



January 2017

Countryside Stewardship applications up 45%

The figures have revealed that Natural England received 3,800 Mid-Tier applications in 2016, up 60% from 2015 ...

To read more on the scheme [click here](#)

Low food prices to place pressure on farmers in 2017

In the UK, the fall in the value of the pound following the decision to leave the EU has seen exports grow significantly, with exports of grain at their highest level for almost 20 years.

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Brexit a good opportunity to unlock new markets

Brexit presents a good opportunity for farmers and producers of dairy products in the UK to unlock new markets, according to a report on the future of dairy exports published by Dairy UK in November 2016. The report, which explores the potential impacts of leaving the EU, has revealed that 80% of dairy exports from the UK go to EU countries. As a result, Dairy UK argues that continued access to the single market is crucial to the future success of the dairy sector.

The report has also indicated that the total volume of UK dairy exports to both EU and non-EU countries increased by 91% from 2011 to 2016. Consequently, Dairy UK believes that the Government should also prioritise negotiating new free trade agreements to help dairy farmers grow their business through exports to new and emerging markets.

Read more about the report [click here](#)

Landowners to be paid less for phone masts on their land

Under the new legislation, landowners will no longer receive a rental fee based on the land's market value. Instead, they will be paid compensation depending on the amount of land occupied by the phone mast, regardless of what the land was to be used for or its value.

[Click here](#) for more about the reforms ...

Farmers turn to second-hand market for machinery

Farmers are increasingly choosing to invest in second-hand stock instead of purchasing new machinery, according to research by the Agricultural Engineers Association. The research has revealed that registrations of new tractors fell by 11% from 2015 to 2016, while sales of second-hand stock increased significantly

over the same period.

To read more on the machinery market [click here](#)

Organic food sector performing strongly

Supermarket sales of all types of organic products increased by 6% in the 12 months to October 2016, according to figures published by Nielsen. In comparison, sales of non-organic products fell by 0.7% over the same period. The figures have revealed that sales of organic food produce, particularly fruit, recorded the strongest growth, up 9.6%. According to research by Soil Association Certification, an increase in the number of consumers who actively search for products with credible and audited supply chains is one of the main reasons for growth in the organic food sector. The research has also indicated that growing consumer awareness and interest in food production practices is also boosting demand for organic produce.

[Click here](#) to find out more about the figures ...

UK200Agriculture Group is part of UK200Group, the UK's leading quality assured member association of independent chartered accountancy and law firms. Members of the Agriculture Group have both the necessary in depth knowledge of the sector and advisory skills to deliver the right financial planning and management to farming businesses today.

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