

- **Why Science Matters for Farming**
Following the launch of the NFU campaign Why Science Matters for Farming, several influential and high level groups, initiatives and reports have emerged mirroring many of our key messages. The importance of science and research is now embedded in Government food security policy development and agriculture is now a fundamental target of science funding strategy.
- **Recognition in Government**
The NFU has played a significant role in achieving recognition in Government that the current regulatory process for GMOs in Europe is having a negative impact on British livestock sectors and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- **Defra's On Farm Inspection Steering Group**
The NFU is a key member of Defra's On Farm Inspection Steering Group, which has successfully run a pilot to combine RPA cattle identification inspections with TB tests. Farms selected for a cattle ID inspection and also due a TB test will now have a joint visit from both Animal Health and RPA where possible. This will directly reduce burden for livestock keepers through avoiding doubling handling and disturbance of cattle.
- **EU pesticides proposals**
NFU-led lobbying in Brussels raised other Member States' awareness of the EU pesticide proposals, and resulted in a better situation overall for growers. The NFU maintained pressure and awareness to ensure rejection of attempts to impose greater burdens on the on farm use of pesticides through the Sustainable Use Directive.
- **Pesticides need protecting**
The NFU has continued to raise the need for the protection of existing pesticides, research into alternative methods of control, both chemical and non-chemical.
- **Development of skills pass**
The NFU has been central in demonstrating that agriculture, within the EU Social Partners, is making significant progress in developing the Agripass skills passport, with the UK taking the lead through NFU and Lantra
- **Pharmaceutical sites 'legitimate and safe'**
NFU has successfully lobbied the Veterinary Medicines Directorate to investigate the creation of a verification system whereby online pharmaceutical sites can be verified as 'legitimate and safe' for UK livestock farmers to buy veterinary medicines.
- **Medicines Directorate to be retained**
NFU successfully lobbied that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate be retained as an Executive Agency of Defra following the 2005 Hampton Review which recommended thirty-one national regulatory bodies be consolidated into 7 thematic regulators with the aim of making Government's inspection and enforcement functions simpler and more customer focused.
- **Inputs Price Monitor**
Very successful partnership with Farmers Weekly to re-launch the Inputs Price Monitor, with excellent feedback from members who are regularly using and finding the results a very useful comparison tool. On average over 400 farmers have been viewing the results report a month.
- **Animal Transport**
Lobbying by the NFU and through COPA-COGECA contributed to the suspension of the animal transport regulation review. Proposals to reduce travelling times and stocking densities caused considerable concern throughout the industry, and the extensive lobbying and opposition to the Commission instigated the suspension.

Issue date December 2009