

County Farms

The gateway to a new business opportunity...



Estate background and purpose

The Staffordshire County Farms Estate currently comprises 106 farms covering around 8,600 acres throughout the county. The County Farms provide opportunities for new starters in agriculture to set up a business on a let farm, with a house, farm buildings and land. The farms are predominantly Dairy units although there are a number of mixed livestock units.

The purpose of the farms estate is to provide an affordable opportunity for people to enter agriculture and the rural economy on a small scale before expanding on to a larger unit and progressing to further opportunities in the private sector. This reinforces the Council's commitment to increase access to opportunities and create a vibrant rural economy, improving skills and creating jobs.

What we are looking for?

The aim of the management team is to work with tenants on the estate to ensure their businesses are successful and profitable and that the County Council tenants aim to achieve the highest standards of efficiency and best practice in their chosen enterprise.

Applicants should be seeking to pursue a career in agriculture and rural enterprise and must have at least five years full time practical experience of which up to three years attending a full time educational course in their chosen enterprise qualifies.

We welcome all ideas for entrepreneurial and innovative enterprises which may be run on the farm with emphasis on good land management, profitability, employment opportunities and food production.

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 Staffordshire County Farms

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60 – 90 Acres Staffordshire County Council offers starter farms ranging from 60 acres to 90 acres in size. These can be stock or dairy farms. Tenants are offered a 10 year Farm Business Tenancy.

Giles Bristol Barnsfield Farm, Penkrige, Deanery Estate



Giles Bristol recently re-located from Somerset to a starter dairy farm in Penkrige on the Staffordshire County Council estate following his success in securing the 10 year farm business tenancy. The farm is just over 60 acres and Giles currently operates the unit with a flying dairy herd supplying his milk to Wells Farm Dairies.

Giles was always interested in farming and had worked on his uncles farm. He then studied Agriculture at Harper Adams.

After graduating Giles went into milking cows for a few years and then got into dairy consultancy. However he had always wanted to farm in his own right and have his own animals. Renting a farm initially is big step to take but Giles said "It's been hard! It's been a struggle but it was definitely the right decision. I love working with the animals and hopefully it is the start of something that I can work hard at and grow to get bigger and bigger".



90+ Acres The next stage is Progression Farms. Staffordshire County Council actively encourages tenants to expand their businesses and move into progression farms. These farms range from 90 acres upwards in size and are offered to tenants on a 16 year Farm Business Tenancy.

John Allan Bleak House Farm, Burton-upon-Trent, Rolleston Estate



John Allan currently farms a progression unit just over 100 acres at Bleak House Farm near Burton-upon-Trent. Mr Allan runs the Leaventhorpe herd of pedigree Holsteins and was recently awarded the prestigious Holstein UK Master Breeder Award.

John Allan started farming by renting just 6 acres in 1985. Over the years he has expanded and grown his business and today runs a herd of incredibly high yielding cows and milks three times a day.

John says "It's a big step and you must be committed and determined to get stuck in! You have to have an aim and enjoy what your doing. Whether it be cows or sheep or ploughing you've got to enjoy it but then also make money within that so you can move forward".



90+ Acres
Tom Redfern
**New Enson Farm,
Yarlet Stafford**



Tom Redfern also farms a progression farm near Stafford. Staffordshire County Council offers a maximum term of 26 years on the estate.

Tom Redfern runs a commercial dairy enterprise and has continued to expand his business over the years. Mr Redfern supplies his milk to local dairy Wells Farm.

Tom started in 1984 on a Staffordshire County Council farm with 35 acres where he milked cows. He was on this farm for 8 years when he then progressed onto a farm of 72 acres where he continued to milk cows. He stayed on the second farm for 4 years and then moved to New Enson Farm where he farms today. Tom increased his cow numbers and expanded his business continuously. Tom has been successful in expanding his business beyond Staffordshire County Council.



Tenants Liaison Committee

The Tenants Liaison Committee is run by the tenants for the tenants. It is a group of County Council farm Tenants who meet twice yearly to discuss topical issues affecting them and their businesses.

Members come from various parts of the county and meetings are an opportunity to pool ideas, share helpful information and a forum for knowledge sharing to improve their enterprises.

The committee is also an opportunity for tenants as a group to address general issues about the estate policy and management issues with the Landlord.