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## Food price inflation and farming fortunes

Rising food prices are boosting turnovers in some sectors of the region's farming community, however escalating fuel, chemical and labour costs are eroding a large proportion of the gains, says Paul White of Brown & Co.

'Food price inflation and its effect on farming businesses' is the topical subject of an informal drop-in event for the region's producers on February 20, at Kenwick Park Hotel, in Louth. Open between 10 and 3.30, the event is being staged by three of the region's leading supporters of the agricultural sector - property and business consultants Brown & Co, chartered accountants Forrester Boyd and the HSBC bank.

Michael Summers, HSBC regional agriculture manager, will be giving a 20-minute talk on agflation at 10am, 12 noon and 2pm. Farmers can also take advantage of a free of charge one to one discussion with representatives from all three firms.

"The focus of the event is the whole area of farm profitability including new rural grants, rising land rents, joint ventures and crop marketing training," says business consultant Paul White. "We're expecting a high level of interest in the East Midlands Development Agency's (emda) recently announced £60million package of grant funding for land based businesses.

"Great news for the local economy, these Rural Development Programme for England grants are available to help towards diversification projects, as well as for collaborative approaches to develop new products. Funding streams are in place to help farmers and growers take advantage of new market opportunities to add value to agricultural and horticultural products."

Chris Hunt, a partner of Forrester Boyd, will be on hand to discuss accounting and tax related issues while John Colley, senior agricultural manager for HSBC, is available to discuss farming finance.

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Other representatives at the Louth event include solicitors Wilkin Chapman, Lincolnshire Machinery Ring, Woldmarsh Producers Limited, Business Link advice and support to businesses, Country Land and Business Association (CLA) and architects KD Design.

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For further information, please contact

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**Notes to editors**

Brown & Co is a firm of independent rural property, land and business specialists operating from ten offices in the East of England, London, Poland and St Lucia.

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