



Halls Professional News Updates – Environmental Schemes

Environmental Schemes

Clarity over the spending review shows a planned increase in HLS spending from £84m in 2010 to £118 million in 2011. We encourage landowners and farmers to consider schemes. In many cases the available schemes can provide another welcome income stream to provide certainty amongst volatile livestock and cereal prices. ELS generates £12 per acre, Uplands ELS £24 per acre and HLS can provide much higher rates. In one case an HLS enhanced income by £7200 per annum with no management changes on a 400 acre farm. ELS is suitable for all except the most intensive holdings.

We have advised numerous farmers recently often providing vastly improved potential incomes for relatively minimal effort. In particular we recommend anyone in severely disadvantaged areas should pursue a scheme. Under the campaign for the Farmed Environment, if sufficient land is entered into schemes, it should help avoid a replacement for setaside.

CAP Review

The current Single Payment System, established in 2005 was originally intended to operate until 2012. Review consideration taking place currently, is running behind schedule. The current system may continue until around 2014, being beneficial due to the attractive income stream particularly to recent buyers of entitlements. Halls are monitoring Review discussions and will update claimants accordingly when decisions have been taken.

Due to the anticipated changes Farm Tenancies need to be checked to ensure entitlements and successor benefits are available to the landowner or future tenant. Ensure action is taken now to prevent a costly problem.

Welsh Single Payment & Environmental Schemes

Welsh Assembly Government have decided an individual piece of land cannot have one party claiming Single Payment and another claiming Environmental Schemes. As the change is due to interpretation of EU Regulation don't be surprised if the RPA takes the same view. Farmers in particular who rent land in or out should consider this when discussing an Environmental Scheme or reviewing a tenancy.

For advice and guidance on any of the areas contact your [nearest Halls Branch](#).