G & T Farming sold an Angus heifer to £800; Newlands Farm sold Angus heifers to £1200 and steers to £1195; BC & MB King sold a Beef Shorthorn heifer to £1160 and Blonde heifers to £1100; J Bottesch sold Limousin heifers to £1720 and £1700; T Beazley & Sons sold a Hereford steer to £1000; SGC Hill sold Charolais x heifers to £1300 from £1150.

### **Pigs**

Saddleback pigs sold to £68, White pigs sold to £50, Oxford Sandy Black crosses sold to £10.

### **Calves**

Angus bulls sold to £215, Holstein Friesian steers sold to £61 for AG Burton.

### **Equine & Camelids**

Donkeys sold to £700, Shetlands sold to £850 and Alpacas sold to £400.

### **282 Store & Breeding Sheep**

**Store Lambs** - Another strong trade following the prime market trade this week with an all-in average of £80.53, with the bottom end lambs looking to ease. CJ Harris topped the day with best end Charollais lambs to £139 for big frames, with their Charollais cross Grey Faced Dartmoors at £120; DM Cutmore & Son penned a smart show of Charollais crosses with the biggest frames at £135; WG Childs & Sons penned their usual stamp of lambs with Texels to £131 through to £120, £113 and £108. All big framed well bred lambs were over £105 with mid frames in the £80's and longest termers £65 plus.

### **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](mailto:verity.garlick@bletsoes.co.uk) for further details.

**Cade Lambs** - an unbelievable trade with the Smallholder Sale definitely boosting demand. SF & AJ Deeming topped the day with Texel lambs at £48 for 7day old lambs with their followers at £35. All in average saw £34.69.

**Breeding Sheep** - RJ Garley penned a smart run of full mouth ewes with Texel crosses and single lambs selling to £80 a life, the same as the doubles, their Mule ewes with strong single lambs topped to £85 a life; C Hepher penned a single Charollais theave and lamb selling to £80 a life, with in-lamb Southdown flock age ewes from the same home selling to £150, with the theaves scanned with singles selling also to £150, all in-lamb to a Charollais and due 1st April.

**Feeding Ewes** - following the cull trade, feeders were strong with an all in average of £80.47. GC Lacey & Son topped the day at £110 for Texel ewes; Webb Hatherley Livestock saw a strong trade for more quality with Continentals at £105 for lean meat and big frame Mule ewes to £100. Big framed ewes were in the £90's, with mid frame leanest sorts around £70.

**FOR SALE**

10 Homebred Gloucester Old Spot x Tamworth Weaners  
Born 26th October 2023. 5 Boars & 5 Gilts. Sow can be viewed.  
Contact Liz 07786 968368

**FOR SALE**

4 Black Nose Valais Wether Lambs  
Contact Martin 07926 797923

**FOR SALE**

Quantity of Mule x Cade Lambs  
Contact George 07795 662938

Our chaplain Rev. Eddie Smith, Church of England Minister, member of the Agricultural Chaplains Association and the Farming Community Network will be in attendance at the market on the 1st & 3rd Saturday each month for a chat, if you would like to talk.

[eddie.smith@talk21.com](mailto:eddie.smith@talk21.com)



## SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

### STORE & BREEDING CATTLE

#### T N Thomson - TB4

1 Aberdeen Angus x Cow - *Empty*  
3 Aberdeen Angus x Steers

11 Years  
11-14 Months

#### R A Ford

20 Purebred South Devon Steers  
7 Aberdeen Angus Steers - *Named Sire*

10-12 Months  
10-12 Months

#### S G C Hill

5 Saler Steers  
5 Charolais x Heifers  
3 Charolais x Steers

10-13 Months  
10-13 Months  
10-13 Months

#### R Wood & Son

30 Purebred Hereford Steers & Heifers  
*Named Sire*

12 Months

#### J D Kendall - TB4

2 Charolais Heifers  
2 Limousin Heifers

12-14 Months  
12-14 Months

#### C E Hancock & Son

21 Store Cattle

15-25 Months

#### T G Williams

11 Continental Heifers  
3 Continental Steers  
*In Forward Condition*

17-24 Months  
17-24 Months

#### S Bowles

4 Dexter Heifers  
*TB tested 18/01/24*

21 Months

#### J Bottesch - TB4

3 Limousin Heifers

22-24 Months

#### J A & P Dickinson - Farm Assured

2 Limousin x Heifers

23 Months

### STORE & BREEDING SHEEP

#### T Hinch

12 Suffolk Double Theaves with 20 Lambs at Foot  
10 Tex/Cheviot/Scotch Half Bred x Full Mouth Ewes with 14 Lambs at Foot  
*All Texel Lambs, Heptavac P, Wormed, etc 2-3 weeks, all been outside*

## HAY, STRAW & FODDER

80 x 4 String Mini Hesston Bales of Barley Straw - Dry & Yellow

80 x 4 String Mini Hesston Bales of Hay - Dry & Green

Barn Stored, Assist & Loading Facilities.

Located Cottenham, North Cambs. Contact R Jones & Son 01954 250818

160 x Claas Quadrant Bales of a Mixture of Meadow & Seed Hay

Stored undercover, Assist & Loading Facilities.

Located Thurning, Northants. Contact Bob 07860 869172

49 x 8'x4'x3' 6 String Bales of Good quality soft Hay.

Barn stored on Pallets. Assist & Loading Facilities.

Located Flitton, Beds. Contact Stephen 07885 622209

150 x 4' Round Bales of 2023 Hay – good quality, currently being fed to sheep & horses  
Available in quantities to suit.

Stored undercover, Assist with Loading.

Located Orton, Northants. Contact Richard 07795 170864

500 x 120x90 Bales of Good Quality Hay – baled with Extra Density.

Stored undercover, Assist & Loading Facilities.

Located: Great Doddington, Northants. Contact Tom 07710 930979

## **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.

## **NOTICE**

If you would like your stock to be included in the weekly report presale, please contact the office before 12 noon on Monday.

## **B&R Jones Farming**

- **Fencing - livestock, electric, rails, stiles, gates**
- **Hedgelaying**
- **Livestock services, including all sheep work such as shearing, crutching, worming, foot rotting. Can provide handling pens but happy to work with your equipment**
- **General farm services including flailing, grass harrowing, loader work, field maintenance**

**Brian (07866631047) & Ruth (07487848961) Jones**

**Email: [brjonesfarming@gmail.com](mailto:brjonesfarming@gmail.com)**

**[www.brjonesfarming.uk](http://www.brjonesfarming.uk)**

## NOTICE

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

## Thrapston Market Report 2024 Advertising Tariff

### Advertising Charges

1/8 Page	£10 Per Week
1/4 Page	£20 Per Week
1/2 Page	£30 Per Week
Full Page	£50 Per Week
	+ VAT

### Discounted Rates Available

For further information, or to place and advert, please contact Beth Kitchener on 01832 732241 or [beth.kitchener@bletsoes.co.uk](mailto:beth.kitchener@bletsoes.co.uk)  
*Bletsoes do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in the market reports*



## SOLAR ENERGY

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**01327 307134**

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- Silage & Hay Making
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- Straw & Hay Baling
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- Flail Mowing & Mulching
- Muck Spreading & Hire
- Carting & Yard Clearance

Land wanted to farm, agreements can be tailored.

**07748 140502 | 07786 311824**

saunders.agricul@btinternet.com  
Winsey Farm, Sharnbrook, Bedford



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## FORTHCOMING MACHINERY SALES 2024



**End of March**

Online Dispersal Sale



**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

Farm Dispersal Sale – Barnack, Cambs

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

Westlake Machinery Sale – Peterborough



**June**

Farm & Collective Sale - Banbury

*Further details coming soon*

## COLLECTIVE MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT SALE

Haldens Parkway, Thrapston

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 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 16<sup>th</sup> April to be included in the catalogue

Auctioneer in Charge: Alastair Brown 07885 804450

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## Need help letting your property?



Local property  
experts



No set up  
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Members of  
ARLA & RICS



Fully managed  
or let only  
services available



City centre  
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farmhouses

Our experienced team are here to help you.

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01832 732188  
[estateagents@bletsoes.co.uk](mailto:estateagents@bletsoes.co.uk)

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Purchase



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