

East Midlands Policy Update

EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 892 17 March.

MAY'S COMMITMENT TO BRITISH FOOD AND FARMING

This week Prime Minister Theresa May stated she 'will continue to back British farmers' post-Brexit. In her answer to Victoria Atkins MP, Louth and Horncastle, during Prime Minister's Questions, she said: "We do have an opportunity to build a new future for our food & farming industry when we leave the European Union. We will maintain the UK's high standards of food safety and of animal welfare, that will be a priority for us and any trade deals we enter into will need to be right for consumers, for businesses, for farmers they will need to ensure our food safety and environmental protection and of course the animal welfare standards I just referred to. We recognise the need for certainty for businesses and we've already provided guarantees of support for farmers up to 2020 and I can assure her we will continue to back British farmers.

BPS 2017 – HINTS AND TIPS

[Click here](#) for a few useful tips on how to tackle this year's BPS application.

GLYPHOSATE

We need to keep pushing this despite the recent ECHA news of glyphosate not being a carcinogenic, we are not there yet! You can find your local representative at www.theyworkforyou.com/mp and email them directly from here. Alternatively you can visit www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/ to find your local MP/MEP and their constituency contact details.

HARE COURISING DEBATE - HOUSE OF COMMONS

Three Lincolnshire MPs contributed to the debate with apologies from Victoria Atkins MP (Louth & Horncastle). Brandon Lewis mentioned his meeting in Lincolnshire farmers who have suffered due to Hare Coursing on their farms and a further MP name-checked the NFU. It is very pleasing to see that the work we are doing on the ground here in Lincolnshire, to combat Hare Coursing, is being raised at the highest level. [Read the debate here.](#)

LIVESTOCK FARMERS URGED TO POST-MORTEM SUSPECTED CASES OF SCHMALLENBERG DISEASE

Some lamb producers Lambing flocks across the country have experienced higher than normal losses from deformed lambs with the disease so far confirmed in the South West, South East, Wales and the North East. Early calving herds have also experienced calves with congenital defects. We have heard about cases on the Leicestershire/ Warwickshire boarder in early lambing flocks. Any infection present on farm now will have taken place last year and there is nothing that can be done to alleviate issues at the moment. Livestock producers may want to undertake SBV testing of any suspected cases, and should talk to their vet. While post mortems on whole carcasses are chargeable by APHA, we understand that APHA brain samples tests are free.

GCA SURVEY OPEN NOW

Members who supply directly to retailers are encouraged to complete the annual sector YouGov survey, and can do so anonymously. Even if suppliers agree to name themselves, the GCA has to treat their responses confidentially and ensure suppliers cannot be disclosed or identified by a retailer. [Take part here.](#)

SAFE USE OF DRONES

The NFU has responded to the Department for Transport's consultation on the safe use of drones in the UK. This consultation aims to start setting the steps for the future of the drone industry amid concerns that the current regulations are not keeping pace with the rapid expansion of the drone sector. [Read more ...](#)

DERBYSHIRE RURAL CRIME TASKFORCE LAUNCHES

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A dedicated team of officers will be throwing the spotlight on countryside crime to help protect rural communities across Derbyshire. Launched on Monday 13 March at Bakewell Market, the Derbyshire Rural Crime Team will help raise awareness of the crimes that impact on the rural and farming areas of the county. [Read more here.](#)

TRACTORS INTO SCHOOLS HUGE SUCCESS

All over Lincolnshire, farmers and tractor dealers made plans for Tractors into Schools week. The second Tractors Into Schools campaign, jointly organised by the NFU and the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society, brought tractors to over 40 schools between 27 February and 3 March. [Read more here.](#)

YOUR CHANCE TO JOIN INFLUENTIAL NFU POTATO FORUM

The NFU is seeking new members of the NFU Potato Forum to support the development and delivery of its policy objectives leading up to Brexit. [Read more here.](#)

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP

CS has just opened for applications to start 1 January 2018. Application packs are available for most East Midlands farmers from Nottingham on 0208 026 2018. The last day for requesting an application pack for mid-tier is 31 July and April 13 for higher tier. The last day for returning a pack for mid-tier is 30 September and May 5 for higher tier.

TELL US IF YOU WOULD LIKE A “PROUD TO PRODUCE YOUR FOOD” BANNER BY MONDAY

NFU's national campaigns department has asked us if there are any more great field banner sites out there just waiting for a Proud to Produce your Food banner. Let us know as soon as you can and by close of play on Monday 20 March, if you would like to display a banner. [You can register your interest here.](#) Don't forget our new gatepost signs are available too, details via the link.

NFU HITS BACK AT NITROGEN EMISSIONS REPORT

The NFU has responded to a new report by Plant Link UK that claims air pollution is having a devastating effect on Britain's wildlife. [Read more here.](#)

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BASIS AND NROSO POINTS (CLAIM FORM FOR AGRONOMY PUBLICATIONS)

People who subscribe to receive hardcopies of AHDB agronomy publications are eligible to receive CPD points. For the 2016/17 year, two BASIS and two NROSO points are available. [Apply here](#)

RENEWABLE ENERGY ON FARM

Are you already generating or supplying renewable energy or fuels for on-farm use or export to others? Then please let us know by completing this [short online form.](#) The NFU is collecting this information from farmers and growers so that we can build on work already done to demonstrate the breadth and variety of on-farm renewable energy projects.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY

Nottinghamshire County Council will be carrying out a cultivation and cropping survey across the county starting on April 3. The County Council has warned that "If it is necessary to resort to enforcement action, the breach of GAEC 8 may be reported to the Rural Payments Agency." Please ensure public rights of way across arable fields are not only delineated but also have the crop mown on the path or sprayed out.

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WATER CAPITAL GRANTS NOW OPEN

Don't forget! Ask for your application pack for Water Capital Grants as soon as possible. A Mid-Tier application pack must be requested by 31 July. The application deadline is 30 September 2017.

TRIMMING FIELD PERIMETERS

We've put together a short briefing noting the main points to consider before trimming any field perimeters e.g. hedges or field margins etc. [Read more ...](#)

HEDGEROWS AND BOUNDARIES GRANT 2017

The new hedgerow and boundary grant scheme offers an opportunity for farmers to carry on their good environmental work outside of a multi-annual stewardship agreement. There have been positive changes to scheme eligibility meaning more people can apply. [Read more here.](#)

VIKING LINK

The latest from National Grid on the route of the Viking Link cable project from Sandilands to Bicker in Lincolnshire is [here](#). Paul Tame from the regional office is meeting National Grid with Louise Staples, NFU Chief Rural Surveyor, in April. Members affected by the project who have concerns should contact Paul on 01572 824255, email paul.tame@nfu.org.uk

15,000 FARM TRAILERS TO BE STICKERED IN RED TRACTOR CAMPAIGN

Red Tractor has teamed up with Massey Ferguson to print 15,000 trailer stickers to help farmers spread the positive message of UK farm assurance. The sticker bears the slogans 'Great Food, Great Farming' and 'Trust the Tractor' to raise awareness among consumers of what the assurance logo stands for. They are free for Red Tractor's members and licensees to order and form part of a revamped Marketing Toolkit.

EVENTS

[Please click here](#) to view our events page.

- AHDB Business Risk Workshop – Matlock – **22 MARCH**
- RABI Charity Quiz Night – Bourne – **23 MARCH**
- Fine Art Auction Preview Evening – Etwell – **28 MARCH**
- AHDB Beef from Dairy Nutrition Meeting – Bakewell – **28 MARCH**
- Nottinghamshire Agricultural Charities Luncheon – Newark – **2 APRIL**
- AHDB Strategic Dairy Farm Launch – Leicester – **5 APRIL**
- Farming Fit For Food Nuffield Conference – Nottingham – **8 JUNE**

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