

#### Herefordshire Rural Hub CIC

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#### Disclaimer

*The Herefordshire Rural Hub accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter.*

#### Nuffield Farming Scholarships - Open for Applications

**The applications are now open and will close on the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020.**

Applications are welcomed from those working across the farming, food, horticulture, rural or associated industries. With around 20 Scholarships awarded each year, successful applicants are provided a substantial bursary to fund travel to study their chosen topic. Additional funding is also available for Scholars to attend the Contemporary Scholar's Conference, training sessions and other events.

You do not need formal qualifications to apply for a Nuffield Scholarship; instead, the Trust looks to unlock an individual's potential and broaden horizons. Scholars are selected with a view to developing tomorrow's leaders within their individual business and the whole industry.

**To apply you need to be between 22 and 45 years of age.**

To find out more information please visit the website [www.nuffieldscholar.org](http://www.nuffieldscholar.org) or contact **Charlotte Merson** – [charlotte@nuffieldscholar.org](mailto:charlotte@nuffieldscholar.org).

#### Hereford Times Food & Farming Awards 2021



The awards are a celebration of the agricultural sector, and recognise the hard work done day in and day out by farmers, food producers and food retailers across Herefordshire and the Welsh Borders.

For more information on the categories, and to make a nomination, go to [Food & Farming Awards news from the Hereford Times](#)

**Nominations close at midday on 8<sup>th</sup> April**

The 2021 awards event broadcast is on Thursday 17th June 2021 at 7pm and can be watched on the [Hereford Times Facebook page](#)

#### Thank you to our "Go To Businesses" who can be found on our website at

[www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/go-to-businesses/](http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/go-to-businesses/)

**Berrys --- DJM Consulting --- Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors**

**Hope to Achieve --- 7Y Training --- Moule & Co**

**CXCS --- Davis Meade Property Consultants**

**Mortimer Rose Wealth Management**

**Stop That Thief --- Fisher German LLP**

*If you would like to be a "Go to Business" go to:-*

<http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/apply-become-go-business/>

or contact Frances for more information

Email [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

Herefordshire Rural Hub website

[www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

You can also follow us on  [twitter@Hfds\\_RuralHub](https://twitter.com/Hfds_RuralHub)

and on **Facebook**  - search *Herefordshire Rural Hub*

## Do you need NRoSO or BASIS points?

You can now complete your annual National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) and BASIS CPD training online, with [Ei Operator](#) – sign up with your NRoSO or BASIS number.

### [Courses for NRoSO & BASIS points](#)

- **1 Free course** worth 2 points for both NRoSO and BASIS.
- **Ei Operator Courses** – cost £25 inc VAT – three short-courses. Includes training worth 6 points in total for NRoSO and for BASIS.
- **NRoSO Annual Training Course** – cost £30 inc VAT – you can access the course, online until **30<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. You can choose either the **ARABLE** or **FRUIT** version, worth 8 points for both NRoSO and BASIS.

## [Guide to Cross Compliance in England 2021](#)

Farmers and landowners must follow these Cross Compliance rules if they claim for the Basic Payment Scheme, Stewardship Scheme, or the English Woodland Grant Scheme in 2021.

Leaflets with guidance on

### [What is new for Countryside Stewardship and Basic Payment Scheme 2021](#)

### [Basic Payment Scheme 2021 - England](#)

The BPS 2021 application window opens on 18<sup>th</sup> March, but you can now ...

- Update land use using the [Rural Payments service](#).
- [Transfer land parcels and BPS entitlements for 2021](#) until 17 May 2021, using the Rural Payments service.
- [Add land by email](#) by 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**Deadline for BPS submission is midnight on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021.** You can submit supporting documents up to 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021, and **amendments** to applications up to 11<sup>th</sup> June without incurring penalties.

### Remember, among other changes to BPS ...

- **If you are cross border** – the RPA will process and pay your English entitlements only. The Welsh Government will process and pay your Welsh entitlements only.
- The **cross compliance rules** you need to meet are not changing for 2021, and they continue to be a condition of BPS.
- **There is no longer a greening requirement** – the greening money will be added to your BPS entitlements payment.
- **Although actions under greening will not be tied to the BPS payment, it could be very important to retain your former greening options, EFA options in particular, because of the environmental and business benefits they can offer, and especially when planning for the forthcoming ELMs schemes, which will help to mitigate the loss of the BPS Payments.**

## Single Application Form (SAF) 2021 – Wales

The Single Application Form 2021 will be available to complete on RPW Online from 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**The deadline for submitting your SAF is midnight on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021**, or by 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021 with late penalties. A SAF cannot be submitted or accepted after 11 June 2021.

[Single Application Form \(SAF\) 2021 guidance](#)

## Countryside Stewardship Applications for 2022 are now open

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

[How to request and application pack](#) for Mid-Tier and Higher Tier

Applications now open		Application Deadline
<a href="#">Mid-Tier</a> Starting 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022	You need to request an application pack before <b>30<sup>th</sup> June</b> (see above). If you require CSF approval, you must send the completed <a href="#">CSFO support and approval request form</a> to your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) at least 6 weeks before you submit your application – deadline <b>18<sup>th</sup> June</b> .	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<a href="#">Wildlife Offers</a> Starting 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022	Apply online via the <a href="#">Rural Payments Service</a> or if you cannot apply online contact the RPA <b>before 28<sup>th</sup> May</b> to request an application pack.	30 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<a href="#">Higher Tier</a> Starting 1 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2022	You need to request an application pack before <b>31<sup>st</sup> March</b> (see above)	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021
<a href="#">Capital Grants</a> Starting in 2021	If you require CSF approval, you must send the completed <a href="#">CSFO support and approval request form</a> to your local CSFO at least 6 weeks before you submit your application – deadline <b>19<sup>th</sup> March</b> .	30 <sup>th</sup> April 2021

[Higher Tier Woodland Improvement](#) (WD2 and associated capital items) grant, for Mixed or Woodland Only applications.

The deadline for requesting a Higher Tier application pack is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

The initial deadline for application submission is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021 & the deadline for finalising applications is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021.

### Forestry Commission Woodland Grants – open all year round.

[Woodland Creation and Maintenance grant](#)

[Woodland Tree Health Grant](#)

[Woodland Management Plan Grant](#)

### The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021

On 27<sup>th</sup> January 2021, Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs for Wales announced her decision to introduce agricultural pollution regulations, which will apply to the whole of Wales.

The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 will apply from **1 April 2021**, for an initial set of measurements. The remainder will be phased in over a period of 3 years.

More details on our website at <https://herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/the-water-resources-control-of-agricultural-pollution-wales-regulations-2021/>

### Your chance to shape Red Tractor's Farm Standards

Red Tractor have opened a consultation on how their standards should look from November 2021. Their proposals have been developed over 12 months, working in partnership with farming organisations, farmers, vets, processors, and retailers. They would like to hear **your** views, via 2 surveys (links below), **before 5<sup>th</sup> March**.

- [What matters to you about your business.](#)
- [Red Tractor 2021 Standards Review.](#)

### DEFRA Consultations

[Regulation of Genetic Technologies Consultation](#) **closes on 17<sup>th</sup> March.**

[Bovine TB – consultation on proposals to help eradicate the disease in England](#) - **closes on 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

### Low Carbon Agriculture Show 2021 – Online

**9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

- **Farm Technology Expo** - Highlighting the technology innovations available to help improve efficiency and create a profitable and sustainable farming future.
- **Environmental Business Expo** - Providing guidance on carbon and environmental land management, climate friendly farming solutions and the achievement of Net Zero.
- **Low Emission Vehicles Expo** - Exploring the low carbon vehicle and machinery options available, together with the associated opportunities.
- **Energy Now Expo** - Showcasing renewable and low carbon energy solutions and best practice in energy management online.

**Full details of the event's conferences / workshops / booking [HERE](#)**



### Utilising Native Breeds for Conservation and Regenerative Grazing



**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 5 – 6 pm**

**Webinar with Tom Blunt, Field Officer RBST**

**This will be of interest to anyone who'd like to find out about: -**

- Breed traits and their values for different grazing systems
- Economics of native breeds
- Native breeds in grassland, scrub, wood pasture mosaics
- Importance of native genetics in regenerative grazing systems

Booking essential – please email [bookings@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:bookings@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

Click here [For more information](#)

**You will be sent the Zoom link shortly before the webinar.**

## Green Recovery Challenge Fund



The National Lottery Heritage Fund



If you know of anyone with a strong interest in farming and conservation who'd like to work as a **Trainee Meadow Maker** this summer with Herefordshire Meadows on Plantlife's Meadow Makers project please [see this link for more information](#)

### If you farm in the Wye Valley or Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), you are invited to attend a free online workshop to:

- Find out about the latest changes to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme.
- Hear from farmers already in agri-environment schemes.
- Learn about the 'Farming in Protected Landscapes' scheme, announced in the Agricultural Transition Plan, to support farmers and land managers in AONBs and National Parks, to help them diversify their income streams and lay the groundwork for the Environmental Land Management scheme.

**There is still a choice of 2 workshops that you can book on to: -**

- **Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March (5-6:30pm), or**
- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March (1-2:30pm).**

**More details and how to register can be found in the attached flyer.**



Farmers and land managers in the **Malvern Hills AONB** can contact - **Paul Esrich** (AONB Partnership Manager) for more information.  
Email: [pesrich@worcestershire.gov.uk](mailto:pesrich@worcestershire.gov.uk) Tel: **01905 845057**



For the **Wye Valley AONB** contact **Nick Critchley** (AONB Development Officer).  
Email: [development@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](mailto:development@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) Tel: **07904 017982**

**To help farmers in the [Wye Valley AONB](#) prepare for landscape, habitat and nature recovery schemes, the **Wye Valley AONB Partnership** are also able to offer the following:**

- Phase 1 Habitat maps showing semi-natural vegetation and wildlife habitats on your farm, or if the data doesn't exist, a free survey.
- AONB Management Plan information, including Landscape Management Zones, features and Special Qualities relevant to your farm.

To request **Wye Valley AONB** data or for more information on this offer, please contact Wye Valley AONB Development Officer, **Nick Critchley** at [development@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk](mailto:development@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk) or **07904 017982**.



### Free "Faster Farmers" videos and webinars for you to view on the Herefordshire Rural Hub website



The latest one is a short video on using "breakout rooms" on Zoom.

<https://herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/whats-on/faster-farmers-zoom-tutorial-webinar-on-breakout-rooms/>



### McDonald's UK and The Prince's Countryside Fund invite Dairy and Livestock Farmers to a Free webinar 'Agricultural Transition - Ready for Change'

**Tuesday 9th March at 1pm – 2pm**

The webinar will cover what is happening in England under Defra's Agricultural Transition Plan, what this means in practical terms for farmers, and simple next steps that farm businesses can take to prepare themselves. Kite will also be able to answer questions on the agricultural transition from farm businesses.

**Sign up at <https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/partner-initiatives/ready-for-change>**

The webinar is open to all dairy and livestock farmers in England, regardless of whether they have participated in The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme.



### Lots of free webinars for farmers

This winter the normal programme of Monitor Farm and Strategic Farm meetings will be online. AHDB have planned a programme of "Monitor Farm Mondays" webinars and other digital Strategic Farm and Agronomy events.

Where appropriate, BASIS and NRoSO points are available for attending these webinars and information is available on the webinar events pages.

**Here are links to information and booking for some of the AHDB webinars that are coming up in March:-**

- [AHDB Carbon Week](#) – a series of webinars taking place 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> March – webinars and discussions with a range of speakers - for farmers and growers interested in understanding more about the carbon cycle, carbon auditing, reducing emissions and the opportunities around this.
- [Herbal Leys panel discussion 4: feeding & grazing management](#) – Weds 3<sup>rd</sup> March 7-8pm
- [Monitor Farm Monday: Cover crops, inter-cropping and companion cropping - protect, produce and prosper with IPM](#) Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 7-8pm
- [Managing finances to future proof your business](#) – Weds 10<sup>th</sup> March 12.30 – 2pm

Click on the link below, which takes you direct to the events page of the AHDB website where all of the webinars are listed.  
[Farm events and agricultural shows | AHDB](#)

In case you missed any, recordings of previous AHDB webinars can be found on the AHDB “Online events and webinar archive” at <https://ahdb.org.uk/webinars>



### Farming Advice Service webinar programme for farmers

The Farming Advice Service (FAS) invites you to attend a series of FREE webinars.

If you are unable to attend any of the live broadcasts, a recording of each one will be made available on the FAS website. For more information on the webinars go to <http://farmingadvice.org.uk/events/events/>

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 5,00pm – 6.15pm - [Agricultural Transition Future Farm Support Schemes](#)



### Defra & Farming Forum

Defra answers farmers' questions about Environment Land Management and the Agricultural Transition Plan

Watch the Youtube video at [https://youtu.be/ja2lm9lk\\_t0](https://youtu.be/ja2lm9lk_t0)

### [Webinag](#)

Is a FREE go-to website for calendar/listings of webinars for the farming community. Including details, times, cost, speakers & registration. View webinars by day, week, month, category or host.

### Soil Talks

SoilTalks is a monthly series of online debates on a wide-ranging and exciting set of topics about soil and soil health, from the [Soil Care Network](#) The series is co-organised with [uksoils](#), and with the support of the [University of Sheffield Institute for Sustainable Food](#).

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to book your place on the next talk.



### Advice & Support Available Across Herefordshire from the Wye & Usk Foundation

We are still working to support farmers during these strange times – if you need any advice please contact one of our Catchment Advisers as usual.



**Natural Flood Management Grants:** There are still grants available to support delivery of action that helps increase water retention in the landscape - so far this has funded grassland aeration, subsoiling, cover cropping, attenuation ponds, hedge planting and leaky dams. The target catchments are the Dulas, Bodenham, Pentaloe, Tedstone, Cheaton, Ridgemore, Yazor and Red/Twyford Brook. If you farm in one of the target catchments and would like to find out more please click [HERE](#) or call one of our advisers. The NFM grant is funded through DEFRA and administered by Herefordshire Council.

**Water Quality:** The levels of phosphate in the rivers and streams is still higher than it should be and we are working hard to support local farmers to reduce losses from agricultural sources – which still contributes 50% of the P in our rivers. We are able to provide free confidential farm advice for any yard or land management challenges you may be facing. We can provide soil structure assessments, OM testing, yard advice, stewardship advice... the list goes on!

For more information or to request a visit please contact one of the WUF advisers:

Lucinda Lewis (07824 904 877); Mike Williams (07920 441 215); Tom Jolley (07545 253 155); Jonny Pugh (07825 743 447)  
 Abi Croshaw (07990 068 941); Claire Spicer (07741 856 770); Ben Nott (07539 902 680); Rebecca Meredith (07539 902 681)

Severn Trent Water are working with the Wye & Usk Foundation to fund advice and grant schemes in the Wye on an annual basis. It is restricted to the Drinking Water Safe Guarding Zone which follows the main rivers, so if you farm on the main stem of the Wye, Lugg or Frome and would like to improve a pesticide handling area or disposal options like biobeds or biofilters there may be funding available to support this.

**STEPS for Water Quality** re-opened on the **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021** and will close on the **31<sup>st</sup> January 2022**. Up to £10,000 is available to improve Pesticide Handling Facilities in the yard and for the placement of Arable Grassland Buffers to protect water courses.

**STEPS for Biodiversity** application window opens on the **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021** and will close on the **18<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. Applications can be made by any landowners that have land within the DWSGZ and have previously applied for a priority item.

*STEPS can be run in conjunction with other schemes as long as an item is not being double funded.*

If you would like more information about the funding Severn Trent has to offer then please contact one of the advisers below or visit <https://www.stwater.co.uk/about-us/environment/catchment-management/severn-trent-environmental-protection-scheme/>

**Catchment Advisers: Abi Croshaw (07990 068941) or Mike Williams (07920 441215)**

### Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)



Due to national restrictions to curb Covid 19 infections, we are sorry to say that CSF are currently only able to offer a very limited number of **high priority site visits** to farmers.

We can, however, discuss any issues you have with water and air quality over the phone or via email, so please get in touch with us via the contact details below. Some members of staff are having to juggle caring responsibilities at present, so please be patient with requests and we will do our best to get back to you.

#### Countryside Stewardship

The application window for Countryside Stewardship has now opened.

Please see <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management> for further information and how to apply.

CSF will be working with priority farms, providing advice on how farmers can make applications which can deliver the **greatest environmental benefits in terms of water and air quality**.

Due to high levels of demand across the country, CSFOs are strictly limited in the number of priority applications that they can support. If you would like to find out whether your land falls within in a target area for water quality, please follow this link <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution>

Farmers in a high priority area for water who wish to apply for 'high risk' items will require CSFO approval. In order to do this, please fully fill in a [CSFO Support and Approval Request Form](#) and send it to your local CSFO, so that we can assess the farming business and risks posed to water and air quality.

#### River Wye Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers

<b>Rachel Bosanquet</b>	tel: <b>07770 331 669</b>	email: <a href="mailto:rachel.bosanquet@naturalengland.org.uk">rachel.bosanquet@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
<b>Sue Buckingham</b>	tel: <b>07833 095 708</b>	email: <a href="mailto:sue.buckingham@naturalengland.org.uk">sue.buckingham@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
<b>Ollie Cooke</b>	tel: <b>07884 996 938</b>	email: <a href="mailto:oliver.cook@naturalengland.org.uk">oliver.cook@naturalengland.org.uk</a>

#### River Teme Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers

<b>Wayne Davies</b>	tel: <b>01588 640 980</b>	email: <a href="mailto:wayne.davies@naturalengland.org.uk">wayne.davies@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
<b>Sally Powell</b>	tel: <b>07770 645 037</b>	email: <a href="mailto:sally.powell@naturalengland.org.uk">sally.powell@naturalengland.org.uk</a>
<b>James Griffiths</b>	tel: <b>07812 240 896</b>	email: <a href="mailto:james.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk">james.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk</a>

### Forces Farming: Armed Forces engagement with the agricultural industry.

- Forces Farming represents the link between agriculture and the Armed Forces. We began promoting the agricultural industry as a new career to veterans and service leavers in 2019.
- Forces Farming works to a four-step process that fits with potential employers, partner farms and participants in the transition process; Insight – Experience – Placement – Development
- Insight days are hosted on farms. This provides an overview of the industry and allows farmers to explain directly to new entrants how they operate. This first step is key for ensuring they are interested and engaged in agriculture as a potential new career.
- Experience events give service leavers an opportunity to dive deeper into a specific sector of the industry. Shadowing farmers, agronomists or an associated businesses provides the opportunity to look at particular areas of the industry in more detail.
- Once service leavers have left the Armed Forces placement opportunities offer a first step in agricultural employment as they learn about their new career. During this time further education or training can be investigated and provided as employment develops.

- Being part of the Forces Farming network offers development opportunities for participants meaning they can return and discuss further training or career opportunities. This network is also key as a way to support the new entrants and ensure this is a long-term career choice.

**The core focus of Forces Farming is to promote the agricultural industry to new entrants.**

**Service leavers and veterans offer a multitude of transferable skills while the industry delivers rewarding and engaging jobs.**

For more information get into touch with Jeremy Gibbs at Forces Farming  
Email: [jeremy@forcesfarming.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@forcesfarming.co.uk) or read more at [www.forcesfarming.co.uk](http://www.forcesfarming.co.uk)



**Can you help? ...**

### **A Herefordshire based veteran actively looking for rural based role.**

A veteran has recently contacted Forces Farming who is based in Herefordshire.

He left the RAF after 18 years and finished his career with 5 years based at Hereford.

Forces Farming are helping him begin his career in agriculture and he is actively looking for employment.

If you are interested in hiring someone who is interested, dedicated, and motivated in the work they do, please contact **Jeremy Gibbs** [jeremy@forcesfarming.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@forcesfarming.co.uk)

Veterans are used to getting the job done with the tools provided and can adapt to changing situations or challenges as they arise.

Being able to learn quickly, repeat tasks and execute work to a high standard help them stand out in their work.

Why not consider this new pool of talent for your operation, they are at home in the outdoors.

### **National Minimum Wage rates from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

Year	Aged 25 and over National Living Wage	21 to 24	18 to 20	Under 18	Apprentice
April 2020 – March 2021	£8.72	£8.20	£6.45	£4.55	£4.15
<b>From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021</b>	<b>£8.91</b>	<b>£8.36</b>	<b>£6.56</b>	<b>£4.62</b>	<b>£4.30</b>

Apprentices are entitled to the **Apprentice rate** if they are either:

- Aged under 19 yrs.
- Aged 19 or over and in the first year of their apprenticeship.

Apprentices are entitled to the **Minimum wage for their age** if they both: -

- Are aged 19 or over.
- Have completed the first year of their apprenticeship.

### **Grazing land at Bartonsham Meadows available for rent**

Herefordshire Wildlife Trust and Friends of Bartonsham Meadows have recently been informed that grazing land at Bartonsham Meadows will be available for rent this year. More details [HERE](#)

If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, contact **Andrew Nixon** at the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Email: [a.nixon@herefordshirewt.co.uk](mailto:a.nixon@herefordshirewt.co.uk) or phone **07468 790307**



### **Farming Community Network**

FCN have produced "[FarmWell](#)" - an online facility, free to use, with lots of useful information and advice to help keep your business, and yourself, resilient through changing times and plan positively for the future.

- Keeping your business resilient through change
- Providing links to the most useful and user-friendly information sources across all farm business areas, where you can find the facts to help plan successfully and efficiently.
- Helping you, your family and your staff to stay resilient through change Interesting articles, tips and programmes for keeping fit and healthy.
- Providing support and help if you need it, and guidance on how you can access additional support and mentoring, both from a business and personal perspective, should the need arise.

## COVID-19 Coronavirus – some useful links

### Herefordshire Council

[Covid-19 support for farms](#)

[Covid-19 Business Support](#)

[Other Business Funding & Grants](#)

### Herefordshire COVID-19 Engagement Working Group

[Key Messages and FAQ's](#)

### Covid-19 Farm Preventative Packs

This pack is to help support local farms with resources such as training videos, signage and links to the relevant guidance.

You can access the pack from the Council website [CLICK HERE](#)

[Coronavirus testing in Herefordshire](#) if you have symptoms

### Marches Growth Hub

Information on the advice and support being offered for [businesses, employers, self-employed.](#)

### Gov.UK

[COVID-19 Guidance, Support & Advice](#)

[Getting tested for Coronavirus](#)

[National lockdown – find out what you can and cannot do.](#)

[Guidance for employers and businesses on working safely during coronavirus](#)

- for all types of businesses. Find out how to make your workplace COVID-secure

### AHDB

[Up to date coronavirus-related information & advice](#)

for Farmers and Growers

APHA [TBHub](#)

Red Tractor [COVID-19 Hub](#)

## More Business Support from Herefordshire Council

[Kickstart scheme](#)

[Business energy grants](#)

[Fastershire](#)

[Faster Business Reviews](#)

## The Jack Hughes Fund - administered by Herefordshire Community Foundation

The Jack Hughes Fund is available to farmers and farm staff aged over 40 years working on a Herefordshire farm.

The amount of funding available is up to a maximum of 70% of the course cost to an overall maximum of £200.

The programme is available for farmers and farm staff **aged over 40** (limited to one family member/employee per farming business per year).

It will specifically provide funds to support those who require:

- retraining or upskilling as they are leaving the industry
- training to support a new farm diversification enterprise
- training or business support for succession planning

Funding will also be available for farm related training courses (examples below)

- Safe use of pesticides – PA1, PA2, PA6
- Rodent control on farms
- Emergency first aid
- Food safety (Basic Food Hygiene)
- Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross Cutting (CS30)

**Other courses will be considered on application**

The funding is easy to access, but please note that the project will **not** support training retrospectively & places will be limited.

**Applicants need to be resident in Herefordshire.**

For further details or an application form contact the Herefordshire Community Foundation

The Fred Bulmer Centre, Wall Street, Hereford, HR4 9HP. Email: [administrator@herefordshirecf.org](mailto:administrator@herefordshirecf.org) Phone: 01432 272550

Website: [www.herefordshirefoundation.org](http://www.herefordshirefoundation.org)



## The Prince's Countryside Fund/HFYFC Training Grants

As some social distancing and Covid-19 restrictions are being eased, a limited amount of training is starting to be offered, so if you are able to get something booked up, and are eligible to apply for this funding, please contact **Frances at Herefordshire Rural Hub** to request an application form.

The funding is easy to access. All you need to do is select which course you would like to go on and complete the application form. If your application is approved you will be able to reclaim **70%** of your training and test costs, up to a maximum of **£250**.

**Applicants must be a current member of HFYFC or a past HFYFC member (up to 40 yrs old).**

The fund will support training that will; *improve your employability, increase or improve your skill set, improve your safety or allow you to undertake extra responsibility in your current job.*

**Whatever training you are applying for, please ensure that you submit your application form in good time before your course is due to take place, as training cannot be funded retrospectively.**

For any queries or to request an application form, please email Frances at [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

## St Michael's Hospice – "Tour de Hereford" - 26<sup>th</sup> June – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Following last year's success, St Michael's Hospice will be embracing the thrill of the world's most famous cycle event by inviting you to explore your favourite routes on two wheels during the Tour de Hereford.

Get sponsored to go as far as you like as often as you want during the Tour de France, either on your own or with your loved ones (Covid guidelines permitting).

Don't worry if you haven't got a bike; Beryl Bikes are offering eight Tour de Hereford fundraisers free hire throughout the Tour's three-week duration, in return for pledging to raise at least £100 in sponsorship. This is on a first-come first-served basis.

For further information, including sign-up details, visit <https://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk/>

### Herefordshire & Ludlow College

Tel: 0800 032 1986 Email: [enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@hlcollege.ac.uk) Website: [www.hlcollege.ac.uk](http://www.hlcollege.ac.uk)

All courses are held at Holme Lacy Campus, Holme Lacy, HR2 6LL

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus restrictions, all the previously published short courses scheduled to run at Holme Lacy this term, (before Easter) have had to be cancelled. Dates of courses running after the Easter break will be published when they are available.

### 7Y Training Services

7Y Training Centre, Wharton Farms, Wharton, Leominster, HR6 0NX

Contact: Paula Strangwood Email: [paula@7ytraining.co.uk](mailto:paula@7ytraining.co.uk)

#### Covid-19 Safe Practise Instruction for 7Y Training Centre Courses

Information while attending a course/event at 7Y Training Centre.

How we are making training safe for you and your candidates

We will be implementing the following measures to keep your candidates and our employees safe:

1. Before the course date - If a candidate has any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., new persistent cough, high temperature, loss or change to sense of smell or taste) they must not attend training. We will provide a free transfer to a future course.
2. Candidates Arrival on site - On arrival at the centre, we ask that the candidate stays outside until they are called in, they can then check their temperature and sanitise before entering.
3. Social Distancing - We have put social distancing measures in place distancing 2m between desks/chairs and request the same of candidates during refreshment and toilets breaks. To do this we have reduced class sizes.
4. PPMe - Each candidate will receive a welfare pack on arrival which consists of personal hand-sanitiser, gloves, tissues/wipes, face mask and a pen. These boxes (as with all course paperwork) have been quarantined for 7 days.
5. Boxes – Each desk will have a welfare box; We would like to ask that candidates put any personal belongings that they have on the desks in the box during break-times so that all hard surfaces can be wiped down.
6. First Aid Courses - We will operate a 1:1 candidate to manikin ratio for CPR practice and AED use. We maintain our rigorous manikin cleaning protocols after each course.

Please register your interest for any of the following courses:

Course	Dates <i>(subject to change if numbers are low)</i>	Venue
C & G Safe Use of Pesticides (PA1) <i>Max 6 candidates per course</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> March      13 <sup>th</sup> April	Leominster
C & G Ground Crop Sprayer (PA2) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	4 <sup>th</sup> March      14 <sup>th</sup> April	T.B.C
C & G Ground Knapsack Sprayer (PA6) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	3 <sup>rd</sup> March      15 <sup>th</sup> April	Leominster
C & G Slug Pellets (PA4s) / Granular App (PA4g) <i>Max 4 candidates per course</i>	March / April 2021	T.B.C
First Aid at Work (3 days)	9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Leominster
First Aid at Work Refresher (2 days)	29 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> March	Leominster
Emergency First Aid at Work (1 day)	8 <sup>th</sup> March	Leominster
Chainsaw Maintenance & Cross-Cutting	Email Paula for dates/costs	Leominster

The following Machinery and Equipment courses can be run for either Novice, Refresher or Experienced candidates, & under a variety of awarding bodies – Lantra, ITSSAR, BRITTOp. Please contact Paula to register your interest.

Lantra Rough Terrain Telescopic <> Rough Terrain Telescopic over 9m <> ITSSAR Counterbalance FLT  
ITSSAR MEWP Scissor Lift <> ATV's Sit-Astride Quad Bikes <> 360 Excavator (below 5 tonnes)

## Wyvern Training Services Ltd

**EMAIL: [enquiries@wyverntrainingservices.com](mailto:enquiries@wyverntrainingservices.com) TEL: 07468 465 303**

All training delivered is thoroughly COVID risk assessed to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

This does mean that the number of people able to attend can be reduced and that venues and facilities are required to meet all necessary and current safety, COVID and personal social distancing requirements.

**Whilst we continue to offer in-house training, we are now also able to provide COVID-secure venues for certain courses.**

**Please enquire for more details.**

**Courses on offer in the coming months include:**

PA1 – Safe use of Pesticides.	Abrasive Wheels
PA2 – Hydraulic Nozzle Boom Sprayers	Emergency First Aid / First Aid at Work
PA3 – Air assisted blast and variable Geometry Sprayers	Level 2 Food Safety
PA4 – Slug Pellet applicators	Rough Terrain and Counterbalance Lift Trucks
PA6 – Hand-held applicators	ATV sit astride / sit in
Chainsaw maintenance and cross cutting / felling	

Should you have any future training needs or requirements, please contact us to discuss them.

We look forward to returning to more normal business, including reinstating our open course programme, once the guidance and advice allows.

## Are you unsure about details of rules or regulations? Need help with understanding record keeping?

- The Rural Services Helpline **03000 200 301** provides a single number for all **Farming Advice Service, Rural Payments Agency** or **Animal and Plant Health Agency (AHPA)** enquiries. It is open from Monday to Friday, 8.30am till 5pm
- **Natural England** 0300 060 1115 [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)
- **Environment Agency** Sharon Chisholm (Mon, Tues, Weds) Tel: 02030 251692  
Email: [sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk)
- **N.F.U.** (Herefordshire) Clare Greener Mob: 07771 626080 Email: [Clare.Greener@nfu.org.uk](mailto:Clare.Greener@nfu.org.uk)
- **C.L.A.** (Midlands) Helen Dale Tel: 01785 337010 Email: [helen.dale@cla.org.uk](mailto:helen.dale@cla.org.uk)
- **Animal Health & Trading Standards** (Herefordshire) Tim Barber Tel: 01432 383145 Fax: 01432 383169

## “Farming Help” providing support for farmers affected by Covid-19

The Farming Help Charities – Addington Fund, Farming Community Network (FCN), Forage Aid, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (R.A.B.I), and RSABI, supported by The Prince's Countryside Fund - are working together to support the Farming Community during the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak. Utilising our Farming Help helpline (operated by FCN) and respective organisations/volunteer networks, we can offer the following local support. Get in touch on **03000 111 999** if you:

- Feel concerned or anxious and would like to talk to someone who understands farming, will listen to you and help you think through your options.
- Would like help to draft a contingency plan to ensure you and your farm are prepared, should you be unable to work for a time.
- If you or people you rely on become ill or are self-isolating and you need to find help locally- we will endeavour to find support for you in your local area. We will source contact details of local organisations and groups who may be able to assist you in finding help to feed livestock, collect shopping or collect prescriptions if you are unable to do so.

Call **03000 111 999** or visit <http://www.farminghelp.co.uk>

## Could you or someone you know benefit from support:-

- **Farming Community Network** 03000 111 999 website: <http://www.fcn.org.uk/>
- **Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)** 0808 2819490 website: <http://www.rabi.org.uk/>
- **Borderlands Rural Chaplaincy** 07966 927404 website: [www.borderchaplain.org](http://www.borderchaplain.org)
- **You Are Not Alone (YANA)** 0300 323 0400 website: [www.yanahelp.org/](http://www.yanahelp.org/)
- **Farming Help** 0845 367 9990 website: [www.farminghelp.org.uk/](http://www.farminghelp.org.uk/)
- **Addington Fund** 01926 620 135 website: [www.addingtonfund.org.uk/](http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk/)
- **Herefordshire Samaritans** website: [www.samaritans.org/branches/herefordshire-samaritans](http://www.samaritans.org/branches/herefordshire-samaritans)
- **Carerstrust 4 All – Hereford CarerLinks** 01432 663057 website: [www.carerstrust4all.org.uk](http://www.carerstrust4all.org.uk)

## Herefordshire Rural Hub Classified

Would you like to place an Advert for e.g. **Services / Job Vacancy / Items for sale / Looking for work**  
Then please contact **Frances** for full details of the advertising packages on our **Classified Page**  
[admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)

Please support our **“Go To Businesses”** who can be found on our website at  
[www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/go-to-businesses/](http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/go-to-businesses/)

**Berrys --- DJM Consulting --- Moule & Co --- Hope to Achieve**  
**7Y Training --- CXCS --- Davis Meade Property Consultants**  
**Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors --- Mortimer Rose Wealth Management**  
**Fisher German LLP --- Stop That Thief**

*If you would like to be a “Go to Business” go to:-* <http://www.herefordshireruralhub.co.uk/apply-become-go-business/>

**Copy deadline for the next newsletter is 15<sup>th</sup> March**

*If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Frances at Herefordshire Rural Hub*  
Email: [admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk](mailto:admin@herefordshireruralhub.co.uk)