

Focus on Agriculture and Rural Industries

Financial support and advice from regional specialists who are experts in your field.

Dedicated support from a very experienced team



Each industry has its own distinct characteristics and none more so than agriculture and related rural businesses. Our specialist team, co-ordinated from our Thornbury office, has grown over a period of time to become a committed provider of high quality accounting services to the large farming portfolio. The team has very strong links with a network of professionals who work largely with the farming and rural communities.

We pay close attention to developments in the agricultural sector, both at economic policy level and at individual farm level with the consequent impact upon decision making. Single farm payment and environmental schemes can significantly improve the bottom line income of the individual holding. We believe it is fundamental to our accounting service to farming clients that we have insight and knowledge beyond the debits and credits to the farm accounts.

We are pleased to ease the burden of all HMRC compliance and to assist in meeting statutory obligations.

Our expertise and knowledge extends far beyond the traditional role of the accounts office, built upon experience and understanding.

- Assistance with preparation of budgets and cashflow forecasts to restructure finance or provide new sources of working capital, and subsequent monitoring of results.
- Review and appraisal of diversification plans and alternative income sources
- Advice on the practical and tax implications of compensation monies and grant funding
- Knowledge of specialist farm office systems, from operational support to training

- Outsourcing of financial services including VAT, bookkeeping, recruitment, secretarial support and payroll bureau
- Succession planning to handle changes in ownership and management, for both family members and recruited staff
- Tax advice, with particular emphasis on the central role that capital gains and inheritance taxes play



I find the agricultural team provide a very up-to-date service and are very knowledgeable.

Listening, Evolving, Growing

Our senior team work closely with all established agricultural professionals throughout the South West including rural surveyors, land agents, farm consultants, specialist agricultural lawyers and banks' agricultural teams.

In common with all industries, farming needs to adapt and evolve to meet ever-changing challenges. The global economy, common agricultural policy and growing influence of environmental pressures all have an impact on the farming business.

We believe that it is necessary to be flexible and adaptable to enable the farming business to remain viable. The senior team operates at the highest level to be at the forefront in planning for change.

Several accounts software packages have become the market leaders and our teams have the experience to work on a cost effective basis. We can also assist in providing low cost accounting solutions to aid farm office efficiency.

Businesses in the farming sector are by their very nature highly capital intensive. Asset values are at an all time high and consequentially many, if not

all, financial decisions are likely to have significant income tax or capital tax implications. We strive to work with our clients at the planning level and not only the reporting level to ensure the most tax efficient results. Our knowledge and experience together with the support of a tax advisory team and trust and executorship team means that we are able to help our farming clients through the maze of effective tax planning.

We are especially proud of the professional service which our senior team provides in looking after the business interests of generations of farming families.



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The team has a good understanding of the farming and agricultural business and has provided sound advice around tax planning, which has greatly benefitted us.

Expert Advisers and Support



Des King

Title Senior Partner
Contact Thornbury
01454 415645
des@burton-sweet.co.uk

Skills People-based skills relating to planning both for short term and longer term financial goals.

Specialisms Agriculture and rural industries

Des King heads up the agricultural team and is a practitioner with a considerable depth and breadth of experience in all aspects of the rural sector. The rural economy is a passion which is evidenced by his very wide circle of friends and contacts within the farming community.

Des works closely with a number of farming groups and teams up with other agricultural professionals across the South West to provide first class support to a very large number of farming clients. His knowledge and experience is respected in the industry.



Darren Smith

Title Partner - Business Services
Contact Thornbury
01454 415645
darren@burton-sweet.co.uk

Skills Personal and business taxation, estates and probate

Specialisms Agriculture and rural industries

Darren Smith is an experienced professional who provides a high quality service to a number of farmers and landowners together with the wider rural business community. His private client portfolio comprises high net worth individuals and he has a particular interest in equestrian businesses and all aspects of National Hunt Racing.



Sarah Tweed

Title Partner - Rural and Business Services
Contact Thornbury
01454 415645
sarah@burton-sweet.co.uk

Skills Commercial accounts

Specialisms Agriculture and rural industries

Sarah Tweed has an exceptionally large body of knowledge relating to the agricultural sector and all rural businesses. Sarah works with some of the leading rural professionals and is highly respected in the farming community. She has an in-depth knowledge of accounting software for farms and has trained many of our own team, as well as numerous farm secretaries and farmers. Sarah is a professional contributor to the team on many levels and she has an extensive portfolio of farming clients.

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