

INTRODUCTION

As the season shifts and the year begins to gather pace, we hope your operations are running smoothly and your plans for the months ahead are taking shape. Whether you're in the middle of busy fieldwork or taking stock after a demanding period, it's a good time to pause and catch up on what's happening in the wider world.

In this edition, we have got plenty to share; from developments in the global oil market to practical advice on tank security and access, a look at our tank servicing offers, some fuel myth-busting, a introduction to a new member of the team, and an update on HVO fuel.



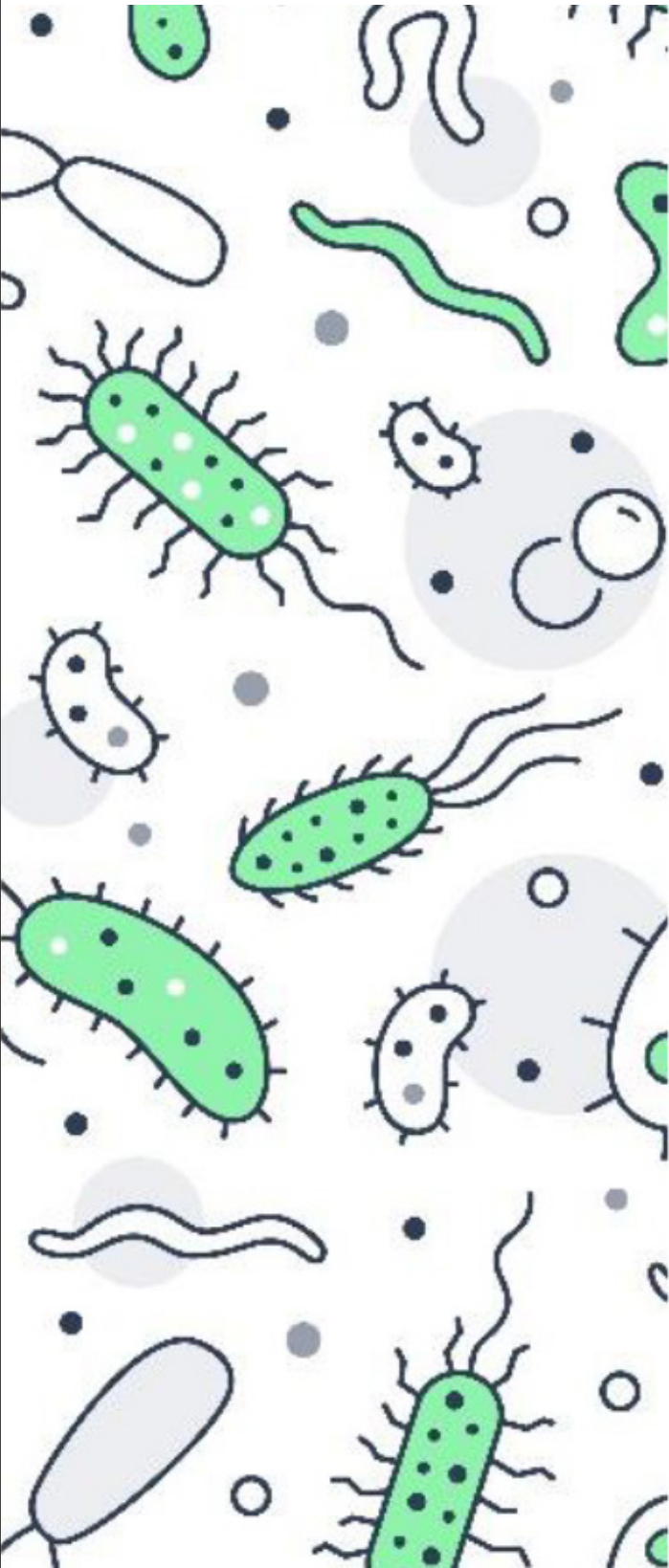
MARKET NEWS

The Strait of Hormuz has been at the centre of significant disruption since late February, when escalating conflict in the region led shipping firms to suspend operations through the waterway. The strait is the passage through which around a quarter of the world's seaborne oil normally flows, and restrictions on shipping have caused considerable uncertainty across global energy markets.

Since the conflict began, oil prices have risen by more than 50%, with Brent crude climbing well above \$100 a barrel after trading in a relatively stable \$65-70 range in the months prior.

Strategic reserves and commercial inventories have helped cushion the initial impact, though these buffers are finite, and the longer the situation continues the more pressure the market is likely to feel.

The timeline for any resolution remains unclear. What it does underline is the value of forward planning on fuel procurement, which is something worth factoring into your thinking for the rest of the season.



FUEL MYTHS: DOES DIESEL REALLY GO OFF?

While you're keeping your tank in good condition, it's worth addressing something we get asked about regularly, and, with fuel at its current price, it's more relevant than ever.

The short answer is: yes, diesel can degrade — and it doesn't always need long to do it. A number of factors can cause it to deteriorate over time:

- **Water Contamination:** condensation inside the tank introduces moisture, which encourages fuel bugs and leads to the dark, sludgy deposits you may have seen on filters.
- **Oxidation:** exposure to air causes diesel to break down chemically, darkening in colour and forming gum-like residues.
- **Fuel Bugs:** bacteria and fungi thrive at the fuel-water interface, producing acids and slime that can block filters and damage injectors.
- **Sediment Build-Up:** particles settle at the bottom of the tank and can be drawn into the system during a busy period.

The good news is that degradation is largely preventable. Our Premium Gas Oil contains built-in anti-bug technology, keeping your supply clean and your equipment protected season after season, without any additional treatment needed.

If you're seeing filter blockages or rough running on start-up after a period of inactivity, degraded fuel is often the first place to look. Our team can help with tank cleaning and fuel polishing. Just give us a call.

TANK SECURITY & EASE OF ACCESS

With fuel at its most expensive in years, your tank is a more attractive target than ever. Theft in rural areas was already a serious problem before prices climbed — at current levels, a full tank represents a significant sum, and opportunists know it.



SECURING YOUR TANK

- Fit a quality lock to the tank lid and consider a lockable fill point cover.
- Install motion-sensor lighting or CCTV — even a visible camera acts as a deterrent.
- Position your tank away from public roads and sight lines where possible.
- Consider registering your fuel with a marking scheme, which can help with recovery and prosecution if theft does occur.

KEEPING ACCESS CLEAR AND SAFE

- As well as keeping your tank secure, it's worth making sure it's easy to reach when you need it and when your delivery driver does too. Before your next delivery:
- Check that the access route is clear of machinery, bales, or seasonal clutter.
- Make sure your tank is clearly labelled with product type and capacity.
- Let us know in advance if anything has changed (a new gate, a moved tank, a tighter turning circle for larger vehicles).
- Ensure there's adequate lighting if you're receiving deliveries early or late in the day.



MEET THE TEAM

For up to date news and market talk please contact our pricing team.

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TANK SERVICES

Benefits to maintaining your oil tank:

- Preventing Leaks and Contamination**
 Regular inspections help identify and address areas of weakness in the tank, catching the issue early.
- Ensuring Efficient Operation**
 A clean, well-maintained tank helps with the efficient operation of your heating system.
- Prolong the Life of Your Tank**
 Preventing corrosion and addressing minor issues before they become a bigger problem can contribute to the tank's longevity.
- Optimise Fuel Quality**
 Sediment and water in your tank can compromise the quality of your heating oil. Regular checks ensure that the fuel remains clean and of high quality, preventing damage to your system.
- Peace of Mind**
 Knowing your tank is in good working order can bring peace of mind, especially when coming into the colder months and you want to be sure your heating system works.



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WHAT WE OFFER...

Keeping your tank secure is one thing — keeping it in good working order is another. With fuel costs where they are right now, the last thing you need is a leak, a contaminated supply, or a pump failure pulling you away from more important work.

We offer a full range of tank services to keep your operation running without interruption:

- **Installation**

If you need a new tank, we'll carry out a full site survey and provide a written quotation, with nationwide delivery and installation handled by our team. Getting the right setup from the start saves headaches down the line.

- **Emergency Pump Outs**

If you have a leak or a split tank, call us and we'll arrange an emergency pump out as quickly as possible. We can also organise a replacement tank installation at the same time, minimising your downtime.

- **Maintenance & Repair**

Our maintenance service covers oil line pressure testing, tank cleaning, and water removal. Regular servicing helps prevent leaks, removes sediment and water contamination that can damage engines and heating systems, and extends the working life of your tank considerably.

To discuss any of the above, get in touch with our engineering team.

engineering@fordfuels.co.uk

01386 871777





HVO: THE FUEL BUILT FOR THE FUTURE



WHAT IS HVO?

Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) is a renewable diesel made from sustainable waste materials such as used cooking oil and animal fats. Unlike traditional biodiesel, HVO is a paraffinic fuel, meaning it burns cleaner, stores better, and performs reliably in modern diesel engines without requiring modifications.

HVO IN ACTION

From tractors and combines to generators and grain dryers, farms are switching to HVO as a direct replacement for red diesel. Users report smoother engine performance, reduced GHG emissions up to 90%, and a noticeable drop in exhaust odour, particularly beneficial when working in enclosed spaces like barns or around livestock. With no compromise on power or reliability, HVO allows farms to cut carbon emissions while keeping operations running efficiently.



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FIXING YOUR HVO PRICE

We offer the option to fix your HVO at an agreed price for a set period, protecting your business from market volatility and giving greater confidence when budgeting, particularly useful during high-usage periods such as harvest or planting.

MYTH VS. REALITY

- Myth:** HVO requires engine modifications.
Reality: It's a true drop-in fuel compatible with most modern diesel engines.
- Myth:** Renewable fuels mean lower performance.
Reality: HVO delivers comparable power and efficiency to conventional diesel.
- Myth:** It's difficult to store.
Reality: HVO has excellent storage stability and a longer shelf life than traditional diesel.

QUICK HVO TIPS

- Most OEMs already support HVO, check with your manufacturer for formal approval.
- Ideal for seasonal machinery thanks to its long storage life.
- Store as you would standard diesel, no special infrastructure required.
- Consider starting with a trial on a single machine to see the benefits firsthand.

Contact our HVO team for more information...

HVO@fordfuels.co.uk

Tel:07884 696547

MEET THE TEAM FEATURE

What's the most important part of your job?

"It's not just about selling, it's about giving the right advice. If I understand what a customer actually needs and help them make a better decision, the relationship looks after itself."

How are you finding Ford Fuels so far?

"Thoroughly enjoying it. Having TotalEnergies behind us gives me real confidence in what we're offering, and we have a great team. Hopefully that comes across to our customers."

What do you get up to outside of work?

"Plenty of time with family, and a lot of walks around the Cotswolds with our dog Rufus. I keep fit, enjoy travelling, and follow football. I'll let you know who I support after the 24th May."

What drives you outside of work?

"Losing my wife to cancer and raising two young children has given me a strong sense of perspective. It's made me more determined to do meaningful work and build genuine relationships. Don't be sad at what you lost, smile for what you had."



David Hughes

Lubricants Business Development Manager



SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE



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