

East Midlands Policy Update

EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 895 7 April.

BPS 2017 UPDATE

So far, over 10,000 BPS 2017 claims have been submitted with just 5 weeks to go before the 15 May deadline

- **Online System Downtime** - There continues to be IT downtime so please warn members to look at the details on GOV.UK before starting any work on their claim.
- **Careful and Urgent Action Needed - RPA writing to farmers about land parcels removed for BPS 2016** – Did you use a dummy SBI to remove land from your holding online during the 2016 BPS window? If so it will have been removed from any other agreement it was attached to, such as Environmental Stewardship, because of the way the land is connected to farmers on the IT system. We now have an article [here](#) to make members aware of this.
- **Young Farmer Scheme and Supporting Documents Reminder** – If applying for this scheme please make sure you supply the supporting documentation as required. It's an annual claim and you may need current certificates etc. to support eligibility. A reminder article is at [NFU Online](#).
- **Activation of Land on Online BPS Application System** - The NFU is getting reports that the online BPS 2017 application system is in some situations defaulting, apparently randomly, to select fields not to activate them. If not activated, that means the field areas would not be able to be used to activate entitlements and therefore a lower payments would ensue if not detected. As we have previously stated reviewing the claim pre submission via a study of the PDF version of the application is a must. This should pick up this issue - comparing the line and total claim data with other farm records and therefore a correction can be made before it is too late. The message is 'check what was submitted is what was intended to be applied for'. We will highlight this next week to members.

THE GREAT REPEAL WHITE PAPER

[A member briefing](#) is available on the Great Repeal White Paper that was published last week.

AVIAN INFLUENZA HOUSING RESTRICTION ALERT

Due to the warm weather forecast this weekend Defra are warning keepers of the risk to flocks in Higher Risk Areas that are subject to mandatory housing restrictions. Where there are concerns about heat stress and bird welfare, keepers are advised to contact their private vet and APHA to discuss options to mitigate risk. [Read more here.](#)

ELECTIONS TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE & GOVERNANCE BOARD

At the meeting of Council on 24 April 2017, elections will be held for three members of the Audit Committee for a term of two years. The position is open to all members of Council who are not members of the Governance Board, Policy Board or Legal Board. An election will also be held to fill a casual vacancy on the Governance Board for a term of one year as William Martin is no longer Chairman of NFU Sugar and is therefore now ineligible. On this occasion the position is open to national Commodity Board Chairmen only. If you wish to put your name forward, or to nominate someone to stand, please contact the Secretary at Headquarters - 02476 858702 or email ken.sutherland@nfu.org.uk

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SHOW LONG SERVICE AWARD NOMINATIONS

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Do you know someone who has dedicated their working life to the Nottinghamshire agricultural industry? They may be a farmer who farms in the county or someone who maintains agricultural equipment or perhaps they are a feed rep for a Nottinghamshire company. Nottinghamshire County Show is taking nominations for our Long Service to Agriculture Awards. Get involved [here](#).

THE NFU POULTRY INDUSTRY PROGRAMME

The NFU [Poultry Industry Programme](#) (PIP) is an initiative run in conjunction with ABN feeds which aims to develop the skills and knowledge of young people in the poultry industry. This bespoke programme is made up of a series of events which gives participants the opportunity to gain valuable insight into the poultry industry and to collaborate and network with other young professionals. [Read more here](#).

BADGER ROADKILL SURVEY UPDATE

The University of Nottingham have updated us and congratulations to Derbyshire and Leicestershire who have exceeded the 100 target for collection. Members are asked to not collect any more in those two counties, and receive thanks for the sterling effort in those two counties. They will continue to pick up badgers already collected from these counties over the next day or so, but otherwise... relax. And thank you.

Of the remaining counties, it would be really good if more badgers could be collected from northern Nottinghamshire. While Northamptonshire has quite a good distribution, they just need more please. So please keep collecting in those areas.

DEWLAP TAGS

The use of dewlap tags is illegal (under the Animal Welfare Act 2006) and if farms are found to be using these tags at an RPA or APHA inspection it will be considered a rectifiable breach and will incur a penalty. Red Tractor Assessors are aware that the use of dewlap tags is illegal so if they are being used they will highlight the fact that they must be removed at their RT assessment. Please note that it is not illegal to purchase or own the tags, just use them. [Read more here](#).

LINCOLNSHIRE FARMERS SCAMMED BY ILLEGAL WASTE DUMPERS

This week we have been made aware of two more incidents regarding a scam to illegally dump rubbish wrapped in bales on farms in Lincolnshire. One of the incidents near Grantham has left a farmer with a bill of £300,000 to dispose of the rubbish. In some cases farmers are being approached to store road plainings on their farms in return for cash. The farmer has then found wrapped bails of landfill refuse stored instead, in one case 2500 bales. Since we alerted Lincolnshire members, the NFU have had conversations with farmers who have been offered cash to unload wrapped bails on concrete pads on neighbouring farms. The NFU have alerted both Lincolnshire and Humberside Police, we advise all members to be vigilant and please report any unusual requests to the Police, making a note of any registration numbers if possible.

HOW CAN YOU HELP PROMOTE RED TRACTOR?

It is really easy! Promotional kit from Red Tractor is now available and any farmer who is assured can do their bit to promote that fact. Trailer stickers, postcards, farmgate signs, pens and notepads are available at <http://bit.ly/1Tv7WVY>. So please make sure your farm gates are badged, farm office branded, and vehicles are stickered up with this kit. As Brexit develops the RT will have a role to play in British and promoting that fact.

BIG FARMLAND BIRD COUNT RESULTS 2017

February saw the fourth annual Big Farmland Bird Count (BFBC) organised by the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (GWCT), with record numbers of participants and species recorded. Read more about the Big Farmland Bird Count [here](#).

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OPEN FARM SUNDAY 2017

Demonstrate the dedication, skills, technology and passion that go into producing great food and managing the countryside. Open your gates for LEAF Open Farm Sunday on 11 June and proudly show the public all that you achieve and the breadth of goods and services you deliver. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact our regional OFS co-ordinator, Andy Guy on andy@andyguyconsulting.co.uk.

DAIRY NEWS

PRICES

The overall Global Dairy Trade (GDT) Price Index increased by 1.6% at the latest event on 4th April after a 1.7% rise at the previous event. Price Index movements were mixed across the range of products. The Whole Milk Powder (WMP) Price Index rose by 2.4%, with WMP making up almost half the product sold. The Skim Milk Powder (SMP) Price Index fell marginally by 0.8%. The price indices for Cheddar and butter decreased by 4.4% and 1.6% respectively, but the index for Anhydrous Milk Fat (AMF) rose by 2.5%.

GLOBAL MILK SUPPLY

Milk production for the main exporting regions rose again in February, continuing the month-on-month growth seen since October 2016. The US continues to be the main contributor to the rise in milk supply, although New Zealand (NZ) turned a corner in February, recording growth for the first time since it moved into its peak production period in September of last year. Production in the EU-28 has also been steadily rising in recent months. The 2017 outlook anticipates growth from the five key regions. Again, the US will supply most to this additional milk as herds and yields are expected to rise, leading to a further 2.2% uplift in production. The EU-28 should start to see deliveries rising the second half of 2017, resulting in net growth of 0.5% for the year.

NFU ORGANISES DAIRY RISK MANAGEMENT EVENT

An NFU organised Dairy Risk Management Conference took place yesterday at the National Conference Centre, Solihull. The event attracted more than a hundred stakeholders from across the dairy supply chain including farmers, processors and manufacturers as well as representatives from retailers, banks and government. The event looked at drivers in the dairy markets, different types of risk management, case studies and next steps. More details [here](#).

WATER SITUATION REPORT

The latest Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire water situation report compiled by the Environment Agency is [here](#). Essential reading for irrigators.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP EVENTS 2017

Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship is different from ELS, it is competitive, targeted, has a single application window and start date. The Mid-Tier application window is now open and closes on 30th September 2016. If you are thinking of applying for Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship this year, these events will be of interest. They will cover how the scheme works, who is eligible and what the environmental priorities are in your local area. See the full list [here](#).

EVENTS

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

- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Melton Mowbray – **24 APRIL**

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- Bakewell Food Festival – Bakewell – **29/30 APRIL**
- Newark and Nottinghamshire County Show – Newark – **13/14 MAY**
- Rogation Sunday – Southwell Minster – **21 MAY**
- Woodhall Spa Country Show – Woodhall Spa – **21 May**
- Farming Fit For Food Nuffield Conference – Nottingham – **8 JUNE**
- Open Farm Sunday – **11 June**

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