

FARMING AND PROPERTY BULLETIN – FEBRUARY 2018

BPS 2018: Additional Greening Changes

DEFRA has now confirmed additional changes to the greening rules for BPS 2018;

- *Activities permitted after the EFA fallow period ends*

It has been confirmed that in England grazing and mowing of land with a grass cover declared as EFA fallow will continue to be allowed (with the exception of wild bird seed mixes) after the end of the EFA fallow period on 30th June 2018.

- *Activities not permitted during the EFA fallow period*

DEFRA have made three changes to what is allowed during the EFA fallow period which will apply in England from 2018:

- The land cannot be cultivated for weed control
- Grass may only be sown if it is specifically required under a Rural Development (Pillar 2) Scheme
- No manure or fertiliser may be applied

- *Conversion of fallow land to permanent grassland*

Under the recently published Omnibus Regulation land declared as fallow for 5 years or more will convert to permanent grassland in the usual way. This will include land declared as EFA fallow which previously had no restriction on the number of years it could remain as temporary grassland; it did not convert to permanent grassland after 5 years. The earliest this will happen is 2023, as the 5 years or more calculation is to commence from 2018.

- *EFA fallow next to an EFA buffer strip/field margin must be visually distinguishable*

Current rules state that where there is a temporary grassland strip and the first metre in width is being used as an EFA buffer strip or field margin with the remaining used as EFA fallow, the two areas must be visually distinguishable. From 2018 the RPA will be relying on physical inspections to check that a difference can be seen and therefore it will be important to ensure that this is the case.

- *Multiplier for EFA nitrogen-fixing crops*

The multiplier for EFA nitrogen fixing crops has increased from 0.7 to 1, therefore 1 hectare of nitrogen-fixing crops will be worth the EFA equivalent of 1 hectare.

- *Removal of 30 hectare limit for 'greening exemptions*

Where a BPS claimant has more than 75% eligible agricultural land in temporary or permanent grassland or where more than 75% of the arable land is fallow or temporary grassland, previously the 'greening' exemption only applied if the remaining 'arable' area was not more than 30 hectares. That 30 hectare limitation has been removed with effect from BPS 2018.

Adkin News

Adkin are pleased to welcome Jack Louineau and Rosa Noll to the team.

Jack graduated from Harper Adams University where he studied Rural Enterprise and Land Management. He completed his placement year working in a livestock market based on Exmoor and will continue his training at Adkin with a view to completing his professional exams in 2020.

Rosa joins Adkin from a leading national firm of Property Consultants in Berkshire. She graduated from the Royal Agricultural University in 2012 with a degree in Agricultural Land Management and is now working towards becoming a qualified Chartered Surveyor and Fellow of the CAAV.

REPORT ON 2018 AUCTION SALE OF HAY AND STRAW

The 57th Adkin Annual Sale of Hay & Straw is the first to be held in conjunction with Thimbleby & Shorland for the express purpose of maintaining this important service to the farming community. The sale was held at Ardington, Oxfordshire on Tuesday 16th January 2018 and met with a lively trade. As ever the weather in the summer of 2017 had had a marked effect upon the fodder offered which overall was slightly down in quantity on recent years. The hay was generally of good quality and met with strong demand. The straw from the 2017 harvest inevitably suffered from the weather. Credit goes to our vendors for maintaining supplies. Those who entered met with prices far in excess of recent years.

We are grateful to our regular vendors and to those who have joined us this year. We also thank our buyers for their continued support. We look forward to continued support as we move forward together with Thimbleby & Shorland.

The principal prices were:

HAY

Big Bales (100% Clearance)

Meadow Hay

Claas 2100 bales Organic Meadow Hay to £28.00 per bale (Marcham Farms Ltd)

Claas 2100 bales Meadow Hay to £34.00 per bale (Marcham Farms Ltd)

Claas 2100 bales Meadow Hay to £31.50 per bale (Dews Meadow Farm Ltd)

Conventional Bales (100% Clearance)

Meadow Hay to £3.25 per bale (A'Bear & Cox)

Meadow Hay to £3.16 per bale (Mrs C Ackrill)

STRAW

Big Bales (100% Clearance)

Barley Straw

Claas 3200 bales of Winter Barley Straw to £33.75 per bale (Delafield Brothers)

Claas 5200 bales to Spring Barley Straw to £33.33 per bale (WL Bowden & Son)

Claas 3200 bales of Spring Barley Straw to £32.00 per bale (Gale Partnership)

Wheat Straw

Claas 3200 bales to £32.00 per bale (Gale Partnership)

Claas 3200 bales to £31.88 per bale (Delafield Brothers)

Shortly before the sale we received information concerning hay for sale near Aylesbury and haylage near Henley but too late for inclusion in the catalogue. We would be pleased to receive enquiries for this. Please contact Philip Pocock on 01235 434380 or Christopher Boreham on 01189 508611