

# The Market Report

## February Professional Ponderings

Spring is just around the corner and thoughts turn to warmer weather and the grass growing. The market has already seen sales of ewes with lambs at foot and the number of in-lamb ewes has been increasing each week. As graziers start to plan their summer grazing if you have any grass keep to let, please do let us know, we have received a lot of enquiries from interested parties.

The recent announcement of the latest Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) standards is a welcome addition to the existing 3 standards and will hopefully be a useful source of funding for farmers.

The new standards are:

- **Improved Grassland**  
Farmers will be paid for actions such as taking grassland out of management, managing grassland for winter bird food and establishing and maintaining buffer strips at the edge of fields to help wildlife and biodiversity.
- **Low Input Grassland**  
Farmers will be paid to manage low input grassland to improve biodiversity, soil management and water quality.

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

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- **Nutrient Management**

Farmers will be paid to make an assessment and produce a report of their management of nutrients, helping to encourage them to understand how they are managing nutrients and to take further action to deliver environmental benefits such as reducing fertiliser to prevent runoff into water courses. In addition, there are payments for those who incorporate legumes into the crop and grassland management.

- **Integrated Pest Management**

Farmers will be paid to carry out an assessment and produce an integrated pest management plan, establishing and maintaining flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips, including payments for not using insecticides and for planting companion crops.

- **Hedgerows**

Farmers will be paid to assess the condition of hedgerows and manage them in a way that will work for wildlife and improve biodiversity.

- **Arable and Horticultural Land**

Farmers will be paid for actions including establishing and maintaining areas of nectar-rich flower mix; establishing and maintaining flower-rich grass margins, blocks, or in-field strips; providing winter bird food; establishing and maintaining grassy field corners and blocks; and establishing and maintaining buffer strips.

Payments are now based on actions and options and in some ways are similar to the Countryside Stewardship options. For example, under the Improved Grassland standard a payment of £235/ha to establish a 4 – 12 metre buffer strip and the same option under the Arable and Horticultural standard pays £451/ha is available. Completing an Integrated Pest Management plan under that standard pays £989/annum. In addition a SFI Management Payment of £20/ha for the first 50ha of the agreement up to a maximum of £1,000 is available. As you are able to upgrade SFI agreements annually, you can add new standards into existing agreements.

The second round of the Landscape Recovery Programme is set to open in the Spring and is aimed at large scale nature recovery projects focusing on net zero, protected sites and habitat creation.

Please do contact a member of the Agricultural team. In particular myself, Grace Millbank or Rob Russell if we can be of assistance with SFI, Landscape Recovery and Countryside Stewardship. We are happy to discuss the payment rates and assist in producing a scheme that will suit your farm.

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce you to Alexandra (Alex) Abrahams who has just joined Bletsoes as a Graduate Rural Surveyor who will primarily be working in the Agricultural Team and will be getting involved in all aspects of the business. Alex hails from Cirencester where she also attended the Royal Agricultural University where she undertook a degree in Rural Land Management. In her spare time she enjoys trampolining and horse riding (not at the same time).

I hope you have a successful lambing, calving and Spring drilling and hope that the weather is kind.



*Richard Spendlove*  
*Rural Chartered Surveyor & Auctioneer*

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## **Stratford Forthcoming Events**

### **Saturday 11th February**

**Hay, Straw & Fodder**

*At Thrapston Livestock Market*

### **Tuesday 14th February**

**Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am**

**Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am**

### **Tuesday 21st February**

**Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am**

**Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am**

### **Tuesday 28th February**

**Prime, Cull & Store Sheep - 10.30am**

**Fur, Produce & Misc - 10.00am**



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/>

## REPORT FOR TUESDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

### 204 Prime Hogs

**98 Standards** – Sold to 227p for 36.5kg hogs from Hadley Farms Ltd; Paradise Farm Estate sold 37.5kg hogs to 226p; R & EM Prentice sold 34kg hogs to 223p; B Hemmings sold 33.5kg hogs to 219p; Mark Taylor sold 39kg hogs to 216p; E Jones sold 34.5kg hogs to 215p; and MJ & IJ Gibbs sold 35kg hogs to 214p.

To		From		Average	
227p	£84.75	201p	£69.35	215p	£77.19

**67 Mediums** – Sold to 236p for 44.5kg hogs from Hadley Farms Ltd; E Jones sold 40kg hogs to 226p; R & EM Prentice sold 43.5kg hogs to 225p; P & M Careless sold 43kg hogs to 222p; GF Heath & Son sold 45.5kg hogs to 221p; MJ & IJ Gibbs sold 42.5kg hogs to 219p; and JF Burrows sold 45.5kg hogs to 216p.

To		From		Average	
236p	£105.02	216p	£90.40	223.5p	£96.17

**34 Heavies** – Sold to 222p for 46kg hogs from P & M Careless; GF Heath & Son sold 49kg hogs to 218.5p; Clark Farms sold 49kg hogs to 215p; JF Burrows sold 48kg hogs to 215p; and RS Betteridge sold 48kg hogs to 211p.

To		From		Average	
222p	£109.18	206p	£101.28	214.1p	£105.50

**5 Over 52kg** – Sold to 205p for 54kg hogs from Clark Farms.

To		From		Average	
205p	£110.70	205p	£110.70	205p	£110.70

### 70 Store Lambs

Numbers are needed with trade looking strong. All in average saw £69.54. H Jackson topped with their smart Suffolk lambs with frame to £78, with followers at £73.50, Charollais crosses from the same home topped at £70. Ram lambs topped to £60 for Paradise Farm Estate and their Charollais Mules.

To		From		Average	
£78.00		£60.00		£69.54	

## 79 Cull Ewes

More buoyant on the week, a stronger show forward with quality driving the trade. Lean meat ewes continue to find top demand. All in average £87.34. J & M Ironmonger topped with thumping texel ewes to £168 with followers at £130, £130, £125, £116, £110, a sterling show of meat and shape; L Beames topped the Suffolks for the day with ewes to £125; Hadley Farms Ltd topped their Texel ewes to £119; R Hall & Sons topped the Mules for the day with big framed meat ewes at £90. Meat with frame were regularly seen in the £80's with small frame lean types in the £50's.

To	From	Average
£168.00	£43.00	£87.34

## 7 Cull Rams

Trade to match the ewes, with a top showing forward averaging £109.21. J & M Ironmonger topped with a best end showing of £121, with smaller framed meat at £111.50, their Charollais looked the best sold with leaner types at £106 and £77; JF Burrows matched the top for their rams topping to £121 for the Charollais and £114 for 2 tooth wethers.

To	From	Average
£121.00	£77.00	£109.21

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](mailto:richardwilde.FCN@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:beth.kitchener@bletsoes.co.uk)

## STRATFORD-UPON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL - CALL FOR SITES

Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Councils are working together to produce a new South Warwickshire Local Plan to cover their combined geographic area. This new local plan will set planning policies about where and how new jobs, homes and infrastructure are all delivered in the context of place-shaping and addressing climate change. They have just opened a Public Consultation on how they should plan for the future of South Warwickshire up to 2050. They are still at the early stages of the process (stage 2 of 8) and further Public Consultations will follow. The Consultation sets out a number of ideas and asks a series of questions and they want your views on the issues they raise and the options they propose as possible solutions. The Consultation document and supporting evidence is available online: [www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/issues-and-options](http://www.southwarwickshire.org.uk/swlp/issues-and-options) and it can also be viewed at Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick District Council's respective offices and main libraries across the district.

Alongside the Issues and Options Consultation, they are running a second '**Call for Sites**' exercise providing a further opportunity for landowners to submit sites for a variety of uses that can be assessed and considered through the plan making process. Therefore, if you have land that is in the Stratford-on-Avon or Warwick district which you believe may have development potential, then please contact Chris Templar on 01789 722677 or [chris.templar@bletsoes.co.uk](mailto:chris.templar@bletsoes.co.uk) who will appraise your site and consider whether it is appropriate to submit a Call for Sites Proforma. The Consultation runs until 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

**NB.** Land/sites which were submitted in the first Call for Sites exercise in 2021, should not be submitted again unless there are changes to the boundary or the proposed use.

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