

## BPS and Rural Update

Issued April 2020

### **Basic Payment Scheme**

Whilst we adapt to our temporary new way of life here at Stephensons Rural and BoultonCooper we are working hard to submit our Clients' Basic Payment Scheme applications, annual Environmental & Countryside Stewardship claim forms and undertaking entitlement trading before the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020 deadline.

### **Crop Diversification**

DEFRA has confirmed that the crop diversification rule (where by farmers in control of land over a certain area are required to grow at least two or three crops) has been relaxed across England to support farmers who have been unable to establish crops due to the prolonged wet weather and flooding. This is for all farmers and not just those affected by the weather.

Please note that the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) obligation under Greening is still required to be met.

### **Farm Recovery Fund**

The Farming Recovery Fund has been extended with £6 million of additional funding being made available to assist farmers affected by flooding during the first part of 2020. This support is available to farmers in East and North Yorkshire.

### **Countryside Stewardship**

Countryside Stewardship is open for application under the Mid-Tier, Wildlife Offers and Hedgerow and Boundary Grants. However, we would advise that applications are considered as soon as possible to ensure all requirements for the scheme are in place ahead of the deadline being 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 (Hedgerow and Boundary Grants) and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2020 (Mid-Tier and Wildlife Offers).

### **Entitlements**

Ahead of the deadline being 15<sup>th</sup> May if you are looking to purchase or sell any entitlements please get in touch and we will be able to assist with your requirements.

If you would like to receive any further information on the above topics please do not hesitate to contact Jack or Beth who will be very happy to assist.

Jack Ayres-Sumner MRICS FAAV  
Tel: 01653 692151  
Email: [JAS@boultoncooper.co.uk](mailto:JAS@boultoncooper.co.uk)

Beth Dickinson MRICS FAAV  
Tel: 01904 489731  
Email:  
[beth.dickinson@stephenson.co.uk](mailto:beth.dickinson@stephenson.co.uk)