

Spring/Summer 2025



HOPE'S
AUCTIONEERS & LAND AGENTS

NEWSLETTER

AUCTION REVIEW

We have had a very successful trading period here from the beginning of the year where we have continued to see new clients adding to the roster as numbers of stock reaches record levels for the period.

Strong growth in the prime sheep ring has seen the addition of new buyers complementing the operation and providing outstanding results for all classes and weights. Cull ewes continue to enhance vendors cheques, proving every week that strong results are available.

Store cattle sales continue at pace with a trade in a highly competitive market breaking the £3000 mark for feeding cattle on several occasions this spring. Wigton's reputation for providing thriving cattle continues to secure new clients and as a result throughput is growing year on year.

Store lambs through the autumn and spring have witnessed a sparkling trade topping at £200 for Dutch Texels with regular consignments £190 plus as trade hits a new high.

Dairy sales at Wigton continue apace with regular sales proving a success from both vendors and purchasers alike. The May Day Dairy Show and Sale is the most recent example of our facility with trade topping at £3150 for an Applejax heifer from How End Farms. Our Anniversary Show and Sale in March saw a similar trade with champion heifer from Gerrard House Farm peaking at £3250 for a strong 36kg Holstein Friesian heifer.

As Lambing Season comes to an end, ewes and lambs are trading with some ferocity as established buyers compete with cattle graziers who are struggling to source cattle. Numbers of units continue to improve year on year with £220 per life not uncommon for the better commercial units.

The prime cattle trade has been on the rise week on week, at the beginning of the year prices were reaching over £3/kg but in recent weeks £4/kg is more like it. We recently sold a Limousin Heifer from Messrs J Dixon & Son, Lesson Hall for a startling price of £4.90/kg. With a competitive ringside of buyers, new vendors are encouraged to bring cattle along to Hopes.

We would like to thank all our current customers for their continued support, we look forward to welcoming both new buyers and vendors here at Hopes Auction.

UPCOMING SALES

JUNE 2025

- 5th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle
- 12th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Breeding Sheep
- 19th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle
- 26th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks. Sale of Dairy Cattle, Beef Breeding Cattle with Calves at Foot then Breeding Sheep

JULY 2025

- 3rd** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle
- 10th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Breeding Sheep
- 17th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle
- 24th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Breeding Sheep. Opening Sale of Store Lambs
- 31st** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle

AUGUST 2025

- 7th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Store Lambs
- 14th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Show & Sale of Store Cattle
- 21st** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Store Lambs
- 22nd** Lads Night Out & Single Ladies – Night Sale
- 28th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 3rd** Mule Ewes & Shearlings Sales. Sale starts at 11am
- 4th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Store Sheep
- 6th** Wigton Whites. Sale to commence at 10:30am
- 11th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Sale of Store Cattle
- 17th** Mule Ewe Lamb Sale & Local Lamb Day. Sale at 11am
- 18th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Calves & Stirks & Store Sheep
- 25th** Sale of Prime Bulls & Prime Cattle followed by OTM Cattle followed by Show & Sale of Store Cattle

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We are absolutely delighted to announce that over the past few months here at Hopes Auction we have raised an incredible amount of £14,099 for charity!

CHRISTMAS CHARITY TRACTOR RUN

In December 2024 we held our Charity Tractor Run which was well supported with both decorated tractors and spectators lining the streets from Wigton to Cockermouth.

We recently presented our final total of £9,369, with the money being split evenly between our 3 chosen charities:

- RABI- Northwest Region
- JIGSAW- Cumbria's Children's Hospice
- MND Association- Northwest Cumbria

This money will go a long way for each of these charities and they greatly appreciate our support. A big thank you to all who have helped and supported us to raise such a fantastic amount of money for these brilliant charities. We look forward to seeing you all again in December 2025 for another great night!!



Nicki Quayle (RABI), Gillian Potts (RABI),
Craig Brough (Hopes Auction Company),
Marion Muir (Hopes Auction Company),
Lorna De Mello Wright (JIGSAW Cumbria's Children's Hospice),
Fiona Stobard (MND Association), Alison Wilson (RABI),
Roise Dowling (Mike Dowling Contracting),
Matthew Bennett (Mike Dowling Contracting) and
Hayden Charters (Mike Dowling Contracting).



ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE on behalf of Messrs Messenger, Howes Farm

On Thursday the 19th of January 2025 we held the sale of 22 cows from the Messenger family, Howes Farm. The Messenger family kindly donated the average cow total from the sale, alongside a donation from Hopes Auction and bucket collections in the auction we are pleased to announce that we raised a fantastic amount of £4,730. These funds were donated to the MND Association raising funds and awareness for Motor Neurone Disease.

On behalf of the Messenger Family and all here at Hopes Auction we would like to thank everyone who helped, supported and donated, it is greatly appreciated!!



Fiona Stobard (MND Association), Emily Messenger,
Amy Wilson (Herds Person), James Messenger, Elisabeth Messenger,
Eddie Messenger, Richard Messenger, Will Messenger and
David Bowman (Hopes Auction Company).



LAND AGENCY UPDATE

THE FARMING EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY FUND 2025

There are 3 grants available to help buy equipment or technology to:

- Improve productivity
- Manage slurry
- Improve animal health and welfare

With a grant available between £1,000 and £25,000 for each category.

The application window is from the 29th May to midday on 10th July 2025, this will be the only application for 2025 so if you are interested please contact the Land Agency team to make sure you don't miss out!!

CAPITAL GRANT

In November 2024 DEFRA announced the temporary closure of the Capital Grant Scheme, they have been slowly processing all applications which were already in the system. The scheme is expected to reopen in "Summer 2025" however this will now have a spending cap limiting the amount you can apply for in each category:

- £25,000 for water quality
(for example fencing, hardcore tracks, roofing over middens and silage clamps)
- £25,000 for air quality (for example automatic scrapers)
- £25,000 natural flood management
(for example slowing water flow, storing water, improving soil infiltration)
- £35,000 for boundaries, trees and orchards
(for example hedgerow works, drystone wall restoration)

It is understood that you will be able to apply in more than one category, but each SBI can only have one application per year with it expected to be a rolling application window. Some works including roofing, tracks and concrete require Catchment Sensitive Farming approval, get in touch for assistance with this and to get ready for the grant scheme reopening. For a full list of options available or further information please contact us.

VALUATIONS & SALES

We offer valuation services for agricultural property and land for many purposes, including Capital Taxation (Probate), Secured Lending, Matrimonial matters, Expert Witness and more. We have RICS Registered Valuers fully qualified to provide RICS Red Book Valuations. Please get in touch for a quote.

We continue to successfully sell agricultural land and property with all properties being met with demand. This shows that this market remains strong and if you are considering selling then now is an excellent time to explore this further. Please contact our team to provide you with a free, no-obligation market appraisal.

PLANNING

With several recent changes which have made application more complex requiring more detailed advice we can provide the following: Biodiversity New Gain Calculations, SCAIL Report assessment for Ammonia Emissions, Labour Unit Assessment for Dwellings, Full Planning Application Submissions and Permitted Development Rights Application. If you are thinking of a project which requires planning permission please speak to us and we will be able to offer advice and guidance.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE (SFI)

The sudden closure of the SFI scheme has left many farmers in the dark. The scheme was closed with no prior warning and all applications halted. With the news of delinked payments being cut and ending in 2025, the SFI scheme was to offer essential financial assistance to farmers, so this closure has created further uncertainty for many farming businesses. The scheme offered flexibility for farmers to tailor an application to suit their needs and business operations. With the understanding this was a rolling application window and there was no rush to submit an application many farmers were carefully choosing options to best suit their business, inadvertently missing out on an opportunity to have a scheme submitted and a live scheme in place.

It is thought further details on the revised SFI scheme will be released following the Government's spending review in summer, with applications not being open until 2026. If an SFI is something which you are interested in, please contact us and once further details have been released we will be in touch.

IMPROVING FARM PRODUCTIVITY GRANT FOR ROBOT EQUIPMENT

We have been assisting businesses across the county with the Improving Farm Productivity Grant for Robotic Equipment. This grant is aimed to improve the farm productivity and efficiency where grant funding for 50% of the project is available. To date we have had 4 successful full applications for milking robots and slurry collectors, with several other applications submitted.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

We offer assistance in compiling compensation claims for electricity, water and gas mains, CPO road schemes and Network Rail access. If your holding has been impacted by any of these, please get in touch to see how we can assist.





12th Anniversary Show & Sale of Store Cattle
Champion from Messrs Pears,
Fellside House Farm



12th Anniversary Show & Sale of Prime Hogs
Champion from Will Gate, Low Aketon
Judge Martin McIntyre



12th Anniversary Show of Dairy Cattle
Champion Andrew Carter, Gerrard House Farm
Judge Ian Mitchell



**The 2025 Spring Lamb trade is off
to a flying start**



Xmas Primestock Cattle Champion
Ian and Nathan Granger, Kiln Close
Judge Mr C Bell



Xmas Primestock Lambs Champion & Reserve
Messrs R Hall & Son, Inglewood Edge
Judge Mr M McIntyre

Visit us at the Shows

This year we are delighted to be attending:

NORTH SHEEP - Wed 4th June 2025

DALSTON SHOW - Sat 9th Aug 2025

COCKERMOUTH SHOW

Sat 2nd Aug 2025

HESKET NEWMARKET SHOW

Sat 30th Aug 2025

Please pop along and visit our stand for refreshments and a chat,
we look forward to seeing you there.



STOCKSMAN
CAFE • BAR • RESTAURANT

The Stocksman is open on a Tuesday and Thursday on sale days, offering snacks and hot cooked meals from 8:30am to 2:30pm

We offer a range of catering including for funerals, christenings, weddings, afternoon teas and buffets as well as supplying outside catering for any event.

Please contact Lisa on 01697341115 or 0739258361

We serve delicious home cooked meals with ingredients sourced from the local community of Wigton

UPCOMING SALES

EVERY TUESDAY

SALE OF PRIME SHEEP

Sale of Prime Sheep at 8:30am
followed by Cull Ewes.

EVERY THURSDAY

Sale of Young Bulls at 10am
followed by Clean Cattle
Sale of OTM Cattle at 10:30am.

EVERY OTHER THURSDAY

Sale of Store Cattle to follow OTM Cattle
& Prime Cattle

And

Sale of Calves and Stirks and Dairy Cattle
Sale of Calves and Stirks at 11am
followed by Dairy Cattle at 12 noon.

