

# Rural Update - May 2010

A new service launches next week, a partnership between Lincolnshire Rural Support Network (LRSN), Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire (RCAN) and the Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham. Together the three organisations will be providing a health screening and drop-in service on Wednesdays at Newark Livestock Market.

LRSN has been running a drop-in point at Louth Livestock Market for just over three years and introduced a health screening service there just over a year ago.

During that time LRSN has supported over 150 farming families to find practical solutions to some of the problems they faced, from debt to problems with the Rural Payments Agency, to personal problems including bereavement. Some problems have been large and some small but all stressful for the individuals concerned and in need of support.

The health screening service at Louth has been a resounding success with over 300 health checks undertaken at fortnightly clinics run by Nurse Heather Dawes. The range of checks, which include mental health checks, has meant that a number of undiagnosed illnesses have been picked up, and ongoing health advice given to keep problems under control.

LRSN is keen to supply this service for people from the Lincolnshire rural community using Newark Livestock Market, and funding for the next three years has been forthcoming from NHS Lincolnshire.

Newark Livestock Market is a busy regional market and attracts farmers from many other counties. With the help of LRSN, and together with RCAN the Diocese is working towards establishing a Nottinghamshire farming and rural support network to meet the needs in this county.

LRSN has made a referral arrangement with Farm Crisis Network and other existing farming support organisations for any farmers and others in the rural community who approach the organisation for help from outside Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

Mrs Amanda Farr, High Sherriff of Nottingham, will open the health screening and drop in service at the Livestock Market on 26<sup>th</sup> May.

As well as Nurse Heather Dawes, Alison Twiddy from LRSN attends the Market on a regular basis. The Revd. Canon Alan Robson, Agricultural Chaplain for Lincolnshire is also regularly at the Market. The Revd. Derek Hollis has also begun attending the Wednesday Market twice a month.



Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham

Derek Hollis 18.05.10  
Bishop's Adviser on Rural Affairs  
☎ home 01636 525383  
E-mail: [ruralsouthwell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ruralsouthwell@yahoo.co.uk)