



CAP Reform Key points looking forward to 2015

- Consider buying and/or selling **entitlements** during summer 2014 in order to align entitlements held to **eligible** area – deadline of 19th October
- Keep abreast of 'dual use' developments as the **outcome** may have significant **ramifications** for some businesses
- Autumn 2014 **drilling** needs to take into account the Basic Payment Scheme greening requirements; specifically Crop **Diversity** and Ecological Focus Areas
- The way in which grass fields are recorded in 2015 will **influence** the number of crops and **area** of EFA individual farms will need to deliver.
- Entry to all agri environment schemes from 2015 onwards will be **competitive**
- Farms with agri environment agreement schemes **expiring** in 2014, 2015 or 2016 will need to consider making an **application** to a new scheme in 2015 to avoid waiting until **2017** for a new agreement.
- Degressivity will only impact on businesses with **gross** Basic Payment Scheme claims in excess of **€218k**
- Assuming a **payment** rate of approximately £200/ha degressivity will result in a £7/ha reduction to farms that exceed 900ha. The **reduction** will only apply to the area in excess of 900ha. Therefore a 1000ha farm would see a reduction of **approximately** £700.

CLM RECRUITMENT

We are seeking new members to join our dynamic team to help manage and contribute to the continued growth of CLM.

Rural Surveyor - This position will suit an ambitious, self motivated and enthusiastic individual looking to establish themselves within an equally ambitious and growing business. The ideal candidate would have at least 3 years post qualification experience in rural estate management.

For further details of either post please contact Anthony Weston on 01892 771932 or anthony@c-l-m.co.uk



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Environmental Stewardship – would your farm pass inspection?

With the RPA taking an increasingly **tough** stance the answer could be no! Agri environment scheme income accounts for approximately 10% of an average farm's net **profit** in England (FBS 2011/12), not a figure to be sniffed at.

In recent months we have completed **mock** RPA **inspections** of two mixed farms both in Higher Level Stewardship. Neither **farm** would have made it through an RPA inspection **unscathed**. The key **issue** on both farms was the location and implementation of **arable** management options such as pollen and nectar mix, wild bird seed **mix** and six metre grass **margins**. If we are all honest once we have **sown** our options down in the first

year of a stewardship agreement we tend **not** to get the agreement maps and paperwork back out of the **filing** cabinet. Therefore if you have not got things right in year one you have not got much of a chance in **latter** years.

Particularly after your tractor driver has "**tidied** up" the edge of your margin or plot with the plough repeatedly **shrinking** your option areas which the game keeper gaily uses as his personal **motorway** on his feeding round!

If you value your stewardship scheme income and want to avoid the **risk** of penalties. It may be worth having a fresh set of friendly eyes **assess** your scheme on the ground and pointing out where things aren't quite how they should be. Reclaims for **management** options not **delivered** are generally fair enough but the associated penalties can far exceed these.



CLM Celebrates 10 year anniversary!

