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Cirencester Office
01285 648107

Lechlade Office
01367 252541

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JULY 2025

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE

NEW PLACEMENT

On 7th July, we said goodbye to Jamie Lucas-Rowe following a successful 51 week placement with the Agricultural and Commercial Team. Jamie returns to Harper Adams University for his final year in September. Throughout his time with the firm, Jamie has provided excellent support to Richard, as well as getting involved in a wide range of rural issues. We wish him all the best for his future studies.

Sholto Lloyd now takes on the placement baton, with immediate effect. Sholto is our second student from Harper and has completed two years of a Rural Enterprise and Land Management course, with a year with MAI, before returning for his final year in September 2026. Sholto has strong links with the countryside, having grown up in the east of England before spending a year out with the East Devon Hunt and also working on a remote farm in Australia.

DELINKED PAYMENTS

Clients are reminded that Delinked Payments are due to be paid from 1st August. Following progressive reductions since 2021, the maximum sum available will be £7,200. This is based on a 76% reduction applied to the first £30,000 of payment in 2025.

The spending review on 16th June confirmed further significant reductions to the budget, meaning that the maximum claims available in 2026 and 2027 will be 2% of £30,000 or £600. It rather feels that it would have been more cost effective simply to pay the remaining budget out now to save another two years of administration! For further assistance in planning your alternative sources of funding over your holding, contact a member of the Agriculture Team.

CAPITAL GRANTS 2025

Capital Grants 2025 reopened earlier this month to new applications which will provide £150 million in funding for farmers/landowners.

Capital Grants is a scheme for farming businesses providing funding for capital items such as tree/hedge planting and fencing. The grant aims to cover part, and in some circumstances, all of the cost of the items applied for.

The scheme has funding limits imposed to ensure that funding is allocated evenly. The funding is limited as follows:

- £25,000 for each of the following groups: water quality, air quality and natural flood management
- £35,000 for the group covering boundaries, trees and orchards.

Please do get in contact with the Agricultural Team if you wish to discuss an application further.

Editor's note: This article was drafted on 14th July. An unsubstantiated rumour has been circulating about an early closure of the scheme. We trust that by the time you receive this, the scheme remains open. Please do get in contact with the team if you wish to discuss an application further.

HEDGEROW CUTTING EXEMPTIONS

With harvest already underway and an early finish expected, Clients are reminded about the exemptions available for the early cutting of hedgerows when sowing oil seed rape or temporary grass. From 1st August, the exemption allows you to cut the infield side of the hedge only – and the top of the hedge, if it is not possible to cut it from an adjoining field or road. Only the length of hedgerow next to where you will sow the OSR or grass may be cut. You are required to check the whole hedgerow for birds, nests or eggs and if you find any, you cannot cut that section of hedge.

RPA require prior notification if using this exemption. You are required to write or email and include the details of the crop to be sown, the land parcel numbers affected and use the subject heading "Hedgerow Management Cutting and Trimming Rules Notification".

Anyone seeking to use this exemption is encouraged to keep appropriate records, such as dates of cutting and photographs. These do not need to be submitted to RPA but should be kept as evidence for future reference. For further assistance, contact a member of the Agriculture Team.

WASTE EXEMPTION CHARGES

From 1st July 2025, the Government has introduced waste exemption charges for all new and renewing registrations, to cover the Environment Agency costs for registering and enforcing exemption conditions.

A registration charge of £56 applies to all registrations other than those registered as a charity or for charitable purposes only.

Further charges are applicable to each waste exemption. There are a number of discounts and exemptions available, including a farmer's exemption.

For non-farming exemptions, a discount is applied if you apply for more than one exemption in Bands Upper, 1 and 2. The full charge will be applicable for the highest exemption then a discounted charge will be applied for every additional exemption in these bands. There are no discounts for exemptions in Band 3.

The payment bands are as follows:

Band	Full Charges:	Discounted Charges:
Upper Band (applies to only T8, T9 & U16 exemptions)	£1,236	£227
Band 1	£420	£76
Band 2	£212	£76
Band 3	£30	No discount

A full list of exemptions and their corresponding bands can be found in Annex A of the Waste Exemption Charges Guidance note on the Gov.uk website. (<http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/waste-exemptions-how-to-choose-register-and-pay/waste-exemption-charges>).

The farmers' exemption applies to the most common agricultural waste exemptions. A capped charge of £88 for all exemptions that fall within the farming exemption list (see table below) is applicable, plus the £56 registration charge. If the total sum of your application is less than £88 then the lower of the amounts will be payable.

Farming Exemptions:			
U1	Using waste in construction	U4	Burning waste as fuel in a small appliance
U8	Using waste for a specific purpose	U10	Spreading waste to benefit agricultural land
U12	Using mulch	U13	Spreading plant matter
U14	Mixing ash back into soil	U15	Mixing pig and poultry ash with manure
D1	Depositing waste from dredging inland waters	D3	Depositing waste from a portable toilet
D4	Depositing diseased crops under a plant health notice	D6	Incinerating waste produced on site
D7	Burning plant and untreated wood waste at place of production	T1	Treating certain waste to reuse or recycle
T23	Aerobic composting	T29	Carbon filtering non-hazardous pesticide washings
T32	Treating waste in a biobed or biofilter		

NEW TO THE MARKET
LAND AND BUILDINGS AT MANOR FARM,
PORTWAY, UPTON ST. LEONARDS



A useful range of farm buildings including an impressive Tithe Barn and accompanying pastures.

- Traditional Tithe Barn, Listed Grade II*, with potential
- Range of both traditional and modern farm buildings
- Pastureland bounded by hedgerows.

In all about 46.65 acres (18.88 hectares)

For sale by private treaty as a whole or in up to three lots with a total
Guide Price of £700,000.

Please contact Tia Bolter on 01285 648115 for further information, or to arrange a viewing.



Our Agricultural Team: Stuart Milsom, Jack Ayres-Sumner, Amy McDonald, Richard Dell, Lucy Kernon, Elliot Hutt, Emily Shorter, Tia Bolter, Emily Kirby, Mark Hill, Peter Kirby, Sholto Lloyd, Kellie Gilbride, Lauren Horton & Kirstie Tate.

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