

Welcome

Welcome to the spring issue of Rural Matters, which includes various updates and advice from our team.

In this issue you can find out more about the new NVZ rules in Wales, grant funding opportunities in England and Wales and new staff changes within McCartyneys; as well as many other updates.

The Basic Payment application period is now open in both England and Wales. If you require any assistance submitting an application or trading entitlements, please do not hesitate to contact any of our team.

We hope very much that with the roll out of the COVID 19 vaccine we can invite you all back to our livestock markets in due course, and look forward to seeing you all at the agricultural shows later this summer which we will be attending.

Gareth Wall

Co Chairman and managing partner for the rural professional department



The 1st January 2021 saw a changing of the guard at Worcester Livestock Market. Clive Roads has been one of the “cornerstones” of McCartyneys for the past 40 years, and most recently has been Chairman of the firm. He has been Partner in charge at Worcester and is one of the most respected Auctioneers in the industry. Having reached the ripe old age of 65, Clive has left the Partnership but continues to offer his services to the firm as a Consultant on a full time basis.

With Clive lessening his responsibilities, James Amphlett and Bradley Towell have now taken on the running of Worcester Market. Both James and Bradley are well known in McCartyneys, having both sold regularly at Worcester and Ludlow Markets for some time. Worcester will now be run with James in charge of all sheep sales and Bradley in charge of cattle sales at the market. Both will be assisted by Rachel Haywood in her role as Office Manager.

A new era at Worcester market



Worcester Livestock Market boasts a strong pedigree livestock section, and are the Official Auctioneers to countless breed societies. James will take on the mantle of being Head of Pedigree Sales, for both cattle & sheep, and will be closely assisted by Clive, Bradley and Rachel.

James and Bradley will also continue their roles at Ludlow Market, with Bradley selling cull cows on a Monday, alongside calves, fodder and TB restricted cattle on Fridays; whilst James will continue to sell the cull ewes on a Monday and store and breeding sheep on Fridays.

Bradley said “We are both keen to build on the strong foundations set by Clive and are very enthusiastic about taking Worcester to a new level in terms of livestock throughput. With Worcester’s location and support from the firm, we are confident that the market will continue to thrive”.

James said “We are both very ambitious young men and we want to make as much of Worcester as we possibly can. We have heralded a fantastic start to the year with sheep and cattle numbers high, and a superb trade across all sections. In terms of Pedigree sales, we have great facilities and an ideal location, and I am looking forward to modernising our approach and attract new sales. Bradley and I are both very keen on working hard in tandem.”

For information about livestock sales please contact:

Worcester Office on **01905 769770**
or

James Amphlett 07972 653077

Bradley Towell 07496 263916

Countryside stewardship scheme 2021 is now open for applications

The window for this years applications in England opened on 11th February, which includes an improved mechanism with an all new two year Capital Grant package.

Entering into Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) is the best way to prepare for the future Environment Land Management (ELM) scheme, which is expected to be fully operational by 2024. CSS provides a stepping stone to those wishing to enter the new ELM scheme.

Outlined below are the options available under CSS.

Capital Grant

The new two year Capital Grant package, which replaces the standalone Water Capital and Hedgerow and Boundary Grants. The new Capital Grant includes three elements; Boundaries, Trees & Orchards, Water Quality and Air Quality – capped at a maximum grant of £20,000 each, providing up to £60,000 per application. There are 67 options on offer to include hedgerow laying & coppicing, fencing, livestock drinkers, concrete yard renewal, rainwater goods, roofing over slurry/manure stores and livestock handling and feeding areas, low ammonia emission flooring, automatic slurry scrapper and planting trees. Applications are online only, with a deadline of 30th April. Some options require prior CFSO approval, which needs to be requested by 19th March. The package is available on land parcels currently included within Entry/Higher Level Scheme (ELS/HLS) agreement holders, providing it is compatible with the parcel option.

Mid Tier

The traditional five year Mid-Tier scheme, consists of a combination of land-based management options and capital work items. Application packs must be ordered by 30th June with the application deadline being the 30th July. Some options require prior approval, which needs to be requested by 31st May, and some options require CFSO approval, which needs to be requested by 18th June.

The non-competitive Wildlife Offers are still available and can sit alongside the new Capital Grants. Designed to create a more straightforward application with options to suit an array of farming types. Applications are online only, with a 30th July deadline.

Higher Tier Scheme is also available for land requiring more complex management options on environmentally significant sites. Application packs need to be requested by 31st March, with an application deadline of 30th April.

Woodland creation, management plans and tree health grant scheme are open all year round.

Increased applications are expected this year due to the announced phased BPS reductions, therefore, consider your options early and get prepared.

For further information and application assistance please contact your local Rural Professional.



Joanna Wall
Based at Craven Arms Office

Grant funding opportunities in wales

Welsh Government have announced the following application windows for farming capital grant schemes available under their Rural Development Programme.

Grant Scheme	Expression of Interest submission dates
Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings	18th May – 25th June 2021
Farm Business Grant	1st March – 9th April 2021
Glastir Small Grants	18th May – 25th June 2021

Farm Business Grant – Yard Coverings

A 40% grant available of between £3,000 - £12,000 for covering of existing concrete yards used for livestock feeding, livestock gathering, manure storage, slurry stores and silage stores, plus a range of supporting capital works, such as guttering and downpipes, rainwater harvesting systems, etc. The grant available is based on standard costs, with roofing receiving grant funding at a rate of £36 per sq. m.

Farm Business Grant

A 40% grant available of between £3,000 - £12,000 for a specified list of farm equipment and machinery for cattle, sheep, pig and crop husbandry, energy and resource efficiency and ICT. The grant available is based on standard costs.

Glastir Small Grants

Grants of up to £7,500 available for hedgerow works and fencing, plus a range of other capital items. Grant funding available is based on standard costs.

If you would like assistance applying for, or more details on, any of the above grants please contact your local McCartneys rural agent.



Katie Davies
Based at Knighton and Welshpool Office

New NVZ rules in Wales

From 1st April 2021, the whole of Wales is to be classed as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ).

The new regulation has taken many farmers by surprise, especially when previous reports by Natural Resources Wales suggested the NVZ area in Wales should rise from 2.3% of land area to 8%. Instead the designation has now been applied to the whole of Wales, imposing a blanket requirement to follow the rules on every farmer across Wales.

The phased introduction of the new all Wales NVZ, include rules on annual limits being enforced on the amount of nitrogen allowed to be applied as well as requirements to plan the spreading of nitrogen fertiliser in advance. Closed periods will also be implemented prohibiting the spreading of nitrogen fertiliser at certain periods of the year and additional record keeping will be required to calculate the quantity of the total amount of nitrogen in livestock manure applied to the holding.

Farmers in Wales must familiarise themselves with the rules to ensure they are compliant. Many of the rules, farmers will already follow as part of good husbandry such as not spreading fertiliser within 2m of surface water. However some rules will place an additional burden on farmers such as record keeping and requiring improvements being made to their infrastructure. The rules are being phased in over the next three years, however farmers are advised to act now to ensure they are fully compliant.

McCartneys Rural Professional department can complete all of the required documentation which you require. Please contact your local agent if you would like any assistance.

Beth Hanson

Based at Kington Office



Water, water everywhere

Not only have we had a lot of that wet stuff come out of the sky lately but we have been busy helping landowners on water schemes and also clearing up some schemes from last years serious downpours.

I have recently been acting for landowners affected by the Norton to Presteigne Welsh Water Scheme. From start to finish Gareth Wall and I have been involved in assessing losses, occupation, licence fees, disturbance, reinstatement and a whole host of other claim items affecting landowners affected by the scheme. Our fees have been met by Welsh Water and we have been there to hold our clients' hand throughout.

Last year the Teme Valley up from Knighton, was hit by some terrible downpours and storms resulting in not only the road collapsing but also the railway! We have been advising farmers along the network rail route in relation to the rebuilding of the railway where their land is being used and also on the use of compound areas used by the contractors. Never do a deal without getting some sound advice.

If you are affected by any utility company please contact your local rural office.

Jenny Layton Mills

Based at Knighton Office



Deal or no deal!

Yes, we have had a Brexit deal, doubtless to the relief of most people engaged either directly or indirectly in British agriculture.

One wonders what happens to all the hot air that was expended on the topic of Brexit since the referendum in 2016. One thing is certain, there are many people who were expounding the perils of leaving the club, who have all gone terribly quiet. To me it was always a case of "needs must". The UK is a huge market and the rest of Europe is a huge market. Were we all just going to ignore each other! There will doubtless be teething problems but they will be overcome because they have to be overcome.

What is now important is to ensure that we have a support system for agriculture and the countryside that is fit for purpose and not hatched on some trendy whim. The consumer requires food that is of good quality and is competitively priced. There is also a growing public pressure for the environment to be protected. We have a highly regulated farming industry that produces high quality food. These two facts have got to be drummed into the policy makers. Our farming industry should be cherished and where necessary supported. Unfortunately there is a vociferous

element, whose political ideals do not care one jot for UK agriculture. They, like us, are climate change sensitive, however they are more interested in importing a trendy cheese from southern Europe than buying some cheddar from Somerset. Their privileged circumstances prevent them from seeing the advantages of having a vibrant, successful and profitable(yes that awful word profit!) UK farming industry.

We must all stand up for what British agriculture has achieved. It is time to blow our own trumpet. If the government is genuinely concerned about climate change, which I am sure it is, then it must get behind the industry and ensure that the general public fully appreciate the wonderful asset that it has on its doorstep. I fear there is an element in Whitehall that would rather see the entire countryside subject to rewilding and beggar the consequences. We all have a part to play to ensure that this naivety is exposed and common sense prevails.

Glyn Owens

Based at Knighton Office



Appointment of New Roles at McCartneys



The Partners of McCartneys are delighted to announce the appointment of two new Associate Partners to the firm.

Beth Hanson, based at our Kington Office, and Joanna Wall, based at our Craven Arms office, have both been made Associate Partners of the firm.

They are both from farming families in Herefordshire and Shropshire and their promotion recognises their hard work and dedication to their strong client portfolios in the West Midlands and Wales regions.

Beth and Joanna both have degrees in Rural Estate Management from Harper Adams University and are qualified Rural Practice Chartered Surveyors and Registered Valuers with the RICS. They are also Fellows of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers.

They are well known with our clients and offer high quality professional advice in property sales, lettings and management, BPS, countryside stewardship and grants, landlord and tenant advice, valuation, planning and compulsory purchase and compensation matters.

Beth and Joanna are delighted to have been offered their promotion to Associate Partner, and both look forward to a long and successful career with the company, working with present and future clients.

The partners are pleased that Beth and Joanna have become Associate Partners of the firm, which will only strengthen and grow the rural professional department of the firm throughout the West Midlands and Wales.



Gareth Wall

Based at Kington Office

With a long standing heritage in supporting the needs of the countryside economy McCartneys is one of the oldest and largest multi disciplined private practices in the United Kingdom. Offering a wide and comprehensive range of services across the Midlands and throughout Wales, McCartneys has a large dedicated team of professional experts specialising in all aspects of rural property, planning and business advice.

Please contact one of our professional staff for sensible and impartial advice. For any further information about any of the content of this newsletter Please contact the editors Gareth Wall and Beth Hanson.

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