

NFU Technically Speaking

e-news from the Science and Regulatory Affairs section of the NFU Policy Services Department

June 2013

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New NADIS Webinars

NADIS (National Animal Disease Information Service) produces advanced training for on-farm disease recognition. They have recently taken another step in communicating their monthly online Parasite Forecast and Disease Alert by launching **new webinars** for each.



[Click for webinars](#)



Parasite forecast:
Nematodirosis

This June's [Parasite Forecast](#) outlines the parasitic challenge facing cattle and sheep in the different regions of the UK. Once again, this month's forecast concentrates mainly on **Nematodirosis**, the risk of which is expected to be **very high** this June following the cold, late spring, with cases probably running into July. Also covered more briefly are PGE and Live Fluke in cattle and sheep and cattle lungworm (husk) and myiasis (blowfly) in sheep.

In addition, NADIS publishes a monthly [Disease Alert](#) which brings attention to a key disease for the time of year. This June, the topics covered include ram management – maintaining the health and condition of rams in readiness for the tugging season, lead poisoning in cattle and contagious pustular dermatitis (Orf) in sheep. In this webinar, James Aitken BSc BVetMed MRCVS, Orchard Veterinary Group, Glastonbury, discusses the presenting signs, treatment and prevention of these conditions.



Disease Alert:
Lead Poisoning.

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NFU, Agriculture House, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2TZ
Tel: 02476 858500 Fax: 02476 858501



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Schmallenberg vaccine to be made available in UK



UK farmers will be the first in the EU with access to a vaccine to help protect sheep and cattle against birth defects caused by the Schmallenberg virus (SBV) following an announcement last week that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) has issued the veterinary pharmaceutical company, MSD Animal Health, a licence to provide the new 'Bovilis SBV' vaccine. For more information, follow this link <http://www.nfuonline.com/sectors/livestock/schmallenberg-vaccine-to-be-available-this-summer/>

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Members' views sought on tractor and trailer weights

For some time the NFU has pressed government for the current weight and speed limits for tractors and trailers to be increased. Trailer weights have not moved from the current maximum of 18.29 tonnes (24.39 tonnes for tractor and trailer). Read our briefing and complete our web survey [here](#). (log in required)

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Smarter Guidance and Data Review



Defra has launched its [Smarter Guidance and Data review](#) calling for your thoughts on a range of Government guidance, including waste and water management, plant health, development and energy but also asking you to submit your ideas on data submission obligations, including waste exemptions, abstraction licenses, environmental stewardship and TB testing. This review is a follow up to the Environment theme Red Tape Challenge which recommended reforming guidance but also follows on from a recommendation made by the Farming Regulation Task Force to look at all information and data needed to be provided by farmers to Defra. You have until 5th July to submit your thoughts. You are invited to share these with lee.osborne@nfu.org.uk or diane.mitchell@nfu.org.uk to help feed into a collective NFU response. You can read more about this initiative on [NFUonline](#).

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The Latest 'Skills Roundup' (June)

Every month the NFU puts together a list of some of the main agricultural and agriculture-related training courses and events by Region. For more information, please click [here](#) and open the related article attached at the top.

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**FARMING
DELIVERS
FOR CAREERS**

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Training available under RDPE

Members are reminded that training is available through the Rural Development Programme for England. The RDPE aims to improve competitiveness in the agriculture and forestry sectors; foster competitive and sustainable rural businesses and thriving rural communities; and safeguard and enhance the rural environment. The training available through this programme is underway and is subsidised using modulation money. It is therefore a route we are encouraging members to use if we are to return as much of that to agriculture as possible. Defra has contracted a number of training providers onto a Framework in order to provide training provision until the end of the programme in March 2014. A list of the providers is available on the [Defra website](#), with further links setting out what training they are currently providing. You can also contact the provider directly for more information or to sign up for training opportunities. There is also the potential for some training providers to be flexible and offer training that is demand-led.



We will continue to highlight some of the training being offered in our Monthly Skills round-up.

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Feeding the Future: What farmers and growers need from research



The report jointly commissioned by the NFU to describe the innovation requirements for farming in the UK over the next two decades was launched on 6 June. It will be available online at www.feedingthefuture.info. It describes the priorities for research as agreed at a series of producer workshops during 2012. It also sets out recommendations for research funders and government policy makers. The report is a key part of the evidence base for the government's forthcoming AgriTech Strategy.

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What's being said about biotech?

If you would like to receive a collection of the latest snippets of news on agricultural biotechnology and don't already receive this round-up every month or so, please email helen.ferrier@nfu.org.uk with your name, membership number and email address to be added to the distribution list.



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Update on Ash Dieback:

The Forestry Commission has posted a video online showing the symptoms of Ash dieback to look for at this time of year, the new video, further information about Chalara dieback including a map of confirmed locations, and access to Tree Alert are available [here](#).

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Bracken control detail of 2013 approval for asulox:

An Emergency Authorisation for products containing the active ingredient Asulam has been granted. This will allow the application of Asulox® to control bracken in the UK during the period from 1st July 2013 to 31st October 2013. The use on docks is not authorised. The Emergency Authorisation period began on the 20 May 2013. Click [here](#) for more details.

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EFSA report on Fipronil

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) has published a [report](#) on the risk to bees from the insecticide Fipronil. The European Commission requested that EFSA look into risk the active substance may pose to bees. EFSA, while acknowledging gaps in the data, have found that there is a high risk to bees from dust drift when Fipronil is used as a seed treatment on maize. The report also considered the risk from pollen and nectar but was unable to draw definitive conclusion due to lack of evidence although the risk from these sources is thought to be low. There are no UK product registrations for Fipronil, but it is used in Europe as a seed dressing for maize, sunflower and vegetables.



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Commission publish regulation on Neonicotinoid restriction:



The [Commission's regulation](#) restricting the usage of Thiamethoxam, Clothianidin and Imidacloprid was published on the 24th May; this was largely unchanged from the document that was presented at the Standing committee in April. The main impacts of the regulation are covered in an [NFU briefing](#) and a list of affected crops and plant protection products is also provided. It is important to note that some further clarifications from regulators are required regarding how aspects of this regulation will be interpreted.

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Name	Panel Responsibilities	Contact Details
Amy Gray	Editor; Policy Board administration	amy.gray@nfu.org.uk
Ben Ellis	Farm safety and inputs; Animal transport; Transport issues	ben.ellis@nfu.org.uk
Catherine McLaughlin	Animal health and welfare; Veterinary medicines; Animal diseases	catherine.mclaughlin@nfu.org.uk
Don Pendergrast	Crop protection; Biocides; Reducing pesticides pollution	don.pendergrast@nfu.org.uk
Helen Ferrier	Science and Research policy; Biotechnology; Nutrition; Food safety and hygiene	helen.ferrier@nfu.org.uk
Lee Osborne	Better regulation agenda; Skills and Training	lee.osborne@nfu.org.uk

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