

UTASS Briefing: 10th January 2022.

COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP (HLS).

Defra have announced the result of their review of Countryside Stewardship payment rates. The new rates are for agreements starting on 1st January 2022 but, if the rate has increased, will be applied to existing agreements from 1st January 2022. Not all rates have gone up but there are some significant increases such as *GSS Permanent Grassland with very low inputs in the SDA* from £16 per hectare to £71 and *UP3 Management of Moorland* from £43 to £51.

SHEEP AND GOAT ANNUAL INVENTORY.

All keepers of sheep and goats need to complete an annual inventory showing the number of animals on their holding on 1st December 2021. This needs to be done by 31st December or it may incur additional inspections and possible penalties. However, better late than never. The survey can be accessed online using a holdings CPH and postcode. Please contact UTASS if you need assistance with this.

AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION PLAN.

In addition to the limited form of the Sustainable Farming Incentive which will be rolled out nationally at some stage next year, Defra have released an overview of the other two schemes which will make up Environmental Land Management (ELM). ELM is the replacement for the current direct payments (BPS) received by farmers as part of the Common Agricultural Policy.

Local Nature Recovery is intended to replace mid and higher tier Countryside Stewardship but in a more flexible and less bureaucratic manner with a greater accent on outcomes rather than penalties. It hopes to combine both public and private funding while encouraging a wider more collaborative approach from farmers.

Landscape Recovery is for landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach (500-5000 ha) to producing environmental and climate goods on their land. It is intended to be a new approach to supporting the long-term, significant habitat restoration and land use change outlined in the Agricultural Transition Plan. At least 2 pilot rounds for applications are proposed over the next 2 years focussing on 2 themes:

- Recovering and restoring threatened native species.

- Restoring streams and rivers.

Both schemes are short on details but the commitment to move away from strict inspection, measurement of prescription requirements and the imposition of penalties has to be welcomed.

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS 01833 641010.

Richard Betton.

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Succession Planning with Heather Wildman

Monday 17th January 2022

7pm at the Moorcock, Eggleston

Richard highly recommends this talk. If you want to find out what epitaph a farmer should have on his gravestone you must not miss it!!!

Booking is essential for this session so if you would like to attend please contact UTASS on 01833 641010 or email info@utass.org to book your place.

This is a brief introduction to the session from Heather herself:

“This is not about retirement, it is creating a plan for your family business that sets out how you will achieve your long terms goals and vision. It is essential whatever your business and regardless of scale or size, whether you own your farm or you are a tenant, whether you have diversified or have off-farm income. Every farming business needs a written down and agreed plan in place to remain resilient for the future and ensure your whole family and team are working towards the same goals.”

PLEASE TURN OVER