

# NFU Technically Speaking

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

May 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* - a problem when egg hatching in a late cold spring coincides with lambs beginning to

This May's [Parasite Forecast](#) outlines the parasitic challenge facing cattle and sheep in the different regions of the UK. This month the forecast concentrates mainly on **Nematodirosis**, the risk of which is expected to be **very high** this year following the cold, late spring. Also covered more briefly are PGE and Fluke in cattle and sheep and headfly control in sheep.

In addition, NADIS publishes a monthly [Disease Alert](#) which brings attention to a key disease for the time of year. This May, the topics covered include bull infertility - in particular subfertility, dairy cow fertility – missed heats in the normally cycling cow and Nematodirosis in lambs which is forecast to be very high this year. In this webinar James Aitken BSc BVetMed



Disease Alert: Bull Fertility

MRCVS, Orchard Veterinary Group, Glastonbury, discusses the presenting signs, treatment and prevention of these conditions.

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## The voice of British farming

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## Changes to Osmond's Goldfleece Sheep Dip Withdrawal Period

The NFU has received a notice from the VMD that the meat withdrawal period related to Osmond's Goldfleece Sheep Dip will be reduced from its current 70 days to 49 days over the coming months.

This is a result of a change in formulation of the product. Therefore **this change does not apply to product currently on shelf or in use**. Farmers must adhere to the withdrawal periods and instructions on packs.

More detailed information can be found on [NFUOnline](#).

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## Dangerous goods briefing

A new [briefing](#) is now available detailing exemptions from dangerous goods legislation for agricultural activities. The briefing covers; transporting fertiliser in spreaders behind tractors, pesticides in self-propelled sprayers and fuel in bowsers.

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## Bird Scarer Code of Practice

The poor start to the growing season has meant that gas guns are likely to be in the fields for longer this year. Remember that used inconsiderately, gas guns can cause noise problems at nearby properties. The NFU produce the [bird scarer code of practice](#) which can be downloaded to help prevent problems from occurring.

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## NFU supports Worcestershire YFC Road Safety Event.

The NFU recently undertook a presentation to Worcestershire young farmers in support of the YFC "Drive it Home Campaign". Young rural drivers are 37% more likely to be injured in a road accident than those who live in rural areas. You can [read more](#) here.

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## A reminder on securing hay and straw loads to prevent shed loads.



The variance in availability of hay and straw across the UK has led to increased movements of this product in recent years. The NFU has been made aware of a number of issues relating to shed loads and blocked gutters. If you are transporting hay or straw it is important that it is secured correctly.

To find out what's expected of you, the NFU has produced a [short article](#) on preventing shed loads of hay and straw.

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## Deadline approaches for Driver CPC

Despite opposition from the NFU, the deadline for completing Driver CPC approaches. The DSA has issued new guidance on the implementation of the requirements. Read more [here](#).

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## Min and Max Driving Ages



Following some recent confusion regarding minimum and maximum driving ages, the NFU has put together a short [article](#) and briefing to clarify some key points.

This includes:

- Ages for children using equipment on farm
- Young drivers, including use of telehandlers
- Renewing your licence when you get to 70

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## NFU responds to Future of Farming review

The [NFU has responded](#) to the call for evidence from the Defra Future of Farming review group. The review is examining issues affecting new entrants into agriculture including the skills needs of the industry, different entry routes into farming, the challenges facing new entrants such as lack of training, access to land, access to capital and the image of the industry. The call for evidence aimed to get views and experiences on these issues. More information on the review group can be found on the [Gov.UK website](#). An initial report from the Future of Farming group with their findings and recommendations is expected in the summer.

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## The Latest 'Skills Roundup' (May)

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**



## Defra Chief Scientist answers our questions

See the May edition of BF&G for an interview with Professor Ian Boyd, who is 8 months into the job of Defra Chief Scientific Adviser. Vice President Adam Quinney, Chief Science Adviser Helen Ferrier and Head of Policy Services Andrew Clark have a second meeting with him lined up next month.

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## Further signals of Ministers' commitment to AgriTech

Both David Willetts and Lord de Mauley spoke at a high-level workshop on 15 April to ensure key stakeholders like the NFU are on board with the forthcoming UK Agri-Tech Strategy. Willetts reiterated his concern about productivity declines and science funding not feeding through to agricultural performance gains. Lord de Mauley focussed on integrating economic growth and environmental protection. George Freeman MP, the government's adviser on life sciences, led the workshop and spoke about unlocking the power of science and the need for better links between science base and the food and farming chain. The NFU has commented on drafts from the strategy and we expect publication in the coming month. Meanwhile, George Osborne replied to Peter Kendall's recent [letter](#) confirming the importance of the sector and that his officials are currently discussing how the money he committed in the Budget to the industrial strategies will be used to support agri-tech. Read more on [NFUOnline](#).



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