

Westmill Farm

OPEN DAYS at Westmill Farm – FRIDAY 3rd & SATURDAY 4th FEBRUARY

Rare opportunity for entrepreneurial and environmentally aware farm manager to shape the future for a 480 acre, pioneering environmental farm. A sharefarming or tenancy option will be available after probationary first year – Wilts/Oxon/Glos border.

The Opportunity

Westmill Farm is looking for the right person(s) to take forward and further develop the pioneering environmental and social work it has achieved in the last 40 years.

If you already have the ability and the experience of managing a farm and are looking for an opportunity to invest your ideas, time and capital into developing your own land based enterprise with the opportunity to either share farm or take on a tenancy **AND** are committed to cutting edge of environmental and the social aspects of agriculture but need land to allow you to put your ideas into practise – this opportunity at Westmill farm is a chance to do just that.

The Farm

Westmill farm is located near Watchfield, on the Oxon/Wilts border, SN6 8TH.

It is a 480 acre holding. The majority of the land has been farmed organically for the last 30 years with 145 acres that is conventional arable and has been managed with Regen-ag principles since 2016.

Alongside the organic and conventional arable crops there is a small pasture fed suckler herd of 40 cows with the (progressively more Shorthorn) accompanying youngstock that are finished on the farm.

There are also 60 acres of land that is managed specifically for environmental benefits, some within and some outside a stewardship agreement.

Westmill is a highly diversified farm that has initiated several award winning low carbon and social enterprises and now supports mosaic of independent horticultural, forestry and craft businesses. This has evolved from the current tenancy that has balanced long term environmental and social wealth with the production of high quality food and commercial requirements. Westmill farm is now looking for a new person(s) who will bring their commitment to a similar set of values to further develop the farm and take it forwards.

My Offer

A contract of £35 – 45K for the management of the farm will be agreed for the first year.

The first year will be a 'probationary' year for both parties to ensure we are both comfortable to commit to a long term partnership. If the first year is going well there will be an expectation from both parties that a share farming agreement or joint venture is likely to be entered into in the second or third year or a FBT if the new farmer(s) has sufficient capital by that stage to take on a full tenancy.

The incoming farmer(s) will be expected to put their capital into any new/joint ventures and the current farmer can also make capital available for an appropriate new venture or new farm infrastructure.

A three bedroom cottage on the farm is currently occupied but could be made available.

Your Offer

The farm is currently managed by Adam Twine with very occasional help from contractors and neighbours. You will be responsible for the day to day management of all aspects of the farm; the organic and regen arable, the suckler herd and grassland, the environmental areas and general farm infrastructure, machinery and maintenance. I will be available to support but expect you to be able to lead and work competently by yourself.

You will have a sense of how the farm can develop and will work towards making that real.

Process

To enable a better understanding of the farm and to ask questions of the current farmer there will be two open days at Westmill farm on Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th February.

You are invited to register for one of the farm open days to look at what is already happening on the farm and to submit your proposals for taking the farm forwards into a post BPS world that values food production alongside enhancing the farm biodiversity and reducing its fossil fuel use and GHG emissions while also promoting the social wealth of the farm and the wider community.

If you would like to come to one of the open days please submit an expression of interest via email with a brief details of your farming experience and why you are interested in this opportunity to Adam Twine westmillfarm@phonecoop.coop.

If you are unable to come to either of those dates but are keen to visit the farm please email and I'll try to find a time that works for both of us.

If you are unable/do not wish to come to an open day please send a full CV and expression of interest to westmillfarm@phonecoop.coop by **10th February**.

All persons who have submitted their business proposals and CVs will be contacted by 18th February. If your application looks like it might be right for Westmill farm you'll also be invited to submit a fully worked business proposal to be submitted for the 1st March.