

FARMERS FIRST

Issue 62 | Winter 2021



PAGE 6

**A CLOSER LOOK
AT CROP INPUTS**



PAGE 9

**DIVERSIFICATION VISITS
FOR NEXTGEN GROUP**



PAGE 9

**SUFFOLK FARMING
CONFERENCE 2022**

A Challenging Time for the Pig Sector. Pages 18-19



**All the expertise and
advice you need**

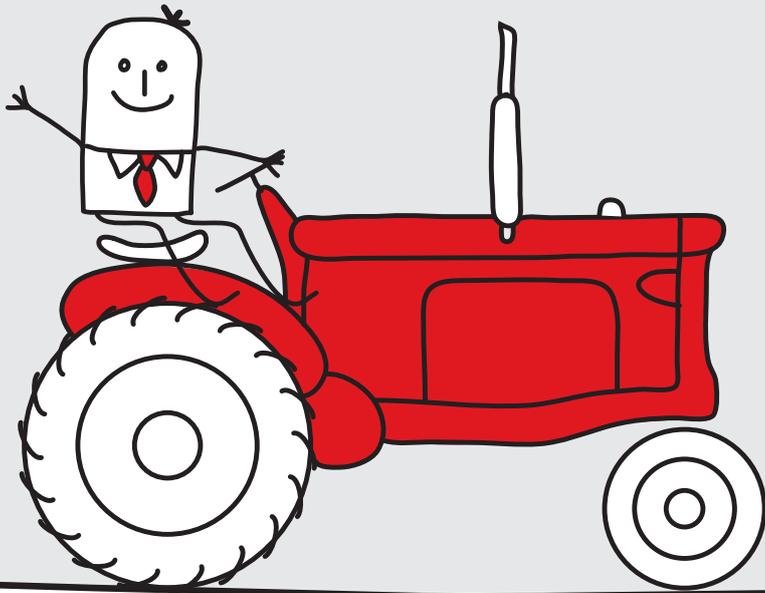
Our expert agricultural team can guide you through investment, diversification, succession, tax planning and more.

 **Larking Gowen**

larking-gowen.co.uk

Committed to you

Speak to the Agricultural Accounting Specialists...



"We changed to Ensors having been with another firm for many, many years. They came highly recommended and we have not been disappointed. They provide quick responses to any questions we have and accounts are completed on time."

*Anthony Hyde Parker –
L.E. Hyde Parker & Son*

Our specialist agriculture team has unrivalled experience in dealing with the needs of farming and rural businesses of all types and sizes. We pride ourselves on a personalised approach, getting to know our clients and, hopefully, becoming not just accountants, but trusted family advisors and mentors.

Come and talk to us!

As auditors to Fram Farmers we are happy to provide members with a free one hour meeting.



Graham Page

PARTNER

01284 722300
graham.page@ensors.co.uk



Neil Meekings

PARTNER

01284 722300
neil.meekings@ensors.co.uk



Carl Page

PARTNER

01728 440565
carl.page@ensors.co.uk



Danny Clifford

CAPITAL TAXES & TRUSTS PARTNER

01473 220083
danny.clifford@ensors.co.uk



Ensors Chartered Accountants
Making you more than just a number

www.ensors.co.uk/agriculture | EnsorsAgri

BURY ST. EDMUNDS SAXMUNDHAM IPSWICH CAMBRIDGE HUNTINGDON

ANOTHER CHALLENGING YEAR FOR FARMING REMINDS US THAT COOPERATION IS KEY

As another year draws to a close, a festive break will be valued more than ever. It has been another challenging year for many reasons, one being the ever-increasing input costs from feed to fuel and fertiliser.

This Autumn has, at least, brought better drilling conditions for the arable sector than in 2020. The pig sector has not been so fortunate, enduring a devastating period of supply chain issues due to labour shortages, as well as increased feed costs. On page 15, we explore this on a more personal level, speaking to a number of members in the Fram Pig Group.

In this issue, Matthew Cobbald in the Fram Crops Team shares his views on the crop inputs market on page 7. We also provide an insight into the Sussex Agronomy Group, for our members in the South (page 17). Elsewhere, we've spoken to a few members across the country to discover what advantages membership brings to them and their

“Despite the remaining Covid uncertainties, we are positive that events and members open days will go ahead next year.”

businesses (see pages 18 and 19).

Defra has recently launched two new grants, and Dan Cox in the Business Services team has kindly summarised the details for members on page 22.

We also bring you a few news updates on pages 4 and 5, including recent events, staff changes and a full introduction to new board members Frans de Boer and Mark Wells. Page 11 provides an IT update, as we near the final stages of the members portal.

Despite the remaining Covid uncertainties, we are positive that events and members open days will go ahead next year. We're looking forward to a busy calendar, and are obviously delighted to the exhibiting at the Suffolk Show again. We have put together a pull-out calendar for your noticeboards, which you will find inside this magazine.

Speaking of events, we are pleased to bring you news of the Suffolk Farming Conference, which will be returning to Trinity Park on Thursday 3rd March (see page 9), and a full programme for the NextGen group in 2022 - see page 9 for a summary of the most recent NextGen meeting.

Once again, I would like to thank our



Andrew Knowles, Fram Farmers CEO

staff for working hard to continue to deliver good deals to members, and managing particularly difficult supply chains this year. Fram Farmers' supplier relationships have been extremely valuable in helping us to maintain reliable and timely supply of goods and services to members.

Given the current volatility, supply shortages, and continuous consolidation of suppliers, never before has collaboration, working together, and access to impartial specialist advice been more important to individual farming businesses.

We, as a cooperative, are recognising the need to be more proactive in how we communicate and support members in these volatile times, and will continue to do so in the coming months.

From everyone at Fram Farmers, we wish members a very Merry Christmas, and I keep my fingers crossed for good spring drilling conditions and a more stable inputs market in 2022.

CONTENTS:

News	4-5
Hydrated and Quick Lime	6
Suffolk Farming Conference 2022.....	9
NextGen Group	9
Grain Marketing Pools.....	11
IT Update.....	11
Electricity Prices for Members	13
Gas to Liquid Fuel	13
Pig Sector Insight	14-15
Sussex Agronomy Group.....	17
Low Carbon Agriculture Show	21
Grain Portal.....	21
New Grant Schemes Open.....	22

FRAM FARMERS
GREAT BRITISH FARMERS CO-OPERATING



Fram Farmers, Station Road, Framlingham,
Woodbridge, Suffolk IP13 9EE
Tel 01728 727700

Every precaution has been taken to ensure that the material published in Farmers First is accurate at the time of printing. For further details about anything featured in this edition please call Fram Farmers on 01728 727700, or Juliette Tompkins at Kendalls PR and Marketing on 01502 475110.

If you would like to opt out of receiving Farmers First, please email mail@framfarmers.co.uk



TREE PACKS AVAILABLE FROM SUFFOLK TREE WARDEN NETWORK

Earlier this year, The Woodland Trust, in partnership with the Suffolk Tree Warden Network and Suffolk County Council, are offering fully subsidized tree packs to landowners in Suffolk, as part of the national 'Queen's Green Canopy' project.

The packs, each containing fifty saplings of oak, hornbeam, wild cheery, crab apple, and either silver birch or white beam, are available at no cost, on a first come first served basis.

Up to two packs can be requested by each landowner, and they will be ready for collection in December. The offer has been available for some time, but there are still some packs available.

Members should visit the Suffolk Tree Warden Network website to apply: www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk/landowner-tree-pack-offer/

IAGSA AUTUMN WORKSHOP

Fram Farmers were delighted to host the Suffolk branch of the Institute of Agricultural Farm Secretaries and Administrators (IAGSA) Autumn Workshop and AGM on 10th November.

Twenty Institute Members and guests received an update and presentation from Fram Farmers CEO Andrew Knowles, a payroll update, and a presentation by Charles Baines of Agricultural Consultants Lawrence Gould on the 'Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them,' followed by

a discussion around the complexities of calculating holiday pay.

This was followed by a buffet lunch which enabled attendees to discuss all things relating to farm administration, and the Suffolk branch AGM was held after lunch.

FRAM FARMERS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Co-opted to the board from July, and due to be confirmed at the AGM in November, we are pleased to welcome two new members to the Fram Farmers board:

MARK WELLS

Originating from a family farming background in Wiltshire, Mark studied at Harper Adams University before managing a beef and sugar cane business in South Africa. Returning from overseas to take a position within Velcourt Ltd, managing several farming businesses in the Suffolk area, after 9 years Mark moved onto a very diverse business for the Gittus family in West Suffolk. He has remained there for the last 16 years, helping steer the business through many challenges and changes.



He became Managing Director of the business last year and oversees the various enterprises, including outdoor pig production, arable farming and contracting, an anaerobic digestion plant, and a business park. He is BASIS and FACTS qualified and completed the Worshipful Company of Farmers Advanced Business Management course in 2015.

FRANS DE BOER

Frans was born and bred into farming - after studying agriculture for at Brinsbury College of



Agriculture, Frans became a partner in the family business and has managed the business for the last 24 years. The dairy gave way to arable in 2004, with a diversification into crimped grain maize as a contracting service and for direct sale to dairy and beef farms. Further diversification in 2015 saw the development of a 500kw AD plant which has enabled the family business to expand. Frans currently farms 1075 acres of which 250 is owned, 400 is rented and 425 is on contract. The rotation is largely maize, wheat and hybrid rye. Frans has been a Fram Farmers member since the Lewes Farmers merger in 2005.

FARM BUSINESS INNOVATION SHOW

For the first time since the creation of the event, Fram Farmers exhibited at the hugely popular Farm Business Innovation Show at Birmingham NEC on 10th and 11th November. The event showcased a large number of farm diversifications, and provided attendees with ideas which could be developed on farm. The Fram Farmers stand was particularly busy with members and potential new members throughout the two-day event.



NEW RURAL ENTERPRISE MEMBERSHIP

Fram Farmers has recently launched a new membership category called Rural Enterprise Membership (REM), following a large number of requests from suppliers wishing to benefit from the purchasing strength for inputs such as fuel, electricity and building materials.

REM membership is for businesses based in a rural area, supporting the agricultural industry in some way. Please contact the membership team to make enquiries about this new offering, and to see if your business qualifies: 01728 727700 | membership@framfarmers.co.uk

NEW 0% INTEREST OFFER FROM OXBURY BANK

From January 2022 until May 2022, Oxbury Bank will offer a 0% finance deal on their input finance product Oxbury Farm Credit (OFC), for members who wish to fund their Fram invoices on the new account.

Oxbury Farm Credit is fully integrated with Fram's invoicing system; invoices are automatically uploaded onto the Oxbury online banking platform, and members can then choose to either pay using an approved credit limit or from a linked current account. With newly established winter crops across the East of England typically looking robust, and prices for Harvest 2022 remaining above historic averages, this product could solve the cash-gap.

Oxbury is offering this interest free for a period of three months from activation.

At the end of the period the rate reverts to the standard rate that is determined by farm size:

- 750 acres, 1.75% over Bank of England base rate
- 250 to 750 acres, 3.0% - 4.5% over Bank of England base rate
- Less than 250 acres, 4.5% - 5.5% over Bank of England base rate



To take advantage of this offer exclusive to Fram members, please speak to Nick Hindle, Fram Farmers Financial Controller, who can put members in touch with representatives at Oxbury Bank: 01728 727700 nick.hindle@framfarmers.co.uk

DOWNLOAD OUR MOBILE APP
APPLE IPHONE OR ANDROID

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS
 There will be a few changes to our usual opening hours during the Christmas period, so please ensure you place orders ahead of time to allow for this.

Mon 20th – Thurs 23rd December
Normal business hours

Friday 24th December
 Office closes at 12.30pm

Mon 27th – Tues 28th December
Office closed

Wednesday 29th December
9am-4pm

Thursday 30th December
9am-4pm

Friday 31st December
 Office closes at 12.30pm

Monday 3rd January
Office closed

Tuesday 4th January
 Return to normal business hours

STAFF UPDATES

Several new faces have joined the Fram Farmers team over the past few months.

In September, we welcomed David Wilson as Crops Specialist and Rowan Nessling as Framtrade Sales Assistant. Annie Buckingham is now on maternity leave, and after 20 years at Fram Farmers, we said goodbye to Julia Bryson, who will be sorely missed by staff and members.

In October, Ryan Wadey joined the Business Services team as Utilities Specialist, and Katia Cardin as Business Services Administrator. After 5 years at Fram, James Gentry left the team to take up a new opportunity as Logistics Manager with Howarth Winterbrook.

Lynne McManus has changed roles to Project Administrator, joining the IT team, and Adam Tobin joined as GFI Administrator in November. We also welcomed Carol Watson to the Crops team as Crop Protection Administrator, and Grace Hayward joined the Marketing team as Marketing Assistant. Kate Sharman has also left the team to take on a new challenge as Systems Risk Manager with BT Openreach and Charmaine Emmerson has made the decision to not return from her maternity leave.

WHAT'S BEHIND THE PRICE RISE OF HYDRATED AND QUICK LIME PRODUCTS?

The rise in price of hydrated and quick lime products reflects a perfect storm of rising fuel costs, CO₂ emission taxation, and transport and packaging costs. With livestock producers currently looking to purchase lime, we speak to Claire Hutchinson, Director at Nadins, suppliers of cubicle lime for use in cow cubicles, poultry and stock sheds, about how their supply to customers has remained stable in this volatile market.

"Firstly, gas prices have risen fivefold since the start of the year," explains Claire. "Gas is essential to lime production; alternative fuels affect the quality of the lime, so there is no getting around it. Increased production costs are usually passed to the customer by way of an energy surcharge on the price of lime purchased. How long this surcharge will remain is not known, as it is dependent on the gas price, which could rise higher still."

"CO₂ emissions are the second issue," Claire continues. "For each tonne of lime produced, one tonne of CO₂ is emitted into the atmosphere, for which lime

companies must pay a fee per tonne. This has risen sharply since May, with a big jump in September/October from £50 per tonne to £75.

"Thirdly, transport costs have increased 10-15% in 2021 due to rising fuel costs and driver shortages, along with packaging costs for both pallets and bags."

Cheshire based Nadins, who have supplied Fram Farmers members with lime since 2013, have been able to weather the storm. By utilising products from the lime production process which would



otherwise be wasted, the company is able to keep pricing stable with no risk to the quality and supply of material.

Nadins Hydramix is available from the Fram Farmers Livestock team:
01728 727716
livestock@framfarmers.co.uk

muddy boots

by **TELUS**
Agriculture



GREENLIGHT
Farm Management

The trusted farm management solution that puts you in control



Work on the move



Easy to use



Satisfy compliance and legislation



Share data with your Agronomist



Manage your workflow



Understand cost of production

Start your free trial today

Call us on +44 (0) 1173 130 495
 sales@muddyboots.com | muddyboots.com



40 YEARS

Visit us at hall 11 stand 11.276.
 Partners of the Future Farming 4.0 Trail.



SCAN ME

A CLOSER LOOK AT CROP INPUTS

At a challenging time within the arable sector, we speak to Matthew Cobbald, who joined Fram Farmers as Crop Protection Product Manager in July, on his views on the crop inputs market and what this means for members.



Matthew Cobbald, Fram Farmers
Crop Protection Product Manager

From a family farm in Tendring, Essex, Matthew has a long spanning career in agronomy, both at a distribution and independent level, at a number of prominent businesses, namely Strutt & Parker, UAP (now Agrii), Velcourt and Procam. Matthew is BASIS, FACTS and BETA qualified and advises into the Recommended List Committee for AHDB.

After spending time in both Wiltshire and Rutland, Matthew is pleased to have returned to Suffolk, where his agronomy journey first began. His background provides a useful foundation to his move, where he will be driving value and advice for members as Crop Protection Product Manager.

Importance of supplier relationships

“Never before has my varied background felt more useful than in helping our team to deliver for members within the difficult supply chain and market that we’ve experienced this Autumn,” explains Matthew.

“The challenge of supply security has shown that there is value from moving mindsets from a riskier just in time delivery approach to a planned and stocked

product management system. The change from a very stable ‘price and supply’ crop inputs market, into one that is less consistent, means that greater value is now being put on more robust and dependable supply chains.

“The importance of powerful links with our suppliers is key to delivering on crop input decisions in a timely manner, the value of which has been appreciated this autumn. These supplies though will need further consideration, as there is a need for further development and performance in certain areas.

“The Fram Farmers crops team continues to focus on utilising the group’s scale to create a great value proposition to members, based on three central pillars - price, service, and security of supply. It is important for us to act on these three in combination, as they represent overall value when considered together.”

Looking ahead – opportunities and innovation

“Going forward, there are several crop input developments that continue to drive further hopes for the future. Within crop protection, innovations can already be utilised, with the likes of Univoq and Revystar supporting overall cereal fungicide decisions. With further developments of note coming down the pipeline from the main research and development manufacturers, the next steps of cereal fungicides look positive,” Matthew continues.

“The breadth of offers in the fungicide market, as well as potential new compounds available within the herbicide market in 2022, puts UK agriculture in a good short-term position in terms of innovation.

“The price-based markets through generic manufacturers have also proved useful in creating a full range of value options for growers and agronomists to select from.

Within fertiliser, the challenges of price and supply are creating an increased focus on nitrogen use efficiency, and really understanding the value of this commodity. There are many webinars coming up in the winter period, including from AHDB, to help in understanding nutrient influence on crop performance.”

Matthew believes that further opportunities are likely to be forthcoming in crop nutrition in order to support a UK aim of reducing carbon footprint.

“Further to fertiliser, how magnificent would it be if we had a cross over in crop inputs to see seed genetics, through gene editing, progressing a strategy for lower nitrogen requirement whilst holding onto crop performance? This could deliver wider environmental or carbon value back to the grower to create an improved overall financial position.

“I may be getting carried away,” says Matthew. “But it is important to bring balance, and to highlight opportunities in UK farming, as opposed to only focusing on negative challenges, which are easy to identify. Learned and understood through a range of experiences and roles, I now perceive that change is perpetual in nature, and often offers the greatest growth opportunities as well as innovative thinking,” he concludes.

Matthew is looking forward to working closely with members alongside the rest of the Crops team at Fram Farmers. Please get in touch for independent inputs advice on 01728 727716 | purchasing@framfarmers.co.uk



ASHBROOK

FOR

2022 TRACTOR HIRE

available nationwide



Call for a quotation today:

Excellent deals for FRAM members available on 10 week to 24 month tractor hire. Front linkage as standard.

Optional features:

front PTO | weight block | front end loader | guidance | row-crop | turf wheels | connectivity options.

For a quote:

Call Harry and the FRAM Team: 01728 727719

For more info about ASHBROOK: www.ASHBROOK.ltd

Specialists in tractor and general agricultural machinery hire



FRAM
FARMERS
GREAT BRITISH FARMERS CO-OPERATING
ASHBROOK

SUFFOLK FARMING CONFERENCE 2022: GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE FUTURE

3rd March | Trinity Park Conference Centre

Fram Farmers is pleased to announce details for the 2022 Suffolk Farming Conference: *Getting to Grips with the Future*, which is taking place on Thursday 3rd March at Trinity Park Conference Centre near Ipswich.



The private event, which is exclusively for members of Suffolk Agricultural Association (SAA) and Fram Farmers, and is free to attend, and will cover a number of topics for helping members plan ahead for the future.

Beginning at 9am, the morning session, which will be livestreamed for those who can't attend the physical event, includes a commodity review and outlook by ADM, a presentation on 'Farming Beyond BPS' from Wilson Wraight and Savills, and Carl Atkin from Terravost and Thomas Gent from Gentle Farming will discuss 'Net Zero in Agriculture' and how farming businesses can gain reward and support for regenerative farming practices.

There will be a range of supplier stands

linked to the topics covered in the conference which delegates will be able to visit over an extended lunchtime.

The afternoon session will offer breakout sessions on Woodland Management, Water Management, Grants, Sensors and Data Innovations, Alternative Power Platforms, and Automated Farming. Attendees will be able to choose from three of these six topics, with the event closing at 5.30pm.

Andrew Read, Chairman of Fram Farmers, says, "A number of challenges lie ahead for farmers, at a particularly testing time for the industry. This conference will bring Suffolk's agricultural leaders together to help them capitalise on opportunities to guarantee a strong future for farming in Suffolk."

David Barker, Suffolk Agricultural Association President, says, "As a farmer myself, I can see a number of challenges and opportunities ahead for our industry. The key will be insight into not only the impacts of policy change, but also the new technologies emerging, which aim to both assist us as food producers and reduce our impact on the land. This conference will stimulate our thinking and offer the opportunity to network and engage with industry leaders and innovators."

To book your place at the Suffolk Farming Conference, please visit the SAA website - www.suffolkshow.co.uk/suffolkfarmingconference or contact the SAA office: 01473 707110 | margie.morris@suffolkshow.co.uk

DIVERSIFICATION VISITS FOR NEXTGEN GROUP

September's event was loosely themed around farm diversification, and included a tour of the Friday Street Farm Shop near Saxmundham, before an evening hosted by the Fishers Gin distillery in Aldeburgh.

Another encouraging turnout saw returning members, as well as new faces, come together to create another great atmosphere among the group. There was



a real sense of the group beginning to gel and mix, one of the core motivations behind the conception of the NextGen network.

James Blyth's enthusiasm for his own diversification project was extremely relatable as he talked through the various stages, challenges, and successes he encountered over the past 20 years. From establishing a focus for the project when he left university, to the challenges he faced through the past 18 months of Covid. We are sure that this will have sparked some ideas for the group, and so this was a relevant way to kick the evening off.

As the evening progressed, the group ventured to Fishers Gin in Aldeburgh, after an obligatory pit stop at Aldeburgh Fish and Chips. The group were taken on a

journey of the production and flavouring of their products by founder Andrew Heald, who, again, was extremely passionate about the brand he has established. Whilst this part of the evening was more focussed on a diversification project that has distanced itself from conventional farming routes, there were completely different, yet equally inspiring, messages to take home. The gin tasting session was also greatly appreciated!

A huge thank you to both James Blyth of Friday Street and Andrew Heald of Fishers Gin for an enjoyable and insightful evening.

If you are interested in joining the NextGen group, please speak to Jono or Hollie in the office, or drop us an email on nextgen@framfarmers.co.uk.

FEED THE HUNGER GAP



*Start with the
fertiliser*



wrap with
NUE-TRITION
nitrogen use efficiency

- Even coating of micro-nutrients across 100% of your fertiliser granules
- Early-season nutrition to feed the 'hunger gap' and optimise yield potential
- Adding MICRO-MATCH manganese or molybdenum to standard practice improves yields and nitrogen use efficiency

NUE-TRITION

nitrogen use efficiency



In spring barley, MICRO-MATCH Manganese increased yield by 4.7% and increased NUE by 8.2%



In winter OSR, MICRO-MATCH Molybdenum increased yield by 2.3% and increased NUE by 4.5%



In winter wheat, MICRO-MATCH Molybdenum increased yield by 1.1% and increased NUE by 5.4%

Talk to us about prescription nutrition

t: 03333 239 230 e: enquiries@originfertilisers.co.uk www.originfertilisers.co.uk @originfert

GRAIN MARKETING POOLS

In the current environment of extremely volatile and uncertain commodity markets, pools are an excellent risk management tool. Here, we bring you an update on the performance of Fram Farmers pools in recent months and remind members of the benefits.

PERFORMANCE

Fram's marketing pools are regularly benchmarked against two main competitors, and continue to perform well, due to the smaller pool made up of members only. Last season's pools outperformed a number of competitors for various commodities, grades and periods, outlined below;

- Over 80% of all wheat in last year's Oct-Dec pool achieved a minimum premium of £5.75/tonne, and the pool returned between £1.70 and £2.70/tonne more for feed wheat, and nearly £7.00/tonne for Group 1 milling wheat.
- Members in the Jan-March feed barley pool received an extra £6.26-£8.54 per tonne
- Last season's harvest rapeseed pool paid an additional £6.73/tonne, whilst the long pool paid over £406/tonne ex-farm – in excess of £20/tonne more than competitors!
- This season's harvest feed wheat pool returned approx. £6 per tonne more than weighted average non-pool purchases for the same period.

TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

The established pool committee, consisting of nine people, including three Fram Farmers Directors, three farmer members, and three traders from ADM, has direct access to global market information and provides exceptional insight. This proactively managed approach maximises returns for members' businesses, not to benefit the commercial buyer or their shareholders, making this an ideal opportunity for contract farming agreements.

The pool returns are fully audited, and this season, Fram Farmers will be providing pool members with monthly updates of pool positions and strategies, in a video format.

By trading through Fram Farmers, revenues generated are contributing to the running of the members' own cooperative, so if you are interested in participating in the 2022 season pools please contact a member of the grain marketing team: 01728 727720 | marketing@framfarmers.co.uk

IT UPDATE

Since the last update in the 2020 Winter Issue of Farmers First, our IT team has made substantial progress on all aspects of Project Merlin; we have launched the new Grain System for internal use, and the Grain Portal for members (more info on page 21) is now complete and in use. All member feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and it is very encouraging to see the grain team's hard work pay off.

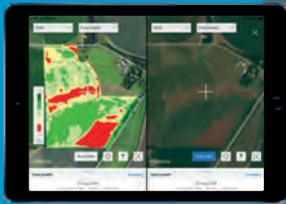
We are now in the testing phase of our new IT system across other departments in order to 'stress test' and de-bug elements of the system. It has been an exciting time seeing it all come together, and, with any luck, we will be looking to roll out companywide training on the new system in the new year.

Having made such great progress in the

last few months, the Members Portal is now in development; whilst it will be the final element of the project, it is coming together quickly. We are working with the agency to finalise the appearance

of the members area to ensure it has a consistent branding with the public website – below is a preview! Keep an eye out for further updates in future issues of Farmers First.

LOREM IPSUM	PRICE	%CHANGE
Gasoil price trend	52.9	3%
Gasoil ppl	53	4%
Electricity	58.59	1%
Kerp ppl	43	5%



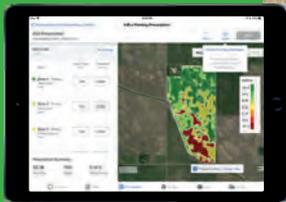
IMAGERY & SCOUTING



YIELD ANALYSIS



LIVE MAPPING



VARIABLE RATE



SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE



In farming, trust is earned not in one day, but over time. **Sign up to FieldView™** and access real-time data from your fields. Data that is proven to boost yields and allows you to manage your crops field by field, metre-by-metre. As well as measurably improving performance within 12 months, FieldView also allows you to build a detailed field history so you can unlock powerful insights and make better decisions for next season.

Discover more at cropsience.bayer.co.uk/fieldview



FieldView is a Trade Mark of the Climate Corporation. The Climate Corporation is Bayer's digital farming arm. For further information, including contact details, visit www.cropsience.bayer.co.uk or call 0808 1969522. © Bayer CropScience Limited 2021

SECURED AND FIXED ELECTRICITY PRICES FOR FRAM MEMBERS

It has been widely reported that electricity prices have sky-rocketed in recent months, driven by wholesale energy prices reaching an all-time high, and energy providers having to pass these costs on to consumers. This has also led to a number of energy suppliers going bust in recent weeks, causing disruption to consumers and businesses.



Daniel Cox,
Fram Farmers

At Fram Farmers, members that purchase their energy through the group are benefiting from contract prices that have been secured and fixed in advance, by a team with the foresight to purchase energy at the right time.

To provide some context, the commodity price of electricity, which makes up around 34% of a bill, has reached over £200 per MWH at its peak this year; Fram Farmers members on a non-half-hourly contract are paying just £42.61 per MWH, which is fixed until October 2022.

Higher electricity users on a half-hourly contract are on a slightly different contract, where Fram Farmers buys energy in 'chunks' when the market is right and the price they pay averages out depending on the price each 'chunk' is purchased. Recently, half-hourly electricity users have benefited from energy at £47.40 per MWH - still drastically below the market average.

From October this year, this half-hourly contract has been benefiting from 'Green Energy', with 100% of the electricity generated from renewable sources, and backed by a Renewable Energy Guarantee

of Origin (REGO). This will enable members to demonstrate that they are on the path to net-zero, and could also offer a competitive advantage when tendering for contracts and other business agreements.

The non-half hourly electricity contract will include REGO backed 'Green' Energy from October 2022.

If you have any questions about electricity supply for your business, please, please contact the Business Services team on 01728 727722 | electricity@framfarmers.co.uk

GAS TO LIQUID (GTL) FUEL

Since the fuel blocking problems of 2019, more Fram Farmers members are moving to Gas To Liquid (GTL). Fram Farmers is now supplying approx. 3 million litres of GTL per year, and this figure is rising rapidly.

Shell GTL (Gas-To-Liquid) Fuel is a cleaner burning diesel alternative fuel to red diesel. Clear, bright, and almost water-like in appearance, it produces no characteristic 'diesel odour' due to a lack of sulphur and aromatics.

The benefits of GTL are abundant:

- A 'Drop In' Fuel – GTL can be added directly to fuel already in the tank, and

"Since we've changed over to GTL, we haven't had a blocked filter, and the team working the machinery believe it is more efficient than conventional red diesel."

Andrew Williams,
Home Farm, Nacton

can be used as a direct replacement for red diesel, so there's no need for engine modifications, new infrastructure or vehicle investment.

- GTL does not contain FAME (biofuel) and is not hydroscopic (does not absorb water).
- Biodegradable and Non-Toxic - GTL Fuel is proven to be less harmful to the environment, and, in tests, was not detectable in soil 51 days after being introduced. It is also harmless if inhaled and poses a low risk of eye irritation and skin damage.
- Reduced Noise Pollution - Noise levels in some engines can be reduced by 1-4 dB with GTL Fuel's more uniform combustion.
- Store Safer, for Longer - GTL Fuel has a longer shelf life than the 6-8 weeks of red diesel, and also offers safer handling and storage.

- Winter Grade Fuel, All Year Round - Excellent low temperature performance, with improved cold start performance.

"We have been using GTL for the arable side of the business for nearly a year, in which time we have had no filter problems. Not only does this save us buying replacement filters, but also removes the downtime."

Martin Serjent,
Rattlerow Farms

To find out more about GLT, available from Fram Farmers, please speak to the Fuel Team: 01728 727714 | fuel@framfarmers.co.uk

A CHALLENGING TIME FOR THE PIG SECTOR

We are all too aware of the current difficulties being faced by pig producers across the country, an issue that the sector warned the government about months ago. We spoke to three members of the Fram Farmers Pig Group, to learn how the situation is affecting them directly, as well as Richard Buck at Crown Milling, for an insight into feed supply.



SIMON WATCHORN, EARSHAM, SUFFOLK

Chairman of the Fram Farmers Pig Group, Simon Watchorn, took on a lifetime tenancy agreement for his farm in Earsham, Suffolk, back in 1989. Originally a purely arable farm on light land, he turned his hand to outdoor pigs with the help of a resident pigman. During his time in the sector, he has been Vice President of the National Pig Association, and has sat on the AHDB Pork board for seven years.

Simon, who has been a member of the pig group for just over ten years, runs an independent breeding and rearing unit, with 5500 – 6500 animals on the farm at any one time, supplying 15,000 pigs to Morrisons each year.

A combination of market uncertainty, high feed prices, supply chain issues, and lack of succession, means Simon has taken the decision to leave the sector, with the last pigs leaving his farm by the end of June.

“The last two winters have been physically brutal, with wet weather and hard work, and it is a decision I have always had to make. My children all have other careers and love what they do, and there was no way for me to hand on the business without remaining heavily involved financially.”

Simon sees the pig sector going the same way as poultry, where there are a few big players driving the price down for independent producers.

“I am privileged to have been part of it, but the future of the industry is not good in my eyes,” explains Simon. “The shortage of labour, and lack of skilled butchers has brought the inevitable forward much quicker than I was expecting, and I expect the landscape to look very different in 2-3 years’ time, with a more integrated supply chain.”

Simon is taking the opportunity to change his business, and will now be focusing on the arable operation, as well as other diversifications such as commercial and industrial property and holiday lets.

“The pig group is flourishing, and Tim Styles, the main buyer for the group has a great ability to read the market. The markets have not done what we’ve expected, and the high price hasn’t settled down, but the group has certainly helped the members within it.”

“I believe in cooperation, and with feed being the largest single cost input, the group prepares members so they’re in full knowledge of how difficult the sector is, so they’re more prepared to ride the wave.”

RICHARD BUCK, CROWN MILLING

The Fram Farmers Pig Group sources its feed from Crown Milling in Kenninghall, Norfolk, which has felt its own challenges in keeping pig producers supplied with feed.



Ultimately, with more pigs to feed because fewer have gone to slaughter, feed mills have been pushed to the limit in terms of capabilities and capacity. Richard Buck, Operations Director at Crown Milling, estimates they have been running at 105% capacity in order to keep on top of demand, calling upon old relationships within the industry for help at times.

Demand has increased for all feed ingredients, in markets which are experiencing record high prices. This, combined with a haulage shortage, is creating a very challenging environment.

“We have our own fleet of lorries delivering out to farm, with a long-standing dedicated team of 20+ drivers,” explains Richard. “But we rely on third party haulage for ingredients intake, and this has been far from stable. The rising fuel and energy costs are also directly affecting operations. We use some green energy at Crown Milling, but not all.”

The facility at Kenninghall has storage capacity for 36 hours of processing, meaning lots of human hours in the office, chasing supply of raw materials. Hold ups at ports have meant the team at Crown Milling is already buying ahead for February and March, as the industry is showing no signs of let-up.

“It only takes one small kink in the chain for our operations to be thrown out of balance - it’s a constant balancing act,” Richard adds. “Despite inflated prices, it is about getting our hands on stuff. It’s beginning to strain relationships with our suppliers, and everyone is on tenterhooks.”

“Fram’s pig members are looking for performance and reliability. We’re continuing to meet requirements, but it is difficult. We work closely with the Pig Group at Fram, and it’s a wave we’re riding together. I think we’re all hoping for some rest bite in the new year.”



JIMMY BUTLER, BLYTHBURGH, SUFFOLK

Jimmy Butler runs Blythburgh Free Range Pork with his sons Alastair and Stuart, after moving to the area with his wife Pauline 42 years ago. Starting with 200 indoor sows, the business now has approximately 1900 outdoor sows at various sites along the Suffolk coast, and produces 40,000 pigs per year, finishing 25,000 and selling 15,000 as 8kg sucklers and 35kg stores.

Jimmy and his sons market to multiple

outlets, and have a slightly different business model to other members of the group, also adding value to the business with a brand at retail level. Supplying whole pigs to eight wholesalers, both catering and retail butchers, their pork is available in over 100 high street butchers across the country. These pigs are slaughtered locally at Blakes in Norfolk, or Fowler Brothers in Essex, who Jimmy believes are coping better than larger single species abattoirs.

Their contract for supplying Red Tractor Assured Freedom Food bacon pigs has been cut back by 25% due to issues within the sector, and weaners have been delayed by 2-3 weeks, therefore squeezing their business at both ends.

Blythburgh Free Range Pork has been a Fram Farmers member for 15-20 years, but are relatively new to the Pig Group, having joined only 12 months ago.

Jimmy has always bought straights from another supplier, and now also sources feed through the Fram Pig Group, alongside fuel, machinery hire, steel and other materials for pig housing, as well as veterinary products.

“Joining the group has helped soften some of the cash flow pain we would have experienced had we not done so, and Fram has kept us well-informed with regular newsletters, plus phone calls at the end of each week to discuss feed price,” explains Jimmy.

“We are fortunate to have a strong brand that is helping to keep part of our business profitable, but the most frustrating part of this whole issue is trying to understand why it’s being allowed to happen. 50% of the UK’s pork is imported, yet we’re culling pigs here – where’s the common sense? There has to be a better solution, even if it is a short-term labour fix, while we iron out the longer-term issues.”

DAVID CHILDERHOUSE, WEETING, NORFOLK

David Childerhouse supplies 850-1000 7kg piglets per week on contract. Despite being further down the chain of production, the lack of pigs leaving farm for slaughter is still impacting David’s business.



The finisher is not able to move as many fat pigs out, so they can’t take the weaners, which are then having to stay on David’s farm for longer. David is currently having to build emergency accommodation for those waiting to go. During this time, the piglets have to be fed, which, with creep feed being specially formulated, is a significant cost, adding a further loss to David’s bottom line.

“We have lived in this fear for most of 2021; when Covid was flaring up early in 2020, there was mass absence in

processing factories due to Covid, and this continued into 2021, explains David. “I don’t think anybody predicted that Brexit would have such a stark effect on the labour force in meat processing either.”

“Two of our major inputs, fuel and feed, have increased – fuel is double what it was this time last year, and feed is half as much again. With a falling pig price, and other inputs, such as steel, plastic and timber, rising, nothing adds up financially.”

“At the moment, we can only focus on being the best pig producers we can be, and hold our nerve. We’re working closely with our bank, and making sure they understand the situation, hoping they’ll support us until we return to profitability,” he adds.

David predicts that the industry is likely to be 10-15% smaller by the time the issue is resolved, and believes this should mean a higher demand for freedom food produced

pigs. However, he also believes the pig price will need to reflect that if there is to be a future for the British pig industry. David’s father was one of the founding members of Fram Pig Group, which was established in the late 90s, and David continues to buy all feed exclusively through the group, as well as vaccines and medicines, which, for a piglet producer, is a significant cost.

“We’re paying significantly less than if we were individuals, due to the buying power and knowledge of the team at Fram. We have bought well, and are confident that there is nothing else we could have done – no one could have predicted this market.”

“When we meet as a group, I never fail to take something away from the conversation, even if it’s just solidarity that you’re not alone in your predicament. It’s a difficult thing to quantify, but at the current time, that’s important.”

NEXT GENERATION NUTRITION

AMINO ACID CHARGED

foliar phosphite

Crop Rooter® Plus

Crop Rooter Plus is a highly concentrated NPK foliar feed. Formulated with amino acids to root development and maintain healthy plant growth in a range of edible crops. Crop Rooter Plus also includes bioactive agents derived from *Ascochylium Medusae* spores, including compounds to improve nutrient uptake and utilisation.

APPLICATION RATES & TIMINGS

To be used only when there is a recognised need. Do not exceed recommended application rate.

Cereals	0.75-1.5 l/ha from 6 leaf stage to early tillering for rooting. Repeat during periods of rapid growth and/or nutrient stress to development.
Oilseed Rape	1.0-2.5 l/ha from 6-8 true leaf stage. Repeat during, or just prior to rapid growth.
Potatoes	1.0 l/ha at early tuber bulking. 2.0 l/ha during tuber bulking.
Brassicas/Vegetables	2.0-3.0 l/ha from 6-8 true leaves. Repeat at 14-21 day intervals.
Lettuce/Herbs	1.5-2.5 l/ha from 7-10 days post-planting. Repeat at 10-14 day intervals.

Crop Rooter Plus is formulated as a totally water-soluble liquid for ease of use. Crop Rooter Plus should be added to the spray tank first, into a minimum 50% of total water volume, followed by the remaining water and any other tank mix partners. Maintain agitation throughout mixing and spraying operations.

Crop Rooter Plus is physically compatible with a wide range of potential tank mix partners. Check compatibility prior to adding to the spray tank.

(Boxed 2 x 10L)

PROTECT FROM FROST

www.ilex-envirosciences.com

ilex
EnviroSciences
advanced crop nutrition

QUALITY THROUGH NUTRITION

PHOSPHITE POWERED



Search online for:
Crop Rooter® Plus

ilex www.ilex-envirosciences.com
EnviroSciences
advanced crop nutrition

SUSSEX AGRONOMY GROUP

The Sussex Agronomy Group was formed in the autumn of 2009, providing a solution to Sussex-based Fram Farmers members, where there were very few options for farmers who wanted to employ a truly independent agronomist. Here, we explore the history and aims of the group, and talk to one member about the benefits it brings to his business.



At a time when merchant-led agronomy dominated the South East, Fram Farmers engaged with Prime Agriculture, an independent agronomy business operating out of East Anglia, with the objective of offering members in Sussex a strategic advice package covering all combinable crops including maize.

Initially hosted by different members of the group, there would be three meetings per year and each would include a farm walk, but as time went on and numbers of the group increased, it became more practical to run two classroom-style meetings at Plumpton College, followed by a farm walk each May. The cost of the package provided by Prime Agriculture was then divided between all the members of the group.

This ran very successfully for seven years, at which point Fram Farmers employed Laura Buckingham as Arable Manager. Laura, who previously held an agronomy role with Frontier Agriculture, brought with her a wealth of knowledge, so the decision made was made to provide the group in-house.

The group has continued to grow from

strength to strength, and when Laura left Fram Farmers earlier this year, Matthew Cobbald, who was previously an agronomist at Velcourt, has taken over the role of running the group. The image above shows Matthew at his first meeting with the group in November, which was kindly hosted by Plumpton College.

One group member, Simon Little, Arable manager at Sutton Hall Farms, shares his story and why the group is beneficial to him and his business.

Predominantly a dairy farm, milking over 800 cows across three separate units, Sutton Hall Farms grows 600 acres of wheat and maize, making the dairy and arable work together in a circular system. They adopted a min-till system approximately 14 years ago, with a one-pass establishment method for maize, the driver being a reduction in cost of establishment.

Slurry from the dairy herd is applied to wheat in the Spring using a 12-metre dribble bar, and measured with a flow metre, with fields getting tailor made applications based on their requirements, as determined from soil analysis results.

This has enabled the farm to cut down on external nitrogen inputs, and make a significant cost saving, using a resource that would otherwise have been treated as a waste product.

Simon believes they are the only farm in the area to be doing this, although individual processes and systems are often discussed amongst members, and there is interest from other mixed farmers in the group. He believes it's good to share knowledge and activity with the group, and to see what other farms are doing. "Everyone in the group is open to sharing their practices, and it opens your eyes up to other ideas of how to do certain things," explains Simon. "Everyone has different systems, and different machinery, and members are certainly open to learning more from others."

"The group has grown in popularity and members are coming away with useful information from the meetings. I know I feel that I personally have benefitted considerably from the interactions when discussing different cropping issues and processes."

"It's also good to hear an impartial and independent view from Laura, and now Matthew," Simon continues. "We can ask questions and know we're getting robust advice, which I know many members of the group feel is a key benefit. If there are any problems with supply or distribution, we also get a heads up at what may be a forthcoming concern, which is very useful."

If you are interested in joining the Sussex Agronomy Group please contact Becky Bower: 07768 835343 | becky.bower@framfarmers.co.uk



MEMBERSHIP TO SUIT A MULTITUDE OF BUSINESSES

As part of the FRAM26 project, we will be exploring the wide range of farming businesses that benefit from Fram Farmers membership. Here, we speak to a few members across the country to discover what advantages membership brings to them and their business.



Neil and Michael Christensen.

NEIL CHRISTENSEN, STEANBOW LTD

Neil Christensen at Steanbow Ltd has been farming in Somerset, next door to the infamous Worthy Farm, since 1972. His father, Finn, came to the UK as a student from Denmark, and the mixed farming business is now run by Neil and his brother Michael.

The second-generation farm is predominantly made up of a 650 cow herd (130 Jerseys for milk quality, and the rest Holsteins), and was a 2012 Farmers Weekly Award finalist for dairy farmer of the year. A 450,000 bird, 12 shed poultry business and 1500 acres of arable land, a mix of grassland, lucerne, wheat, maize and cover crops, make up the rest.

Cows are milked three times per day, in an all-year housed system, with heifers bought in from Europe, with liquid milk sold to Arla/Sainsburys under a long-standing contract. All cattle and poultry feed is grown on-farm, with some proteins imported.

In terms of membership, Steanbow Ltd is relatively new to the table, having become a member approximately three years ago. Electricity was the driver, having been

recommended by a neighbouring dairy farm.

As a dairy and poultry business, electricity consumption is high, and a key input cost that Fram Farmers is able to deliver significant cost-savings on. Building materials are often sourced through the cooperative, as well as other livestock-related items on occasion.

"We recently needed a replacement water tank lining, so I gave Fram Farmers a call, unsure if this was something they could help with," explains Neil. "Sure enough, they sourced one at a good price, which saved me a lot of time trying to source one myself."

"We also recently replaced some fencing for one of the farm cottages, and again, Fram were a great help, providing three quotes, and saving me time in the office. It is all part of the service, which should not be undervalued."

"We still have some loyalty to current suppliers, but we are sourcing more from Fram as time goes on. The team is really approachable, helpful, friendly and they know their stuff. And more than anything, we know we are getting good deals."

WILL RAHDER, REACHSWITCH LTD

Reachswitch Ltd is an arable farming business with two units; 1400 acres on the Marlborough Downs and 650 acres in South Devon. Growing wheat, barley, OSR and oats in rotation, the business is increasingly committed to cover cropping, direct drilling and controlled traffic as part of a regenerative initiative. Despite the geographical distance between the farms, the management is combined as much as possible to save time and costs, so joining a buying group such as Fram seemed like a sensible idea.

Despite still being in the first 6 months of membership, Will Rahder, Reachswitch Manager, says that Fram are increasingly the 'go-to' for a whole range of inputs.

"Having had a chat with Becky Bower from Fram, we opted to sign up on a levy rather than an acreage basis and to just see how things went.

"I liked the fact that there was no initial commitment beyond that, but it's pretty clear now that the savings are significant; we use Fram for access to Kramp for parts and sundries, for all of our fuel purchasing, for great discounts with suppliers such as Enduramaxx, and recently they were able to supply Astrokerb where our normal sources were struggling," he adds.

"We're also in the midst of various redevelopment and building projects across both units, and here too, the discount and, more importantly, the reliability of supply that Fram Farmers provides is really useful. None of us have the time that we would like to spend in an office shopping around for best prices; Fram's team do this for us with consistent results."



JAMES BLYTH, FRIDAY STREET FARM SHOP

Fram Farmers member James Blyth owns and runs the locally well-known Friday Street Farm Shop in Farnham, just off the A12, as well as farming just under 300ha. Predominantly growing cereals and combinable crops, potatoes are grown in conjunction with his neighbouring farmer, and fruit and veg is grown on-site for the retail business.

James has been a member of Fram Farmers since 2014, originally joining to benefit from savings on purchases for the farming operation in 2014, including crop inputs such as sprays, fertilisers and seed, as well as fuel, electricity, mobile phone contracts and some building materials.

Friday Street Farm Shop opened in 1976, originally on a much smaller scale than the current operation, but has grown to provide 80% of his turnover across the enterprise, which now employs over 40 full time staff.

James now has three separate accounts with Fram Farmers; one for the farm operation, one for Friday Street Farm

“Our Fram Farmers membership simplifies things for us, and is a huge time-saving solution.”

Shop, and one for his sister shop, Goslings Farm Ltd, in Trimley St Martin, near Felixstowe, which James took over in 2014.

All businesses benefit from the Fram Farmers membership, with a recent farm shop extension, to house a new deli, walk-in cheese room, butchery and open plan fruit and veg area, as well as requiring building materials for the new barn conversion into holiday cottages.

“Our Fram Farmers membership simplifies things for us, and is a huge time-saving solution,” explains James. “Managing three businesses, time is short, so it really helps simplify the process and allows me to focus on the many other tasks that need doing.”



“Having one point of contact means every purchase runs smoothly, and staff are always happy to help. Another main benefit is the reduction in costs – the purchasing power of the cooperative makes each member’s individual purchasing power stronger, and we all benefit from that.”

James recently hosted a visit from the NextGen group, welcoming 30+ visitors to the farm in the Autumn to share the journey of his business diversification and its recent growth.

Have you heard?
LITHAN spreads to 36m



LITHAN

A reliable Ammonium Nitrate proven to spread to 36m with the correct settings

Available in 600kg or 1000kg bags

Thomas Bell & Sons Ltd
Fertiliser Importers

For further information please visit www.thomas-bell.co.uk or call Thomas Bell on 01652 652933



ARDENT
HIRE SOLUTIONS

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

FRAM
FARMERS
GREAT BRITISH FARMERS CO-OPERATING

THE UK'S NO.1 PLANT HIRE COMPANY

| AGRICULTURAL SPECIFICATION TELEHANDLERS |

| TELEHANDLERS | EXCAVATORS |

| ROLLERS | DUMPERS | ROTO TELEHANDLERS | ATTACHMENTS |



The cost-effective solution for short and long term hire. Use Fram Farmers for the most competitive prices.

Please contact us for bespoke agricultural specifications. We offer JCB, Manitou, Merlo and Bobcat products.

01473 372 331

FRAMFARMERS@ARDENTHIRE.COM

LOW CARBON AGRICULTURE: CUTTING THROUGH THE NOISE TO SUPPORT THE FARMING TRANSITION

Once again, Fram Farmers is pleased to support the Low Carbon Agriculture Show, which is taking place on 8-9 March 2022, at the National Agriculture and Exhibition Centre (NAEC), to support farmers as they move through the agricultural transition.

The event will provide practical guidance on sustainable land use, renewable energy generation and emission control, cutting through the noise to get to the heart of what new changes mean for farmers, by covering specific pressing topics such as policy, carbon storage, soil health, natural capital, net zero, renewable energy, low emission vehicles and agri-tech.

Held in partnership with the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and the Country

Land and Business Association (CLA), and supported by Fram Farmers, Low Carbon Agriculture show incorporates four expos including: 'Environmental Business Expo', 'Farm Technology Expo', 'Energy Now Expo' and 'Low Emission Vehicles Expo.'

Dan Cox, Fram Farmers Business Services Manager, explains, "Fram is a proud supporter of this event, which offers practical advice to farmers at a crucial time in the industry.

"As a cooperative, we are working hard to help members understand sustainability and work towards net zero as part of the FRAM26 five-year plan. We are increasingly providing more sustainable options to members, working with a network of specialist suppliers. We are already supplying solar panels and wind

Low Carbon Agriculture 2022



8 - 9 March 2022 | NAEC, Stoneleigh

turbines and will continue to support our members in navigating a greener future for farming," Dan concludes.

The Low Carbon Agriculture Show is free to attend. More information can be found on the event website: www.lowcarbonagricultureshow.co.uk

GRAIN MARKETING PORTAL UPDATE

As many of our members will be aware, earlier this summer we launched an improved Grain Marketing Portal. Members can log on to see their contracts, movement advice, weights and payment information all in pdf form in a centralised, online location. The portal is now available for members to access on mobile and tablet devices, meaning vital information for farmers is accessible at the touch of a button.

Due to the inconsistent quality of this year's cereal harvest, one of the most popular features of the portal is the ability for members to access sample results. Contract farmers can also now link accounts to see all their subaccounts – a real benefit to keeping contract farms up to date with Fram Farmers grain contracts.

If you haven't already activated your online grain login, please go to www.grain.framfarmers.co.uk/, and complete the registration form, which will be sent to the Fram Farmers team for review. It can take up to 48 hours to confirm your account and registration. Once your application has been approved, you will receive an email confirming this.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the Grain Marketing Team on 01728 727720 marketing@framfarmers.co.uk

Advance
SILAGE INOCULANTS

Grass
TREATS 50 TONNES
NET WEIGHT 150g

Get more from what you grow

- ✓ Improves silage quality
- ✓ Unlocks feed energy
- ✓ Improves nutrient retention
- ✓ Features unique enzyme pack
- ✓ Reduces spoilage
- ✓ Approved for organic use

www.micronbio-systems.co.uk

NEW GRANT SCHEMES OPEN FOR APPLICATION

Defra has recently launched two new grants - The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund, and the Water Management element of The Farming Transformation Fund. All members have recently been sent grant bulletins, and here, the Business Services Team outlines further details to help members understand the grants available.

THE FARMING EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY FUND

Farmers, horticulturalists, forestry owners and contractors can all now apply for funding from a list of farming equipment & technology, which includes equipment from the following categories:

- Horticulture
- Forestry
- Resource management
- Precision and analysis
- Livestock handling and weighing equipment
- Other livestock equipment
- General

The grant opened for applications on 16th November, when the online portal went live, and the list of eligible equipment was published. There is just under a month left to apply for this grant, as the online application portal closes on Friday 7th January 2022. Following a successful application, the deadline for

claiming the grant is midnight on Friday 22nd September. Items must be paid for, delivered, installed and operational before a claim is made.

In addition to the timescales, there are a few key things to remember when considering an application:

- The published list of equipment is an exhaustive list - you can only gain funding for these items.
- The 'grant amount' listed next to each item is the amount of funding you can apply for against each item, regardless of how much you end up paying for it.
- The item you purchase MUST meet the minimum item specification detailed against each item. Proof will be required at the point that you claim the grant.
- The minimum grant available is £2k. You must therefore include enough items in your application to add up to at

least this amount.

- The maximum grant available in this round is £25k. The list of items you include in your application must not exceed this amount.
- You must not order the item until you have received a grant offer. However, to help reduce supply issues, a refundable deposit may be accepted by the supplier, as long as they agree that the deposit will be refunded if you are unable to proceed with the purchase.

For assistance in sourcing any of the equipment listed in this grant, please use the following contacts:

Livestock related enquiries:

Bex White – 01728 727716 |

bex.white@framfarmers.co.uk

Any other equipment: Harry Nesling or Gordon Cummings – 01728 727719 |
machinery@framfarmers.co.uk

THE FARMING TRANSFORMATION FUND - WATER MANAGEMENT

This is the Water Management part of the Farming Transformation Fund, which can provide funding of between £35,000 and £500,000 to arable and horticultural businesses growing, or intending to grow, irrigated food crops, ornamentals, or forestry nurseries.

This fund offers grants towards capital items to improve farm productivity through more efficient use of water for irrigation, and to secure water supplies for crop irrigation by constructing on-farm reservoirs and adopting irrigation application equipment.

Again, there is a long list of eligible and

ineligible costs, which include:

- Reservoir construction and infrastructure
- Irrigation equipment
- Technology/software for monitoring moisture & schedule irrigation

The application process for this grant is very different to the Farming Equipment & Technology Fund and is in 2 stages:

Stage 1: Online Eligibility Checker – deadline 12th January 2022

An online application form determines whether or not the project is eligible to apply for funding. The application is assessed automatically and is scored

against the funding priorities, scoring either Strong, Average or Poor. Only 'Strong' applications will be invited to the full application stage, and later in the application window, 'Average' scoring projects may be invited.

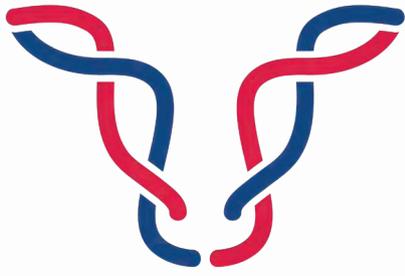
Stage 2: Full Application – deadline 30th June 2022

If the application is invited to the full application stage, supporting information and evidence will be required. Evidence of match funding and planning permission (if required) will also be needed at this stage. Projects will not be permitted to start until after a grant offer is made by the RPA.

We strongly recommend talking to Dan Cox in the Business Services Team before attempting an application. Dan has a great deal of experience in applying for grant funding and can help members in putting together a grant application.

Fram Farmers will continue to keep members informed with regular Grant Bulletins, including two further grants under the Farming Transformation Fund; Robotics and Automation, and Equipment and Buildings, which are expected soon.

Please speak to the Dan Cox in the Business Services team for further information about all grants: 01728 448207 | bizservices@framfarmers.co.uk



GENEadvance®

Advance your herd's performance

At Genus ABS our mission is to help you profit from genetic progress. With GENEadvance®, you can expect to see genetic improvement faster than ever before.

Genomic testing helps improve selection accuracy and make more informed breeding decisions when creating your herd's future replacements.

We will create a tailored genetic plan for you alongside our market-leading genetics so you can advance genetic progress for a more profitable herd.

Profit from genetic progress

T: 01270 616681 | www.absglobal.com/geneadvance

Genus Breeding Ltd, Alpha Building, London Road, Nantwich, CW5 7JW



EXCLUSIVE
FRAM FARMERS
BENEFITS!

PEACE OF MIND FARMING EVERY DAY FOR 3 YEARS.



3-YEAR FREE EXTENDED MANUFACTURER'S WARRANTY WITH NO EXCESS

All tractors from 145hp and telescopic handlers are currently being offered with a 3-year, 3,000 hour SAFEGUARD WARRANTY, with **no minimum claim** value or **excess fees** for the entire 3 years!

Speak to your local Case IH dealer to find out more about this and to take advantage of your exclusive Fram Farmers benefits!



Scan to find
out more!

SAFEGUARD WARRANTY

   
caseih.com

CASE IH