

About Us

Crowthers Chartered Accountants are based in the market towns of Pershore in Worcestershire and Ledbury in Herefordshire. We offer a full range of services to agricultural clients.

We currently act for over 50 agricultural clients specialising in livestock, arable, fruit, equestrian and forestry. We understand there are specific issues that need to be addressed for our farming clients and aim to provide a quality professional service at a sensible price.

We aim to work alongside your other appointed professionals in the agricultural field to give you a first class service.

Fees

Most of our clients now prefer to receive a fixed fee for our routine services, so that payments can be budgeted for monthly or quarterly without any unpleasant surprises. Our fixed fee arrangement is then reviewed annually with each client.

Protection from Tax Enquiries

By engaging the services of a Chartered Accountant, a good degree of protection will be received as professional firms have good relationships with HMRC who know the quality of work carried out.

However, this is no guarantee and so all of our business clients are covered by Fee Protection Insurance should HMRC open a full enquiry into your affairs.

Unlike most other accountants we make no additional charge for this insurance cover and our clients have the peace of mind that our fees for dealing with detailed HMRC queries are not passed on to them.

Reward Scheme for Existing Clients

We always thank our clients for referring new prospects. This is the way we have developed our business for over 21 years.

We are currently offering to pay for a meal for 2 at a local restaurant (worth up to £50) for each referral which results in us taking on a new client. So, if you pass our details on to any friends, please ask them to mention your name!

Directors

Jonathan J Crowther FCA
Richard F Beard FCA
Nikki L Walding ACA CTA
Ian P Cooke FCCA ACA

Managers

Sophie J Howard ACA
Sandy E Lewis
Sarah L Smith ACCA
Steven M Carter ACCA
Kelly J Cummings ACCA

For agricultural services please contact:

Jonathan J Crowther FCA
Sophie J Howard ACA

Pershore Office

The Courtyard
19 High Street
Pershore
Worcestershire WR10 1AA
Tel: 01386 552644
Fax: 01386 553098
Email: farming@crowther.co.uk

Ledbury Office

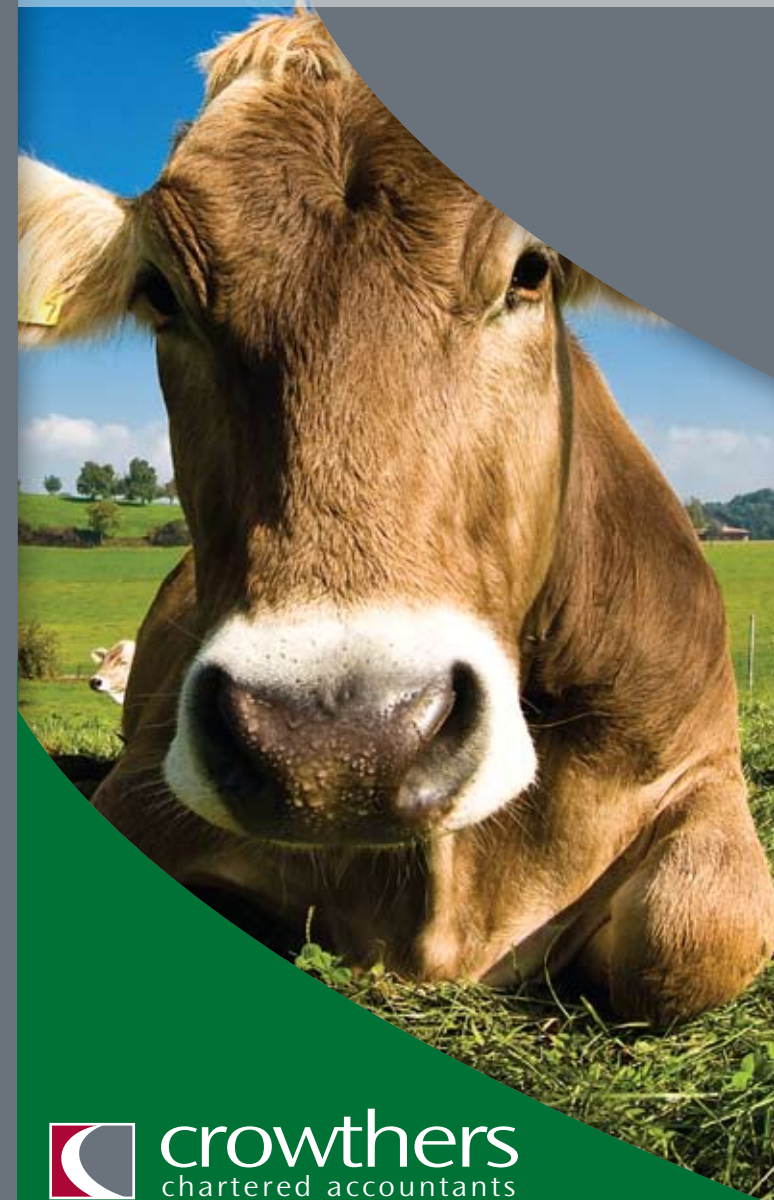
10 The Southend
Ledbury
Herefordshire HR8 2EY
Tel: 01531 631500
Fax: 01531 631323
Email: farming@crowther.co.uk

For more information please visit our website
www.crowther.co.uk



Crowthers Accountants Limited is registered to carry on audit work and regulated for a range of investment business activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Agricultural Services



Our Agricultural Team

We have always had a strong emphasis on farming at both our offices and we have now created a dedicated agricultural team headed by Jonathan Crowther and Sophie Howard who are both Chartered Accountants.



Jonathan is a Director and founder of the firm and has been giving tax advice to farmers for over 20 years. He specialises in advising farmers on tax planning, retirement and succession issues.

Sophie is the Agricultural Manager and looks after all our farming clients across both the Pershore and Ledbury offices. She only deals with agricultural clients and has been with the firm since 2002. Sophie grew up on a farm and has remained involved in the local farming community.

Accounts and Tax Service

For all our farming clients we ensure that all regulatory requirements are met by providing the following service:

- preparation of year end accounts
- a meeting to discuss the accounts
- preparation of the business taxation computations
- completion of the tax returns
- notification of any tax payments that are due
- telephone support for queries during the year

We can provide much more help when required and a list of some of the additional services we can offer is shown on the next page.

Additional Agricultural Services

Accounts and Income Tax Planning

- The basic accounts and tax service can be extended if information is needed for the bank or we can link in with any agricultural consultant
- Tax planning including advising on asset acquisitions, herd basis elections, farmers averaging etc to minimise tax bills
- Assisting with loan and lease decisions and raising finance for the business

Farm Enterprise Accounts

- Providing information to assist with the management of your business
- Helping you identify costs and any savings to be made

Farm Secretarial Services

- Our payroll team can run your monthly payroll for as little as £25 a month
- We can prepare your VAT returns on your behalf or simply assist with filing online
- Our experience of Sum-IT, Farmplan and Sage accounts packages can help you decide what software is best for you

Capital Tax Planning

- Inheritance Tax reviews
- Practical planning advice to protect Agricultural Property Relief (APR) claims
- Assistance with preparation of Wills
- Capital gains and Roll-over Relief gains

Retirement and Passing on the Farm

- Assistance and advice with bringing children into the family business
- Ensuring all reliefs and allowances are being maximised

Farming Issues

Extra tax relief for new machinery

Tax allowances for purchasing new machinery, tractors or silage clamps are much improved with the Annual Investment Allowance at £100,000 from 5 April 2010. The timing of the purchase is important and we include this in our year end planning to maximise any tax savings.

New houses or barn conversions

We are often asked to advise our clients on how to develop a new property on the farm as a son or daughter in the farming partnership requires somewhere of their own to live. There are several considerations including how to fund the work, whether or not the house becomes a business asset and how the VAT is reclaimed.

The Farmhouse issue and Inheritance Tax

We are all aware of the farmhouse issue, but there are steps you can take with little effort to minimise your Inheritance Tax liability by being able to claim Agricultural Property Relief.

Issues to consider include:

- Is any other business run from the farmhouse?
- Are all business decisions and meetings held in the farmhouse (and recorded)?
- Is the farmhouse character appropriate to the land?
- Is there a full-time farmer living in the farmhouse?

A new partner or director in the business

Whilst we all hope that we will get on with our partners in the future, it is inevitable that in some situations disagreements do arise. We would always advise that a partnership or shareholders agreement is drawn up.

It is also common when there is a new partner to have issues over property ownership. It is crucial that careful tax planning is carried out if the ownership of the farm property is not the same as the farming partnership.