

## NFU Successes

## Arable

- **Guidance on cereal contracts and arbitration**  
The NFU has produced a much-needed guidance note covering supplying grain, special terms, tonnage delivered and tolerances. The note included worked examples of how defaults are managed and arbitration.
- **Oilseed Bonuses**  
NFU analysis convinced a major oilseed intake to recalculate oil bonuses and deliver and additional one million pounds in unpaid benefits to producers.
- **Farm Saved Seed**  
NFU has lobbied industry to maintain the ability of farmers to use farm saved seed most recently with European Oilseed crushers association FOSFA.
- **Price Risk Management**  
NFU has fought to ensure AHDB-HGCA has been allowed the freedom to explain price risk management to farmers, facilitating the ability to protect returns while benefiting from upward market moves.
- **Sellers' checklists**  
The NFU promoted the Cereal and Oilseed Sellers' Checklists to sellers to improve clarity and confidence when agreeing new grain contracts.
- **Launch of Fodder Bank**  
The NFU launched a national Fodder Bank to put buyers and sellers of grains, animal feed and bedding in touch and improve the outcome of crop marketing and feed sourcing.
- **Renewable Energy Directive**  
New markets have been secured for **biomass** and **biogas** for use in heating, cooling and electricity markets as well as the further expansion of markets for biomass for **transport fuels**. In December 2010 the Renewable Energy Directive came into force. This is a considerable victory for NFU's use of science for sound policy.
- **Import tariffs for cereals**  
Our lobbying was successful in bringing forward resumption of **import tariffs for cereals** in October 2008 which was originally to be suspended to June 2009.
- **Bird scaring code of practice**  
To highlight the increasing risk of restrictions on gas guns - used by to protect crops from devastating bird damage - the NFU circulated its Code of Practice encouraging a range of bird scaring methods.
- **Cross Compliance rules**  
NFU lobbying secured the effective removal of two cross compliance rules in England on harvest in waterlogged soils (GAEC 3) and relaxation of the original severe restrictions on uncropped land (GAEC 12).
- **Weetabix competition**  
NFU Members have had an opportunity in 2010 to show their artistic side with Weetabix with several £2000, and one £5000 cash prizes won in a competition to build the best structure out of straw bales in their region.
- **DON Mycotoxin testing**  
The FSA and Nabim circulated notes that DON Mycotoxin testing should only be necessary in certain, limited circumstances. The NFU, HGCA and regulators now met with millers in September to agree grain intake policy, risk assessment and if testing is necessary. Testing would cost around 40p per tonne, two million pounds nationally.
- **5% increase on seed certification fees dropped**  
Following NFU's response to a 2009 consultation Government seed officials at Fera have announced they will no longer be putting in place a 5% increase on seed certification costs this year.

- **Senova Ritz Oilseed Rape**  
Individual cases were being progressed via the appointed panel firms, most were settled with suppliers with funding by the Legal Assistance Scheme.
- **European farming standard opposed**  
The NFU continues to oppose the work for a European arable farming standard (through CEN). We were successful in having the remit reduced and have been closely involved in proposed designs for auditing and verifying greenhouse gas emissions and environmental sustainability.
- **Set-aside at zero**  
NFU lobbying in Brussels brought set-aside to zero in 2007 which helped secure its abolition in 2008. Government legislation will now only be brought upon the industry if the NFU and industry-led Campaign for the Farmed Environment does not deliver environmental protection through voluntary means.

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