

Farming Interest Working Group report for Feb 2021

These are the words of a local farmer who I asked for input this month.

Life has been hectic here on the farm for the last three weeks with TB testing taking up two days a week and paying extra wages. Needless to say Defra has shut us down yet again for inconclusive readings, meaning that we are unable to move any animals off or on farm which is very concerning with feed stocks running low. But more heart breaking when they cull pregnant cows, it's not just the financial loss but the emotional side of rearing that animal from a new born unfortunately you cannot help but get attached to them, just like humans they have personalities, some not so good !!!!

Onto Basic Payment Scheme [BPS] for farmers. Unfortunately some members of the public and probably some government members feel that farmers are getting rich with this, which is definitely not the case. The BPS payment is to assist in keeping our high quality and welfare standards in place whilst providing affordable food on the shelf. We are still getting less for our milk than we did 5 years ago. Whilst providing this food often at a loss, that is why the BPS is essential to help keep food prices on the shelf affordable to the public. With the new Environmental Land Management scheme replacing BPS I feel that it is highly probable that food prices on the shelf will rise to the customers.