

The Market Report

April 2023

Professional Ponderings

The clocks have gone forward, and with the lambing and spring calving fully underway, Spring is now in full motion. March marked the opening of the Basic Payment Scheme Application window, and those wishing to receive de-linked payments between 2024-2027 must make a claim in 2023. We are told by DEFRA that between 2024-2027 there will not be a requirement to submit a BPS claim in order to receive the delinked monies. Please contact a member of the Agricultural Team who will be very happy to assist you with your application.

In other news, DEFRA have recently opened the applications for the Animal Health and Welfare Equipment and Technology Grant, which can offer between £1,000 to £25,000 to support improvements in livestock health and welfare, and are open to livestock farmers who keep cattle, pigs, sheep, broilers or laying hens. This grant forms the second rollout of the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund and looks to not only improve the health and welfare of livestock, but benefit productivity and profitability. The application window is open for 12 weeks and closes on the 15th June 2023.

As we transition away from the Basic Payment Scheme, it is expected that DEFRA will publish its Land Use Framework later this year. It is clear that the budget released from BPS will be transferred into other schemes available, including

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

Oakleigh House, Thrapston,
Northamptonshire NN14 4LJ

Alastair Brown: 07885 804450
Jake Wagstaff: 07487 526803

CPH: 29/242/8000 NN14 4JU
CPH: 43/266/8000 CV37 8LP

Landscape Recovery and Countryside Stewardship Plus. The Sustainable Farming Incentive has a rolling application window, and it has been announced that six new standards will be released this summer, in addition to the original three soil and moorland standards. However, moving away from Direct Payments sees significant changes to the management of agricultural land, as new grant payments look to support more sustainable farming practices in correlation with the Government's Net Zero targets.

This links in with further new announcements on Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), as new developments are required to achieve a minimum Biodiversity Net Gain of 10% from November 2023, either on-site or off-site as part of the Environment Act 2021. Some Local Authorities are electing to extend the required percentage net gain beyond the statutory 10%. Whilst BNG is only beginning to emerge as a new market, it has become a prominent topic for landowners. Where developers wish to achieve Net Gain off-site, landowners can look to enter into a long-term agreement whereby they will receive a return for undertaking environmental works and to provide habitat improvements where this cannot be achieved on-site by the development scheme. This therefore provides a potential opportunity for landowners to generate income in the form of on-going habitat management funding, bringing together buyers and sellers in a market that is expected to be worth between £135-274 million. Whilst this seems an exciting opportunity, it is expected that DEFRA will release more details in the next nine months and will look to provide guidance on how this off-setting scheme will tie in with wider farm business considerations such as taxation and the opportunity to combine with other grants available in the form of stacking credits, for example Countryside Stewardship.

It is evident that 2023 marks a momentous year for agriculture in England, as we prepare for the transition away from direct payments, and therefore please do contact a member of the Agricultural Team if we can be of assistance with on-going grant and subsidy applications, as well as all other agricultural matters, on 01832 732241.



Alexandra Abrahams
Graduate Surveyor

Our chaplain Rev. Richard Wilde, Methodist Minister, member of the Agricultural Chaplains Association and the Farming Community Network will be in attendance at the market on Tuesdays for a chat, if you would like to talk.

richardwilde.FCN@gmail.com

Stratford Forthcoming Events

Saturday 8th April

Hay, Straw & Fodder Sale
At Thrapston Livestock Market

Tuesday 11th April

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am
Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

Tuesday 18th April

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am
Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am

Friday 21st April

Westlake Machinery Sale
See main advert for further information

*For further information regarding any of the sales
please contact the Market Team*

Stratford Market Report 2023 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

REPORT FOR TUESDAY 4TH APRIL

187 Prime Hogs

Trade firmed again on the week with heavier hogs increasing and mid weights flying up. Please contact the team next week for trade predictions. Meat as always is wanted with lean hogs hard sold. SQQ 265.79p/kg. P & M Careless topped the day with Texel hogs to 307p/kg with P & M Miller topping overall at £138.33.

Highlights - RP Hutchings saw highs of 280p/kg for smart Texel hogs at 42kgs, with their heavy hogs at 53kgs topping to 245p/kg; L Homans topped with a tremendous run of Texels at 277p/kg for 40kgs and 294p/kg for 46kgs; Clark Farms topped the Charollais hogs with 43.5kgs selling to 274p/kg; WR Haines topped with best meat run of root hogs seeing 48kgs Charollais to 260p/kg.

To		From		Average	
<i>Standards (32.1-39kg)</i>					
256p	£89.60	255p	£89.25	255.7p	£89.49
<i>Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)</i>					
307p	£127.41	244.5p	£102.40	267.9p	£114.74
<i>Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)</i>					
294p	£135.24	236p	£113.16	254.2p	£125.90
<i>Over 52kg</i>					
261p	£138.33	230p	£127.73	240.3p	£130.57

11 Store Lambs

A mixed entry forward with R & EM Prentice topping the stores with Charollais crosses to £62 and ram lambs of the same style at £50; D Eyres saw their Charollais to £56.

To	From	Average
£62.00	£42.00	£50.18

59 Cull Ewes & Rams

Prices remain much the same as recent weeks with a varied showing commanding the trade, meat ewes are still in demand with prices to match, leaner feeding types have seen steadier trade. Averaged £85.01. C & S Bloodstock topped the day with Texel ewes flying to £179, with their followers at £126 and £120; RJ White topped their entry with Charollais ewes to £108 and the best of the day seeing Mules to £105; JK Coldicott saw similar highs for their Mules with ewes to £101.50. Meat ewes with frame were all above £85. Feeding types were seen sub £70's.

To	From	Average
£179.00	£28.00	£85.01

Plants, Shrubs, Trees, Logs & Garden Ornaments

Getting busier each week with many more spring plants on offer. Planters sold to £24 from £15, Bird Tables £10, Reels of Hose £10, Pots of Daffs to £9, Trees sold to £8, Shrubs sold to £7 from £2, Pots of plants sold to £1.50 from 20p.



Produce

Bags of feed for all types of animals from Sheep, Pigs, Chickens, Poultry and Rabbits sold to £14 from £8, Cat Treats sold to £2.50, Niger Seed sold to £4.50 and Peanuts sold to £4.



Fur

Six Easter Rabbits on offer sold to £11 for English & Magpie Does.

Hatching Eggs

More about this week, Trays of Duck Eggs sold to £8 from £6, Trays of Chicken Eggs sold to £4.50 from £2.50, Trays of Bantam Eggs sold to £3.00, ½ Dozen Legbar sold to £1.50, ½ Dozen Chicken Eggs sold to £1.

Sundries

Over 150 lots went under the hammer, from Garden Equipment, Lawnmowers, Strimmer's, Workshop Tools and Effects, Household Goods. Prices to suit all pockets. Some bargains can be seen, why not come down and have a look?

If you have some things to sell, please contact Alastair presale, so that he can advertise these items to potential buyers.



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

— EST. 1881 —

A SPRING COLLECTIVE SALE OF GARDEN EQUIPMENT

Tuesday 25th April at 10.30am

Entries are required and are to include:

*Lawnmowers, Strimmers, Hedge Trimmers, Garden
Tools, Garden Ornaments, Plants & Shrubs*

Please contact Alastair with your entries for advertising purposes.
Send pictures & entries via Text, Email, WhatsApp or Messenger
to 07885 804450

alastair.brown@bletsoes.co.uk

Many of you will have seen the crowds lining the streets of Berlin last week as King Charles went 'walkabouts' while on his official visit to Germany. On the Today program there were short interviews with those in the crowds. I was moved by a school girl who had been on the front row with friends. She had expected a 'drive past' but what she got was a man who came to her (and many others) and spoke to her and asked about her life and interests. She was in tears as she spoke of her joy that a king had not only spoken with her but included some in her own language! Just before the radio interview I had been reading the Palm Sunday story of Jesus' final journey into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The roads were lined with crowds who poured out on to the streets to see and cheer on a man on who many saw as would be king. The chants of the crowd included "Hosannah" which means "Save us, now!" They were crying out in hope and faith.

I believe that Jesus' popularity lay in the fact that he spoke the language of the people. I don't just mean the Aramaic dialect, rather he understood what people were saying and addressed their real needs, fears and aspirations. They knew he was different from them with a quality of goodness and compassion yet he was alongside them in a comforting way. He was a master listener who had true empathy. And how we need more of such people today. In the farming community too many of us are too good at concealing what we really feel, what we worry about, how we may feel of little worth to others and many other unproductive thoughts fill our heads.

The Easter story is ultimately one of hope - out of unimaginable suffering including betrayal and denial – there is a happy ending. Through the death and rising of Jesus a new hope and a new faith was born. Those who had Him put to death to end a religious revival that they didn't approve of found the reverse to be the outcome. The Christian church world wide still grows faster than population growth and remains a faith one opts into rather than being born or coerced into. (Sadly there have been periods in history when that was not totally the case but it remains generally true).

Whatever you believe about the Easter story I hope that all who read this will take time over the holiday to reflect on the need to be honest in our conversations, to seek out those who have listening skills and who might be able to point you in a direction where you will find support, affirmation, inspiration and, above all hope!

Happy Easter all

Richard Wilde,
Stratford Market Chaplain



Bletsoes

EST. 1881

Friday 21st April, 10.30am

at Bridgehill Road, Newborough,
Peterbough. PE6 7SD

Auction Sale



To Include:

Tractors, Crawlers, Stationary Engines, Vehicles,
Workshop Equipment, Tractor Spares, Trailers, 30+ Match Ploughs,
100+ Ploughs & Implements, Plough Spares
Surplus Dealer Clearances, General Farm Equipment
Sheep & Cattle Equipment

on behalf of M V Weston

Contact Alastair Brown 07885 804450

Catalogue available online or by request