

## How does IRIS help keep payroll under control at Home Farm?



**HOME FARM  
HURSLEY**

### Customer Profile

Home Farm are based in Hursley, Hampshire.

The farm specialises in sheep and cattle, whilst also being home to the remains of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Merton Castle, and one of the oldest village cricket clubs in England.

We spoke with Penny Lownds, the Administrator at Home Farm to see how she managed the payroll requirements for the farm's two employees, and also the preparations for auto enrolment.

### Business Challenge

Penny believes that cash flow and asset management are the biggest challenges facing the farm

### Solutions Used

IRIS Payroll Business

**This client case study comes from Penny Lownds, Administrator at Home Farm. We spoke to Penny to see how IRIS Payroll Business is helping her manage payroll for the farm's two employees, whilst also discussing how she is preparing for automatic enrolment to begin.**

### Home Farm & IRIS Payroll Business

We began by discussing what software Penny uses to run payroll, and how she's finding it. Penny explained that "we've been using IRIS for some time now, my predecessor introduced IRIS Payroll Business to Home Farm, and I took over the running of the accounts and payroll about 18 months ago.

"Since using IRIS Payroll Business, and with no prior knowledge of payroll, I have to say it's very straightforward and easy to use. It makes everything simple and as long as you enter the information correctly to begin with, you know the software will work everything out for you – it's very reassuring.

## Key Points

### Trust



IRIS and Home Farm have built up trust through many years of working together.

### Help & Support



Home Farm don't have to contact IRIS Support often, but with Penny describing them as "really helpful" you know we're there if you need us.

### Auto enrolment



Auto enrolment affects every business in the UK. With over half a million small businesses staging this financial year alone, it's important to prepare early, as Home Farm have done.

### Recommendations



Home Farm recommend IRIS and our "easy to use" payroll software, with Penny telling us "you don't need to be a payroll expert with IRIS."

"I just find managing the payroll with IRIS quick, it probably takes me about 15 minutes to run our monthly payroll. Now we are a small company but even still, 15 minutes is very quick."

Penny also added that "the year-end functionality is brilliant, I found it straightforward to use."

### Automatic Enrolment

The Workplace Pension Reforms will impact every single business in the UK that employs someone. We started by asking Penny what her first thoughts were when the legislation was announced. She told us "When auto enrolment was first announced, I had mixed thoughts. If you're younger then it's good because you're saving for your future, something younger people don't necessarily think about. For businesses it does mean a lot more work and preparation, I also think it's slightly over-complicated, but overall it's a good thing if it gets people saving."

### Training for the Legislation

Home Farm are yet to reach their staging date, but in preparation for January 2017, Penny explained how she started to get ready for the legislation's introduction. "We first started preparing for auto enrolment a long time in advance, my predecessor introduced me to her work on it and I started 18 months ago, so the farm would have started its preparations around two years ago," she explained.

It's recommended that businesses begin their preparations for automatic enrolment at least 12 months in advance, as it is often more time consuming to get ready for than businesses think.

### Manual vs. Automatic?

The Pensions Regulator themselves recommend that businesses of any size manage their workplace pension commitments through payroll software, rather than manually. It's rare that we come across businesses who do plan to manually process everything, but it does happen. Penny had no such plans, telling us that, "I plan to manage auto enrolment through the software rather than manually. Using the software means it's quicker and also leaves a trail behind."

### Contacting IRIS

There will be times when you need to get in touch, we've invested heavily in our Sales and Support teams, and this shows. Penny explained that "the Sales and Support departments at IRIS have really helped me through the preparations for auto enrolment. When you're talking to them, they really do seem to take the time to listen and understand your issues."

### Recommendations

Our final question to Penny was, overall, would she recommend IRIS. She told us "I'd definitely recommend IRIS, I think it's easy to use and you don't need to be a payroll expert to use the software. The Support options are also very good and really helpful" which is great to hear.

### IRIS Payroll Business

Penny mentioned that "you don't need to be an expert in payroll to use IRIS Payroll Business – it's that straightforward to use." IRIS Payroll Business is user-friendly, intuitive, powerful small business payroll software designed to help businesses handle payroll easily. You can click the red button below to arrange your free demo.

**Call 0844 815 5656 to  
Book Your Software  
Demonstration**