

Business Update - Countryside Stewardship Scheme – The clock is ticking!



Information correct as at 2:00pm on 22.05.2020

- As BPS progressively reduces environmental schemes will be main support mechanism
- The application deadline for agreements starting on 1st January 2021 is 31st July 2020
- Numerous areas are covered by the schemes

The application deadline for mid-tier and wildlife CSS applications for agreements that will start on the 1st January 2021 is 31st July.

With the value of BPS payments starting their 8 year decline to zero next year (2021 payments), it may be worth looking at CSS as a way of plugging this gap and getting into the “environmental frame of mind” which is where future support will come from.

Information for this can be found in the manual via the following link:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/866957/Countryside_Stewardship_Mid_Tier_2020_v1.0.pdf

There are numerous firms who can help to put applications together and ensure that you maximise the potential of your farm. Kite Consulting do not offer this directly but are very happy to recommend good suppliers where needed.

The first deadline is coming up fast on the 31st May, as shown in the timetable below:

CSS Timetable

Date	
11 February	CS application period opens for agreements that will start on 1 January 2021
31 May (midnight)	Last date to request a CS Mid Tier paper application pack by email or phone
31 May	Last date to request a visit for our endorsement or for Catchment Sensitive Farming officer approval, if you are considering applying for grants for management of priority habitat or priority water catchments
30 June (midnight)	Last date to request application pack online (for the Wildlife Offers you do not need to request an application pack to apply online).
31 July	Last date to submit online application for the Wildlife Offers with required supporting information
31 July	Application period closes Valid application and any required supporting information returned to us
by 31 December	Agreement offer and declaration sent to customer for agreements that will start on 1 January 2021
1 January 2021	Start date for CS Mid Tier 2021 agreements applied for in 2020

Example of a CSS application

Scenario 2 – Capital and Mid-Tier Dairy farm, capital & revenue

A 660 acre dairy farm growing cereals and maize with owned and FBT land, Mid Tier application across holding under BPS claim (dual use is permitted on rented land with landlord signature).

Intensive management, some flood plain land suitable for low input options, small unproductive fields suitable for arable options. Two yards, both with traditional farm buildings. Management targets – improved track infrastructure, buffer arable along watercourses draining to SSSI mere, support farmland birds, maximise secure income.

Capital options:

RP4 Livestock & Machinery Tracks – 625m @ £33/m	£20,625
TE10 Bankside coppicing – 97 trees @ £52/tree	£5,044
BN6 / BN7 / FG1 Hedgerow coppicing, gapping up & fencing 430m	£5,245
Other items inc. pond management & wildlife boxes	£3,565

Total capital value = £34,479

Main annual options:

Arable options inc. AB8 flower-rich plot, AB9 winter bird food, AB5 lapwing plot	£3,677
Buffer strips and other water protection strips	£1,323
Traditional farm building maintenance	£2,308
Low input grass, scrub management, woodland edges, field corner	£1,801

Annual revenue value = £9,109

Total revenue value = £45,545

Source of case study: ELM Associates

For further discussion or to help with any questions that you may have, please contact Consultant Support on consultantsupport@kiteconsulting.com or 01902 851007 / 07542 403225