

AGRICULTURAL UPDATE

JANUARY 2024



CHANGES TO SFI & CS REVENUE PAYMENT RATES

With effect from 1st January 2024, there have been updates made to the payment rates for both the Sustainable Farming Incentive and the Countryside Stewardship Schemes.

The updated revenue rates introduced will affect all new and existing Mid-Tier and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship agreements. There will be an average of a 10% increase in revenue rates. This is, however, dependent on the agreement options.

There has also been an increase in payment rates for Capital items. These will increase by an average of 48%. This will only apply to new Countryside Stewardship agreements.

This summer DEFRA is due to announce 50 new actions as part of to the SFI schemes. The RPA is proposing to combine the application process for CS and SFI into a single application.

Below is a brief summary of some of the updated payment rates for CS/SFI agreements:

- Maintaining Species Rich Grassland is rising from £182.00 to £646.00 per hectare
- Nectar Flower Mix is rising from £614.00 to £739.00 per hectare
- Flower Rich Margins and Plots is rising from £673.00 to £798.00 per hectare
- Winter Bird Food is rising from £732.00 to £853.00 per hectare
- Hay Making Supplement is rising from £37.00 to £157.00 per hectare

BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN (BNG)

It has been confirmed by DEFRA that Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for development will be live from 12th February 2024.

The 10% BNG requirement for large developments was originally planned to be live from November 2023. However, this was pushed back and will now be mandatory from next month for planning applications made on or following 12th February.

Residential developments with 10 or more dwellings, or where the site area is greater than 0.5 hectare, will require a 10% BNG uplift on the baseline ecology prior to development.

BNG for Small Sites has also been pushed back and will be mandatory from 2nd April 2024. A Small Site is to include:

- Residential developments with between 1 and 9 dwellings.
- Residential developments of a site area of less than 0.5 hectare.
- Commercial developments with the floor space created that is less than 1,000 square metres.

• Commercial Developments of a site area of less than 1 hectare.

Developers looking to develop new housing, industrial or commercial units will be required by law (Environment Act 2021) to deliver a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain to deliver a net positive gain for the local environment. These are usually on the development site, but if this cannot be achieved, other landholdings in the area may be suitable.

Developers and brokers will now be actively looking for sites on which to place their BNG credits. If you are approached, we recommend taking professional advice at an early stage. Whilst the headline returns appear initially attractive, with 30 year plus agreements required, strategic planning is required to ensure that the proposals meet with your long term aims.

Please do get in touch with the Agricultural Team if you wish to discuss BNG requirements further.

DELINKED PAYMENTS & REFERENCE PERIOD UPDATE

All those that applied for BPS in one of the scheme years 2020, 2021 or 2022 should have recently received a Delinked Statement from RPA. If you have not received one yet, please contact RPA as soon as possible.

The RPA has confirmed that the reference amount calculated using the BPS payments made in 2020, 2021 and 2022 form the basis of the reference period going forward for the scheme years 2024-2027. Further details on the transfer of the reference period will be made in February, when individual calculations will be circulated, based on the information contained within the previously circulated Delinked Statement.

The ability to transfer the reference period will be of particular interest to those that have bought or sold land, taken on or given up tenanted land, or simply wish to trade their available reference amount. RPA has confirmed that it will not become involved in contractual disputes over the reference period, merely providing the information for the parties to agree between themselves or follow the process already agreed.

Checking your reference data will be important as this will form the basis of future payments. If you require assistance with any aspect of this, please contact a member of the Agricultural Team on 01285 648107.

MOORE ALLEN & INNOCENT

KEY DATES FOR 2024

Thursday, 7th March

Client Breakfast Briefing, Fairford

Wednesday, 10th April

Southrop Collective Machinery Sale

Wednesday, 1st May

Great Somerford Spring Collective Machinery Sale

Wednesday, 19th June

Farm Walk at Southrop

Wednesday, 26th June

Great Somerford Summer Collective Machinery Sale

Saturday, 28th September

FFF&B Ploughing Match, Langford

Date to be Confirmed

Great Somerford Autumn Collective Machinery Sale

We are taking enquiries for machinery dispersal sales alongside the dates set out above. If you are considering a sale of all or part of your equipment, please contact Stuart Milsom, Jack Ayres-Sumner or Peter Kirby on 01285 648107.

CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2023 ROUND-UP

We were delighted to present TIC+ with a cheque for £14,232.90.

Partner, Roy Bowyer commented “2023 has been a difficult year for everyone and raising money for charities during the economic downturn has had its challenges. However, the generosity of our many friends, staff and clients has afforded us the opportunity to give a splendid contribution to this very worthwhile cause. TIC+ have been a superb charity to support and we wish them all the very best for the future”.



Carolyn Roulstone, Head of Fundraising & Communications at TIC+ said, “We are totally blown away by the amazing effort of the Moore Allen & Innocent team in supporting TIC+ as their charity of the year. Not only did they walk the length of the Thames Path, no small undertaking at nearly 186 miles, but they also smashed their target through sponsorship and other events, raising a grand total of £14,232.90. We feel so privileged to have had their support and grateful to them and all who gave, and gave, and gave again! Last year TIC+ helped more than 4,200 young people and parents in Gloucestershire who turned to us for help. Without support like this, we couldn’t do what we do and it’s brilliant that the money raised here in Gloucestershire, stays in Gloucestershire”.

Thank you once again to all those that supported us throughout this year, it is greatly appreciated.



2024

We are delighted to announce our Charity of the Year for 2024 is The Nelson Trust.

The Nelson Trust has been working successfully for over 38 years with vulnerable people who have multiple and complex needs including addiction, trauma & offending. Their vision is for there to be a world where both the causes and consequences of multiple disadvantages are understood, effectively tackled and ultimately eliminated. They place equal importance on helping people recover from their addiction as well as helping them rebuild a positive and independent life in order to sustain their abstinence once they have left their care.



THE NELSON TRUST

The Nelson Trust work alongside each client to develop personalised programmes of therapy, workshops, courses and 1-2-1 support. They provide Residential Rehabilitation, Hub Enterprises (offering therapeutic ways to facilitate each person's recover journey) and Women's Centres in Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Bristol and Wales. They also offer real world volunteering opportunities, training in life skills and education to help people get back on their feet and return to the workplace.

We will be once undertaking various fundraising events throughout the year, including our very popular cake stall at our machinery sales.

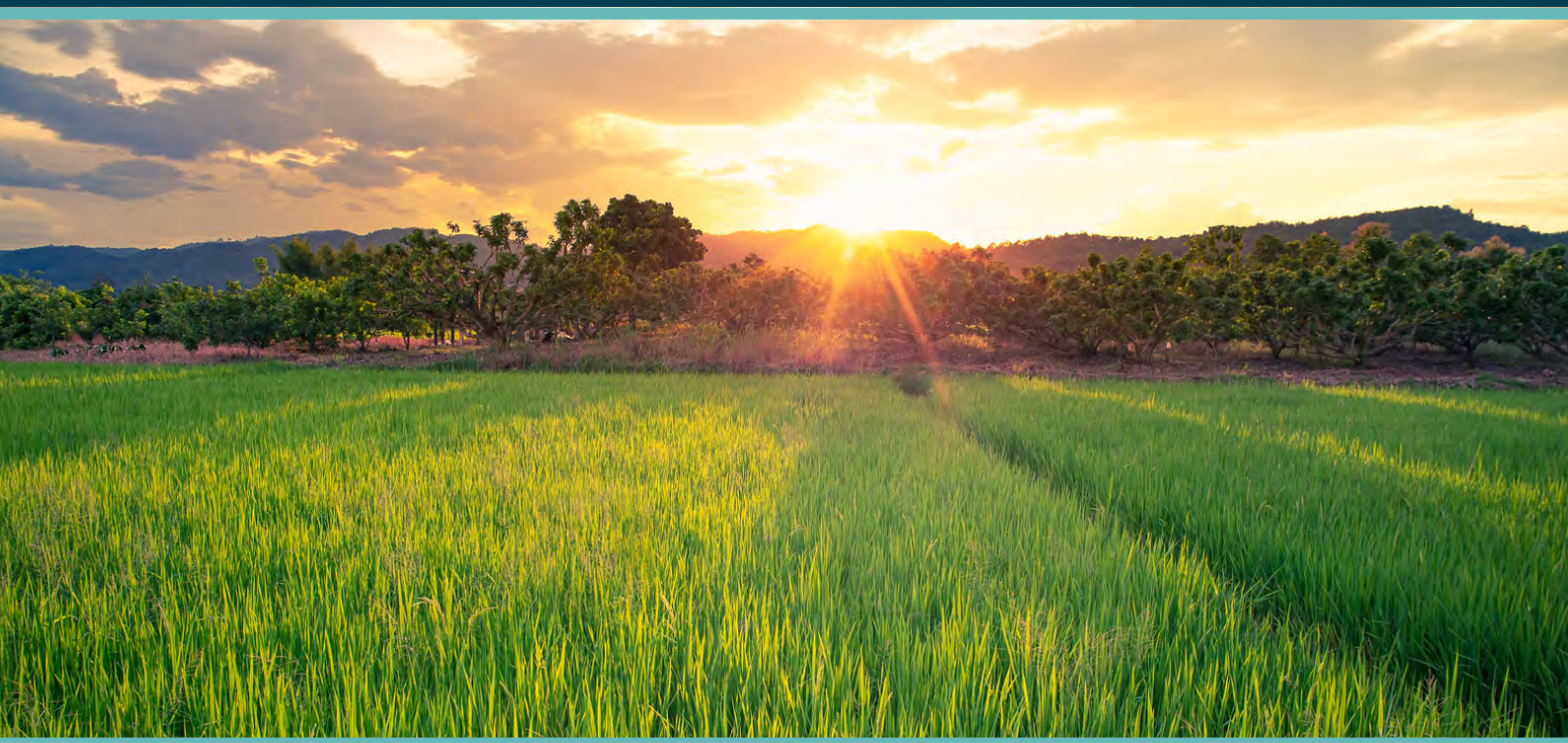
MOORE ALLEN & INNOCENT

Here for the past present and future

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