

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE

AUGUST 2020

NO GREENING REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGLISH BPS 2021

DEFRA has recently announced that "greening" requirements will no longer apply in England from 2021. This means that applicants for BPS in 2021 England will no longer need to comply with the crop diversification or Ecological Focus Area (EFA) requirements.

The move follows government plans to simplify the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and cut red tape faced by farmers during the agricultural transition period. As a result, farmers will no longer have to comply with greening requirements with effect from the 2021 scheme year.

These changes will not affect the overall payment received by each farmer as the money will instead be added to farmers' entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme.

Farmers may now consider making changes to autumn cropping plans for Harvest 2021. These changes do not alter commitments already made for catch and cover crops for the 2020 BPS year due to be sown this autumn.

For further advice on how these changes affect you, contact a member of the Agricultural Team.



- Farm & Estate Management
- Sales & Purchases of Rural Properties
- Valuations
- Estate Planning
- Landlord & Tenant
- Farming Agreements
- Basic Payment Scheme
- Auctions
- Compensation & Compulsory Purchase
- Farm Buildings
- Expert Witness
- Planning & Development
- Minerals
- Agri-Environment
- Woodland
- Digital Mapping
- Diversification & Grants
- Employment
- Payroll & Accounts
- Renewable Energy

Cirencester Office
01285 648107

Tetbury Office
01454 238600

VAT ON HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM

HMRC has published guidance on temporary cuts to the rate of VAT from 20% to 5% from 15th July 2020 to 12th January 2021. These cuts may well be “of interest” to farmers and land managers, with particular reference to:

- Holiday accommodation
- Pitch fees for caravans and tents
- Associated facilities provided in relation to holiday accommodation
- Amusement parks
- Exhibitions

It also affects catering and takeaway food.

The guidance gives more details on this and also informs small businesses that use the flat rate scheme that certain percentages have been reduced in line. Guidelines also provide information where supplies straddle the temporary reduced rate. For detailed information, visit the gov.uk website, your accountant or one of our agricultural team.



SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

The Council is launching a call for sites as part of developing its new Local Plan. This guides how and where new housing growth, employment and community land and facilities are identified for the future.

Ideas can be put forward between now and 20th October 2020.

Information on the process for submitting sites, including a downloadable call for sites submission form, is available on the Council website. If you have any questions about the Local Plan and this process, please contact the Council on policy.consultation@southglos.gov.uk or ourselves.

It is perhaps relevant to bear in mind that we are now moving towards a much more plan-led planning system and therefore if you feel that you have a site with development possibilities, it is important to engage in this process at an early stage.

SIMPLIFIED OVER-CLAIM PENALTY RULES FOR 2020 BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME

The 2020 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) rules have been updated to reflect a simpler and more proportionate approach to small over-claim penalties.

There will be no penalty for an over-claim of no more than 2 hectares or 3% of the area determined.

Where an over-claim is found to be more than 2 hectares or 3% (but not more than 10%) of the area determined, the RPA will apply a penalty. The penalty will be 0.75 times the size of the over-claim.

As in previous years, for over-claims of more than 10% of the area determined the penalty will be 1.5 times the size of the over-claim.

HEDGE CUTTING DEROGATION REMINDER



Farmers are reminded that hedge cutting and trimming is not allowed between 1st March and 31st August unless it can be proven that if left uncut, the hedges or branches obstruct a right of way, or is a danger to, vehicles, pedestrians or horse riders, or if it would pose a risk for drivers on a public highway.

For those who do undertake operations based on these exceptions it is advisable that that photographic evidence is kept in case of a complaint or inspection.

Where farmers plan to establish oilseed rape or grass during August it is possible to apply to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) for a derogation to allow hedge cutting and trimming during this period. Hedge cutting must not take place until the derogation is received from the RPA so applying in good time is recommended.

Not following the rules is a breach of the Wildlife and Countryside Act and BPA claimants risk a penalty for breaking the Cross-Compliance rules.

Further information and guidance on how to apply for a derogation is available from the Agricultural Team.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REQUIREMENT - WITNEY AREA

A well-known local agricultural machinery dealer is looking for a new location in the Witney Area. Minimum site size: 2 Acres with 12,000 Sq Ft+ Buildings (or opportunity to create these).

If you have a suitable site please get in contact with Richard Dell on 01285 648112.

FORTHCOMING FARM MACHINERY AUCTIONS 2020



Britchcombe Farm, Uffington, Faringdon, Oxfordshire
UNRESERVED DISPERSAL SALE OF FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT
Wednesday, 16th September

Lower Idstone Farm, Idstone, Ashbury, Swindon, Wiltshire
UNRESERVED DISPERSAL SALE OF FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT
Thursday, 17th September

Southrop, Nr Lechlade, Gloucestershire
COLLECTIVE AUCTION OF FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT - Entries Invited
Wednesday, 30th September

Great Somerford, Chippenham, Wiltshire
COLLECTIVE AUCTION OF FARM MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT
Wednesday, 14th October / TBC

For further information please see our website or contact
Emma Buse on 01285 648115, farmsales@mooreallen.co.uk



Our Agricultural Team: Mark Hill, Christopher Graham, Paul Oughton, Stuart Milsom, Graham Singer, Peter Kirby, Amy McDonald, Anthony Wright, Richard Dell, Emily Shorter, Aaron Wilson & Nicola Windell.