

# Shropshire Rural Hub Newsletter

## June 2016

Shropshire Rural Hub  
c/o New Farmhouse, Cruckmeole, Hanwood, Shrewsbury, SY5 8JN

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### Suckled Calf Management

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016

2pm - 4pm

at

Holdgate Hall,

Much Wenlock,

TF13 6LW

By kind permission of Peter and Robert Hartley

Join AHDB Beef & Lamb to learn more about weaning strategies for suckled calves.

The results of a recent trial on the farm will also be presented where a Farm Innovation Grant was used to investigate how nose flaps affected calf performance and health around weaning.

**To book your FREE place, ring the  
AHDB Beef & Lamb events office  
on 01904 771211  
or email [brp.events@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:brp.events@ahdb.org.uk)**

AHDB Beef and Lamb was formerly known as EBLEX

### New Powers Given to Local Councils to Punish Fly-Tippers

Anyone caught illegally dumping waste could now face an on-the spot penalty of up to £400. The new rule, which came into force from May 2016, gives local authorities greater powers to tackle the crime by issuing penalty notices of between £150 and £400 to those caught in the act of fly-tipping anything from old fridges or sofas to garden waste or rubble.

Introducing fixed penalty notices for fly-tipping is the latest move in a government crackdown on waste crime, which costs the economy millions of pounds a year in clean-up costs, undermines legitimate business, and poses serious risks to our environment.

While acting as a deterrent, the fixed penalty notices will also save local authorities time and money in punishing offenders as they will provide a quicker alternative to prosecuting fly-tippers through the courts. However, prosecutions will remain an option for local authorities in punishing large scale waste criminals.

### **Commissioner Begins Work on Safer West Mercia Plan**

Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion has started work on his new Safer West Mercia Plan, and is inviting you to help shape local priorities for the next four years.

The plan will set out the Commissioner's specific aims for making communities safer and reducing harm.

The Commissioner is inviting communities to make their voices heard from the outset, to ensure their opinions and needs are reflected in the final plan. To that end, an initial consultation has started, which will run until the 17th of June 2016. The responses will be analysed and used to help form a draft plan.

**The consultation is available via this link: <http://bit.ly/25B6KVX>**

West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner John Campion said: "I promised I would listen and engage with people as Commissioner and that is exactly what I am doing. I want your views to be at the heart of all my work as your Commissioner".

"My plan will set the direction of travel for the next four years for me, our police and other partner agencies. It is therefore very important that it reflects what our communities want, need and aspire to."

### **West Mercia Police Business, Rural and Cyber Crime Community Day**

**Saturday 25th June 2016, 10.00am - 4.00pm  
at  
Park Lane, High Ercall, TF6 6BE**

The Business, Rural and Cyber Crime Team based in Telford, together with the Safer Neighbourhood Team from Wellington, are hosting a Community Day. The local community is invited to attend this event which will focus on security, scams, crime prevention and much more.

**To confirm you would like to attend this event,  
please email:**

**[BRCCU@westmerciam.pnn.police.uk](mailto:BRCCU@westmerciam.pnn.police.uk)**

**Please include "Action Day 25th June" in your  
subject line when responding.**

**Please let us have your submissions for our  
July/August Newsletter by 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016.**

**Email [alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk](mailto:alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk)**

**Thank you**

### **E4environment Ltd**

#### **You do the farming, we'll do the form filling!**

Most farms now rely on income from various government and producer schemes to make a living. Completing these forms can be a burden and mistakes can be costly.

Let us do the paper work. Our staff are qualified, experienced environmental advisors and can offer a no nonsense, personal service from as little as £40 per month. Let us come out to you, talk specifically about what you require and offer a free quote on services.

#### **Service areas:**

- Cross compliance
- Assurance schemes
- Countryside Stewardship
- NVZ and nutrient planning
- Carbon auditing
- Resource protection, and avoidance of fines
- Development
- Renewables
- Packaging Regulations
- Planning & Permitting

Did you know that there are various grant schemes available at present for capital items or practical works in your area?

We have several members of the team who have extensive experience in successful grant applications, and we know what the funders are going to be looking for.

**To find out more about our Agricultural services,  
give us a call on 01743 343403, email  
[eloise@e4environment.co.uk](mailto:eloise@e4environment.co.uk) or visit our website  
[www.e4environment.co.uk/  
agricultural-services-2/](http://www.e4environment.co.uk/agricultural-services-2/)**

**E4environment Ltd, Hilley Farm, Pentre, SY4 1BP**

## **Contemplating Farm Diversification?**

Harper Adams University are looking for several farmers to act as "hosts" for a final year module called Rural Business Opportunities, which investigates the potential for diversification enterprise.

The aim is to look at what other new business opportunities might be feasible for the host farmers, such as adding value to crops or livestock, leisure and tourism, retail, developing buildings, renewable energy.... etc. The format in the past has been that the students visit the farm, look at what resources they have to work with: buildings, land, finance, proximity to markets, roads, other attractions, local planning strategy etc. They then go away and produce a report which looks at the new business opportunities, produce market research and then produce business plans for their chosen idea. The reports often have different emphasis so the host farmer gets lots of ideas for what could happen on the farm which have been researched for "free" by the students.

This year, 2 of the students reports were selected to go forward for a national prize called the Pinnacle Awards, which is open for students in agricultural universities and colleges to enter with a piece of work on a farm business management theme. The following web address gives more detail:

**[www.thefarmersclub.com/charities-and-awards/pinnacle-awards](http://www.thefarmersclub.com/charities-and-awards/pinnacle-awards)**

This year one of the students from Harper, Katie Woolliscroft, won the top prize at this prestigious event.

Traditionally the students get a lot from these "live case studies" and your co-operation to continue using current, local and applicable case studies, will help ensure the mutual benefit of everyone involved.

**If you would like more information about becoming a 'Host Farm' and would like to discuss in greater detail, please email Tony Asson at Harper Adams University:  
[tasson@harper-adams.ac.uk](mailto:tasson@harper-adams.ac.uk)**

## **Tree Health Update from Forestry Commission England**

### **Keep it Clean: Don't Give Pests and Diseases an Easy Ride**

Forestry Commission, England, have been adding to the resources available on their website since the launch of their biosecurity campaign aimed at tree professionals earlier this year. They now have a page with up-to-date guidance on assembling your own biosecurity kit.

**For further details, please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-A6TGAL](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/BEEH-A6TGAL)**

### **Increase Your Pest and Disease ID Knowledge**

Free downloadable pest and disease guides are now available from the Observatree website. Downloadable resources and videos are available to help you identify priority pests and diseases and spot early outbreaks. They include a pest and disease calendar so you can check at a glance for seasonal issues.

**Please visit [www.observatree.org.uk](http://www.observatree.org.uk)**

### **Report ill Health in Trees**

Please help Forestry commission, England, to gather information about the health of the nation's trees, woodlands and forests by reporting signs of dangerous tree pests and diseases.

**To report any indication of ill health in trees, please visit [www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/treealert)**

**For a wealth of tree health resources, visit the Forestry Commission's dedicated web pages,  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases)**

### **Tree Health News**

To sign up to 'Tree Health News' and receive the latest information on pests and diseases from Forestry Commission, England, copy and paste the below link into your web browser:

**[forestry.us9.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=3271a65a2d](http://forestry.us9.list-manage1.com/subscribe?u=1959888ad83d12679ec98a699&id=3271a65a2d)**

## **Food and Drink IT Summit 2016**

**For Limited Time Free Entry – Register Now**

**Tuesday 5th of July 2016  
at  
Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham.**

The Food and Drink IT Summit is an annual gathering of the leading food and beverage companies interested in improving their business through data, IT, software etc.

- Network with and hear from an impressive line-up of speakers from food and beverage manufactures, retailers and foodservice companies that are at the cutting edge of utilising data in their business.
- Meet with the leading suppliers of software, hardware and consultancy services that are helping food and beverage companies create a smarter and more efficient food business.

If you are interested in creating a smarter, more efficient and more sustainable food industry, join your industry peers for a engaging and thought provoking event which will stimulate debate and help you to make the correct decisions to improve your food and beverage operations.

**For further information and to register for your free entry (limited time) visit [www.itfoodsummit.com](http://www.itfoodsummit.com)**

## **Universal Credit and Employers**

Universal Credit is a new single monthly payment for people who are on a low income or out of work. It ends the 16 hour a week rule that may previously have led people to restrict the hours they work to avoid losing their benefits. Universal Credit aims to ensure that people will be better off in work than on benefits. This means claimants won't lose all their benefits at once if they are on a low income as their Universal Credit payment will reduce gradually as their take home pay increases. Universal Credit will increase the financial benefits of work and provide employers with a more flexible workforce.

**For more information for Employers please visit: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/515194/uc-works-for-employers.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/515194/uc-works-for-employers.pdf)**

## **Sheep Research Day**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016,  
10.30am – 3.30pm  
at**

**Food Academy Lecture Theatre,  
Harper Adams University,  
Newport, TF10 8NB**

AHDB Beef & Lamb have funded a significant amount of research work on sheep nutrition in the last few years. This event provides an opportunity for levy payers to hear about this work and to take home the key messages.

**To register your FREE place, ring the AHDB Beef & Lamb events office on 01904 771211 or email [brp.events@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:brp.events@ahdb.org.uk)**

## **The Rural Business Awards 2016**

The CLA is encouraging rural entrepreneurs from across the region to enter the 2016 Rural Business Awards.

The Rural Business Awards will showcase and reward the very best businesses that the countryside has to offer, giving finalists clear opportunities for differentiating and growing their business.

Awards will be made across 13 categories including: Best Rural Start-up; Outstanding Rural Diversification Project; Social enterprise/community project of the year; Best Rural Tourism Business; Rural Employer of the Year and Rural Entrepreneur of the Year.

Entries can be made up to 31st July 2016.

**Full details of the Awards can be found at: [www.ruralbusinessawards.co.uk](http://www.ruralbusinessawards.co.uk)**

## **Shropshire Rural Hub can help to promote your Business or Event**

For a small fee, your advert will appear in our Newsletter and on our website – [www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk](http://www.ruralhubpartnership.co.uk)

**For more information, please contact Alison: [alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk](mailto:alisonrhp@ruralhubpartnership.co.uk)**

### **Free Natural England Advice Sessions for Countryside Stewardship**

If you are considering applying for the new Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship this year FREE advice and support is available through events and one to one advice sessions (funded by Natural England).

Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship is different from ELS, it is competitive, targeted, has a single application window and start date. **The Mid-Tier application window is now open and closes on 30th September 2016.**

Advice sessions will cover how the scheme works, who is eligible and what the environmental priorities are in your local area to help you develop an application with a good chance of success. The adviser will not be able to complete the application for you but you will get 1.5 hour session with an experienced adviser to discuss the details of your farm.

Advice sessions are available at pre booked clinics, and a limited number can be provided on farm. A clinic can be arranged at suitable location in your area. Please contact the number below if this would be of interest.

**To book your FREE place, please contact:  
Events Team: 08453 713399 or  
email: [bookings@adas.co.uk](mailto:bookings@adas.co.uk).**

### **Volunteering Opportunities with West Mercia Police**

West Mercia Police are currently seeking Police Support Volunteers.

**If you are interested in becoming a Police Support Volunteer please visit the website:  
[www.westmercia.police.uk/article/2417/Police-Support-Volunteers](http://www.westmercia.police.uk/article/2417/Police-Support-Volunteers)**

You will find information about the volunteering programme and how to apply.

### **Grants Available from Farming Connect**

If you have a Farm in Wales you may be eligible for a grant from Farming Connect.

**For more information please visit  
[www.businesswales.gov.wales/  
farmingconnect/training](http://www.businesswales.gov.wales/farmingconnect/training)**

The final application window this year will be  
1st – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

### **Special SmartWater Offer for West Mercia Residents**

West Mercia Police have negotiated a special Smartwater supply arrangement for all households within the Force area.

#### **How SmartWater Works:**

- Assigns your valuables with their own unique forensic code, allowing them to be traced back to you
- Makes your home less of a target for thieves
- Can be used on anything from electronic equipment to jewellery
- Easy to apply, only visible under UV light - does not leave unattractive marks or stains
- Proven to work - widely used by the police and feared by criminals
- Gives added peace of mind
- Supplied with signage to warn thieves that your home is protected
- When deployed by police, SmartWater has helped reduce burglary by up to 85%.

**For more information and to purchase your pack,  
please visit:  
[www.smartwater.com/shop](http://www.smartwater.com/shop)  
or call: 0800 521 669**

**You will need to enter the discount code  
WDBCRIME25 and you will be asked to register  
your name and address. You can pay by credit  
card, or post an order with a cheque.**

### **Neighbourhood Watch Update from West Mercia Police - Is someone watching?**

PIN theft is increasing. When entering your PIN number in shops and at cash machines, use your hand and body to shield the number from prying eyes.

Never leave your purse or bag unattended or loose in your shopping trolley and never set them aside while placing shopping in your car.

## Nuffield Farming Scholarships

Nuffield Farming Scholarships award around 20 individuals each year with the opportunity to research topics of interest in farming, food, horticulture or rural sectors. Scholars are able to travel anywhere in the world, visiting one or more countries in order to further knowledge and understanding, with a view to advancing their respective industries.

Nuffield Scholarships provide an opportunity to:

- Unlock individual potential and broaden horizons through study and overseas travel
- Stand back from the day-to-day routine and study a subject of personal interest
- Have access to the world's leaders in food and farming
- Deliver benefits to agricultural and related industries through knowledge transfer.

Anyone between 25 and 45 years old who is engaged in farming, farm management and land management or involved with forestry and the food industry, can apply for a Nuffield Farming Scholarship. An academic qualification is not a necessity.

**Are you interested in becoming a Nuffield Farming Scholar? For further information please visit the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust website [www.nuffieldscholar.org](http://www.nuffieldscholar.org)**

**Closing date for applications is the 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016**

## Marches Growth Hub Business Support in Shropshire

The Marches Growth Hub offers a single point of access to information and guidance on business support available to enterprises across the region, regardless of sector or size of development.

Developed by The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (MLEP), the virtual hub is a business-friendly website, where start-ups, SMEs and large employers can search for products and services and be signposted to advice and support.

Alongside the website, the Marches Growth Hub, Shropshire, located at Battlefield Enterprise Park, Shrewsbury, and the Marches Growth Hub Telford & Wrekin, located at the Telford Innovation Campus of the University of Wolverhampton, offer face to face support services for businesses in Shropshire.

**For further information, please visit [www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk](http://www.marchesgrowthhub.co.uk)**

## Advice and Help

If you are unsure about details of any rules or regulations or want help with understanding record keeping, please remember that advice and help is available from the **Green Futures Team: Farming Advice Service, Natural England, CLA, NFU & the Environment Agency.**

Getting advice and assistance from those that know the details of the rules will help ensure your business stays compliant. You may be cautious about asking for help from a regulatory body such as the Environment Agency, but they are always willing to advise and help you.

### Useful Contacts for Advice, Help & Support

- Farming Advice Service - 0845 345 1302 / [advice@farmingadvice.service.org.uk](mailto:advice@farmingadvice.service.org.uk)
- Natural England - 0300 060 1115 / [enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalengland.org.uk)
- Environment Agency - 02030 251692 / [sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.chisholm@environment-agency.gov.uk)
- NFU 01952 400500 / [jonathan.evans@nfu.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.evans@nfu.org.uk)
- CLA - 01785 337010 / [richard.goodwin@CLA.org.uk](mailto:richard.goodwin@CLA.org.uk)
- Animal Health & Trading Standards (Shropshire) - [tim.brooker@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.brooker@shropshire.gov.uk)

## Do you need support or do you know someone who may benefit from support?

### Shropshire Rural Support

Shropshire Rural Support (SRS) is a registered charity offering support to people experiencing problems arising from a rural way of life.

SRS help people with various issues including isolation, family breakdown and spiraling debt.

**For further information, help and advice please call 0300 123 2825**

**Also on Facebook and Twitter @ShropshireRS**

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**The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution**  
RABI is a grant-making charity which helps farming people of all ages if they are in financial difficulty.

Support is confidential & includes one-off or regular payments, funding for things like essential household items, disability equipment, relief farm staff, home-help and care costs.

**Helpline 0808 281 9490**  
**Visit the website - [www.rabi.org.uk](http://www.rabi.org.uk)**

## Useful Websites

### Workplace Pensions / Auto Enrolment

Businesses employing less than 30 staff will be required to offer a work place pension under the auto enrolment scheme. Starting dates will be advised by the Government. Details about your start date can be found by visiting [www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/staging-date.aspx](http://www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk/employers/staging-date.aspx). Further information is available from the Government Website: [www.gov.uk/workplace-pensions-employers](http://www.gov.uk/workplace-pensions-employers).

### National Minimum Wage Rates

[www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates](http://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates)

### Countryside Stewardship Mid & Higher Tier

Manuals, Application Forms and Supporting Guidance

[www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management)

### Countryside Stewardship for Woodlands

[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/beeH-9t6ff5](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/beeH-9t6ff5)

### Registering Your Waste Exemptions Online

[www.gov.uk/register-your-waste-exemption-online](http://www.gov.uk/register-your-waste-exemption-online)

### NVZ Guidance

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/nitrate-vulnerable-zones-in-england-guidance-on-complying-with-the-rules-for-2013-to-2016](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nitrate-vulnerable-zones-in-england-guidance-on-complying-with-the-rules-for-2013-to-2016)

### Cross Compliance 2016

[www.gov.uk/guidance/guide-to-cross-compliance-in-england-2016](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/guide-to-cross-compliance-in-england-2016)

Farmers and landowners must follow these cross compliance rules if they claim for the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), a Stewardship Scheme or the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS) in 2016.

### Greening Guidance for 2016

[www.gov.uk/guidance/the-basic-payment-scheme-bps-rules-for-2016](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-basic-payment-scheme-bps-rules-for-2016)

### EIA (Agriculture) regulations: apply to make changes to rural land

How to request an Environmental Impact Assessment screening decision and if necessary, apply for consent to cultivate previously uncultivated land or semi-natural areas, or restructure land features. [www.gov.uk/guidance/eia-agriculture-regulations-apply-to-make-changes-to-rural-land](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/eia-agriculture-regulations-apply-to-make-changes-to-rural-land)

### Farming Inspections

Information about who will inspect your farm, what they're looking for and any penalties you may get.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-inspections](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-inspections)

### Magic Maps

[magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx](http://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx)

#### **Disclaimer**

*The Shropshire 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.*

