

Farming Interest Group report for March

There is a whole new language in farming these days; here is a small list of the latest;

Trade and Agricultural Commission	TAC
Integrated Pest Management	IPM
Agricultural Transition Plan	ATM
Local Nature Recovery	LNR
Environmental Land Management	ELM
Farm Resilience Plan	FRP
Sustainable Farming Incentive	SFI
England Tree Survey	ETS
Countryside Stewardship	CSS
Basic Payment Scheme	BPS

For each scheme there are reams of information on the RPA website amounting to hundreds of pages of prospective rules and regulations, so it no wonder that the farming fraternity are stressed. The future is daunting at present with the gradual run down of the support payment through BPS. These payments have produced cheaper food for the nation for years and with their going prices will have to rise, as the new schemes are heavy in the work load that farmers will need to sign up to before the money is paid. Generally a minimum of 12 months later and agents who do the work will want paying immediately the documents are delivered to the RPA. Crops all need to be planned a year ahead to slot in with rotation of fields.

There are lots of Zoom meetings coming but as yet we do not know what ELM will entail. RPA are late making payments for previous CSS agreements. There is strong support for tree planting but little if anything for managing existing woodlands and delay in the introduction of the costly and bureaucratic Wood Sure Fuel Wood certification scheme.