

Hale Village Monitor Farm

Meeting title: How to get an extra £30K

Date: 12 December 2019

Speakers: Nigel Baskerville, Chris Seabridge & Associates Ltd and Mary Miller, Rural Futures



Environmental schemes, where do they fit?

- What are the main priorities of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme?
 - Wildlife and nature – restoring habitats, providing food and nesting places, creating areas for rare flowering plants and managing hedges
 - Pollinators – ensuring the right resources for wild pollinators where they are needed most.
 - Water/flooding – making water cleaner and reduce risk of flooding by encouraging changes to farming practice and improving farm infrastructure
 - Woodland – funding the creation of new woodland and supporting the management of existing woodland
- Which scheme is right?

	Mid Tier	Wildlife Offers: Arable Mixed Farming Lowland Grazing Upland	Hedgerows and Boundaries
Funding Type	Competitive	Non-competitive	Competitive
Scheme Overview	Wide range of agreement types, including capital options to suit a wide range of environment types	Range of agreement options. Not suitable for land with scheduled monument or SSSI	Farmer or land manager wants to restore existing farm boundaries, and to bring environmental and landscape benefits to the land
Duration	5 years Water capital grants 2 years	5 years	2 years

- You can use the CS grant finder tool <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants>
- Or the MAGIC website <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/> to look at geographical information about the natural environment

- What is a popular option for CSS?
 - AB9 Winter bird food – £640/ha
 - AB12 Supplementary bird food – £632/ tonne
 - AB1 Nectar flower mix – £511/ha
 - AB8 Flower rich margins – £539/ha
 - AB15 Two year ryegrass/ legume fallow – £522/ha
 - GS4 Herb and legume rich swards – £309/ha

Take-home messages

Three things to help you develop the best application for your farm

- Focus on quality not quantity
- Pick options to tackle the targeted priorities in your area
- Options that deliver multiple objectives, such as for water and biodiversity, will score more highly

Do you diversify?

- What are the options?
 - Contracting
 - Off-farm employment
 - Tourism accommodation / tourist attraction
 - Office / storage space
 - Add value – on farm processing
 - Renewables
- Planning summary:
 - Huge Local Authority variation in attitude and speed of delivery
 - Planning Policy now critical
 - Don't assume PD is the 'easy option'
 - Don't underestimate time and costs
- RDPE summary:
 - Negatives**
 - Time consuming and can be costly
 - Larger capital projects better than smaller
 - Inflexible process

Positives

- Business Plan process can clarify ideas
- Good support from LAG
- Grant not loan
- Post Brexit Funding Regime

Take-home messages

- Consider your options
- Lots of opportunities but what fits best for you?
- Planning and funding – don't underestimate timing and cost
- Take ownership

Further information

- [Preparing for change: the characteristics of top performing farms](#)
- [Farmbench](#)
- [Risk matrix](#)
- [Setting business objectives](#)
- [Diversifying farming businesses – Gov.uk](#)

AHDB resources

- Understand your business costs with AHDB's benchmarking tool Farmbench at ahdb.org.uk/farmbench
- Monitoring tools are available at ahdb.org.uk/tools
- Sign up to market information and research newsletters at ahdb.org.uk/keeping-in-touch
- Find out what's going on at other Monitor Farms and Strategic Farms at ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence
- All AHDB events can be found at ahdb.org.uk/events
- For guidance on how Brexit will impact your business, see ahdb.org.uk/brexit

Next Meeting

IPM with Joe Martin and John Pawsey – 10:30 – 14:30 on Thursday 16th January 2020 meet at Manor Farm, Within Way, Hale Village, L24 4BZ. [Click here to book.](#)

Contact details

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