

The Market Report

Professional Ponderings - November 2024

There has been a lot of press coverage and social media comment on last week's Budget and its impact on businesses in general and farming in particular. This Budget appears to seek to tax private business to pay for increased current spending with no incentive on businesses to invest for future growth and prosperity. Farming has been particularly impacted with changes to the Inheritance Tax rules.

On a positive, the Budget made relatively minor changes to Capital Gains Tax which will now have a top rate of 24%, with reliefs such as Holdover Relief and Rollover Relief still available.

From April 2026, Agricultural Property Relief and Business Property Relief will be restricted to a combined 100% relief on the first £1m of assets, with a 50% relief thereafter. This will cover all the assets within the business, including machinery, crops in store, growing crops, working capital, as well as the property assets. For many landowners and businesses, this will bring a significant part of the property and business assets chargeable to Inheritance Tax at an effective rate of 20%.

This could place serious pressures on family farms, which are particularly affected as farming generates a low income on the considerable capital employed. The reduction in Business Property Relief has a significant impact and was largely unpredicted prior to the budget.

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The positive news is there is still £1m of assets which will not be liable to Inheritance Tax and 50% relief on other qualifying assets (with an effective rate of 20% inheritance tax) and with careful planning it should be possible to ensure that businesses are set up to maximise the available reliefs. It will lead to changes, possibly leading to earlier succession, and ensuring that different partners can maximise the £1m which is fully relieved.

The Budget does not seem to alter the previous rules whereby some let property qualifies for Business Property Relief under the Balfour rules. Risk management will need to deal with how the farming business meets the potential tax liability and that may lead to increased use of life insurance. Each business will need to consider their own circumstances and plan for potential impacts caused by these changes. Regardless of any tax planning, the changes from the Budget will lead to some considerable issues for certain businesses and unfortunately some may not have enough time to make the necessary changes due to the ownership and age profile.

Bletsoes has been serving the farming community since 1881 and we have seen many changes brought about by changing taxation policies of different governments and have worked with and supported clients. Throughout that time, farmers have shown an amazing ability to meet challenges and adapt. With careful planning, some of the risks can be managed and, whilst it will inevitably impact some businesses more than others, a review may be timely. Please do not hesitate to contact the team at Bletsoes, if you would like to talk through the impact upon you and your business.



David Bletsoe - Partner

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.

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Stratford Forthcoming Events

Wednesday 6th November

Online Timed Auction Finishes from 11am

Tuesday 12th November

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Plants, Produce, Poultry & Misc - 10.00am

Tuesday 19th November

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Plants, Produce, Poultry & Misc - 10.00am

Tuesday 26th November

Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am

Plants, Produce, Poultry & Misc - 10.00am

Stratford 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

Bletsoes do not endorse any of the products or services advertised in the market reports

REPORT FOR FRIDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

Dispersal Sale

An amazing crowd gathered at the sale on Friday to disperse over 620 lots, on behalf of the late Paul Abbott and the Abbott family. There were many local buyers along with buyers travelling over 250 miles to buy from the sale, as well as having bids from Ireland and Wales. There was plenty of metal work and roof sheets that had been purchased for projects that didn't happen, which sold very well to recyclers and buyers looking to extend sheds.

Please see some of highest prices achieved on the day below:

£16,300.00	1996 Fiat 115 Tractor & Loader
£16,200.00	1993 Fiat 140 Tractor
£16,000.00	1979 FORD TW20 Tractor
£11,400.00	2004 JCB Loadall
£2,550.00	Barford Dumper
£2,400.00	Keenan Feeder
£1,900.00	Landrover Freelander
£1,600.00	Quantity of RSJ's
£1,400.00	Richard Western Dump Trailer
£1,350.00	Kuhn Grass Rake
£1,050.00	Kvernland Bale Wrapper
£1,000.00	Auger Bucket
£900.00	Quantity of RSJ's
£820.00	Box Profile Roof Sheets
£800.00	Tarrup Mower Conditioner
£800.00	Nuffield Tractor
£680.00	Grass Rake
£600.00	Cattle Trailer
£550.00	Box Trailer
£520.00	Metal Roof Trusses
£500.00	T/A Grain Trailer
£500.00	Topper
£460.00	Swan Neck Trailer Chassis
£450.00	Leyland Tractor

We would like to thank Mrs Irene Abbott for her kind instructions for us to conduct the sale and the help from Michael and Gordon before the sale. We wish you all best wishes for the future.

Budget 2024 – Schemes and Spending

DEFRA have secured a budget of £2.4 billion for the next financial year which means momentum can be maintained on Environmental Land Management (ELM) schemes going forward.

The **Sustainable Farming Incentive** remains open and more detail will be published on **Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier** in December, which will have a rolling application window and a 'streamline application process'. An additional £208 million has been allocated for 2024–2026 to upgrade to the **Animal and Plant Health Agency's biosecurity facilities at Weybridge**, and an extra £400 million, over the next two years, for **Peatland Restoration and Woodland Creation**. Further reductions were announced to the **Delinked Payments** for 2025. A 76% reduction from the base value is to apply to the first £30,000, with no payment to come on any value above that.

Delinked Payments Due	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Up to £30,000	95%	80%	65%	50%	24%
£30,000 - £50,000	90%	75%	60%	45%	0%
£50 - £150,0000	80%	65%	50%	35%	0%
Over £150,000	75%	60%	45%	30%	0%

With the maximum payment to be made in 2025 to be £7,200, there is no indication of what, if anything, might be paid in 2026 or 2027, originally intended to be the last year of payment.

REPORT FOR TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

Prime Lambs

Trade continues on the week with a struggle for meat. Clear premiums for the few best end. SQQ 254.58p/kg. EJ & IP Dyke topped the day pence per kilo at 280p/kg for best end Charollais at 44kgs. S Gilkes topped overall at £127.20 for smart meat Suffolks at 48kgs, with their Texels at 40.5kgs to 264p/kg. DT Rand & Son saw their Texel crosses to 260p/kg for 43.5kgs with their 46kg Suffolks to 252p/kg.

From next week onwards prime lambs will be sold pounds per head not pence per kilo.

To		From		Average	
<i>Standards (32.1-39kg)</i>					
258p	£97.50	245p	£92.88	250.1p	£95.93
<i>Mediums (39.1 - 45.5kg)</i>					
280p	£123.20	230p	£98.00	256.2p	£108.62
<i>Heavies (45.6 - 52kg)</i>					
265p	£127.20	252p	£115.92	252.7p	£117.67

Store Lambs

Another fantastic trade on the stores with a serious following. All in average saw £70.39. WJ Barnett & Son topped the day at £105 for big framed Suffolk lambs; DT Rand & Son saw similar levels at £101; D & S Hutsby topped the Texels at £90; LA Gibbs saw a smart run of mid frame lambs to £79. Mid frame healthy lambs sold in the £70's. Longest term chancy sorts sold between £35 and £50.

To	From	Average
£105.00	£35.00	£70.39

Cull Ewes & Rams

Another strong trade with a large showing of feeding ewes, as farmers see their later draws of ewes. All in average £69.04. Lovell & Son topped the day with smart shape and meat Texel ewes to £138; R Righton saw Suffolks to £110 and topping the Mules at £104. All meat and decent framed sorts sold at £84 to £100. Lean meat were £70 plus. True grazing sorts were £34 to £55.

To	From	Average
£138.00	£26.00	£69.04



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/>

Plants, Produce, Poultry, Hatching Eggs & Sundries

Every week at 10am at Stratford. An indoor Auction.

Doors open for collection at 7am

!! We need your support to keep this section going !!



Speak up to stop rural crime.

Criminal gangs exploit our
local wildlife, environment
and communities.

Your voice can
make a difference.

Speak up to our charity.
100% anonymous.
Always.

CrimeStoppers.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.
crimestoppers-uk.org

Bletsoes

— EST. 1881 —

Christmas Dressed Poultry Sale

*Tuesday 17th December
at 12 noon*

To be held at Stratford Livestock Market

Entries are invited to include all types of oven ready birds and meats.

Sections include: Turkeys, Chickens, Guinea Fowl,
Ducks Partridge & Pheasants.

Long Legged & Other Poultry sections will also be available.

Entry Forms available online or from the Market Office