

East Midlands Policy Update

EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 896 13 April.

BPS 2017: MAPPING FRUSTRATIONS?

The RPA keep their mapping up to date on the latest information from the Ordnance Survey, as well as aerial photography. It is also updated throughout the year following farm inspections and the information farmer's supply. So we do expect to see mapping changes from year to year. However, what we are seeing at this time from a number of members is an unacceptable level of discrepancy, and members have been left very frustrated to see their farm depicted in a more inaccurate way than in the past, especially after the time and effort to get mapping correct in the recent past. For more details on what we are seeing, what we are doing and things you need to consider to avoid compounding a mapping problem going forward, [please read our latest briefing found here.](#)

BPS 2017: CHECK, CHECK AND CHECK AGAIN - ACTIVATION OF LAND IN BPS ONLINE

We've received reports that the BPS online 2017 application system is in some situations defaulting, apparently randomly, to select fields and not activate them. If not activated, field areas would not be able to be used for entitlements and therefore a reduced payment will follow. As the NFU has previously advised, reviewing the claim post-editing, but pre-submission, via a study of the PDF summary version of the application, is a must. This should pick up this issue – by comparing the line and total claim data with other farm records a correction can be made before it is too late. [Click here for link to NFU article](#)

ELIGIBILITY OF LAND FOR BPS

There is an NFU briefing to highlight the issues you need to be aware of when about eligibility of land when claiming BPS. Remember if you are claiming BPS, the land must remain eligible and in agricultural use for the full year. [Click here for NFU briefing.](#)

WE NEED MEMBERS TO LOBBY ON NEONICS - URGENT REQUEST

The NFU is extremely concerned about the proposals from DG SANTE (as presented at the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed meeting held on 23 March) to amend Implementing Regulation (EU) 540/2011 to effectively ban all uses of the neonicotinoids clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam on outdoor crops. Full details are on NFU Online - [Click on this link](#) – it covers recent and future NFU activity and **[how can NFU members get involved?](#)** As with glyphosate we need members to contact MP and MEPs.

GREENING UPDATE

As many plan their autumn cultivations a key question on minds is what happens to greening in 2018. The two key components are the EFA percentage rate and greening simplification. On EFA Percentage, the Commission was required to carry out an evaluation report on EFA by 31 March 2017 with a view to increasing the rate from 5% to 7% subject to European Parliament and Council approval. This review process has recently led to the Commission confirming that the EFA rate would remain at 5% of the eligible arable area rather than increase to it 7%. [Read more here.](#)

DERBYSHIRE RURAL CRIME UNIT

Recently set up, the Rural Crime Unit is Matlock based but will be county wide. Head of the unit is Section Inspector 1962 David Nash, with two full time officers currently assigned to it, PC James Bowler & PC Andy Shaw but they will just cover Derbyshire Dales. The Police admit the service the rural and farming community received had slipped. However the police have had some successes in the last few months, especially in the area of quad bikes but they **need us, the farmers, to report anything suspicious or any intelligence.** That could be theft, fly-tipping, sheep worrying, wildlife crime including hare coursing or anything else the police should know about. [What should I be doing?](#)

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WATCH OUT – THERE'S A GPS THIEF ABOUT IN NORTHANTS

We have had more reports of GPS theft from tractors, this time in the Bosworth/ Upton area of Northants. This is on top of reports from Dadlington. Police advise. Take them off tractors. Use bean breakers, quality PIR and strategic CCTV.

THEFT AND SLAUGHTER OF EWE SOUTH OF NORTHAMPTON

Livestock producers in Northamptonshire are advised to be on their guard about livestock thefts. A butchered sheep at Chacombe; 9 ewes and 3 lambs butchered and stolen from Brafield on the green; a 3 month old heifer stolen near Nobottle, all means members need to be alert and if possible more secure. If anyone has seen anything suspicious (strange vehicles or people) then ring Northamptonshire Police on **101**.

£3,000 REWARD FOR RETURN OR INFORMATION ABOUT STOLEN CATTLE

Thieves stole eight cows from a farm in Youlgreave, Derbyshire on the evening of 30 March but left five of their calves behind. Gordon Wardman of Wardmans (Matlock) Ltd is offering a £3,000 reward for the safe return of the cows or information leading to a conviction. Anyone with any information about the cattle is asked to call Derbyshire Police via 101 or Gordon Wardman on 01629 56678. Five of the cows still had calves on them, two were springing, close to calving and one was barren. All had been treated with Closamectin and are under withdrawal period. Details of the cattle are [here](#).

DISCOUNTED TRACKERS IN DERBYSHIRE

Derbyshire police have secured a deal with UK tracker company Back2you. The trackers can be fitted to quad bikes in order to allow the owner and the police to monitor any movements. The tracker RRP is £220, but the Police deal will discount this to £100 and this will include a £15 SIM card that will be pre-installed into the tracker. We have secured funding from our Headquarters which will allow us to further subsidise the sale of 60 trackers by a further £50 each. In essence, you will be able to purchase a £220 tracker for £50, while stocks last. Further details on how to order are [here](#).

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Please complete this survey to help us build an evidence base on workforce issues and to gain insights into the current make up, future needs and risks to supply in the dairy and wider agricultural industry. [Read more](#).

SOUTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE LOCAL PLAN

Boston Borough Council and South Holland District Council have informed us that the South East Lincolnshire Local Plan 2011-2036: Publication Version is being consulted on from April 10 to May 22. The document is available here www.southeastlincslocalplan.org Paul Tame from the regional office will respond to the consultation but farmers with their own development plans will want to get involved too.

ES/ CS ANNUAL CLAIM DEADLINE 15 MAY

All environmental stewardship agreement holders need to submit an annual claim by 15 May. This deadline applies to all ELS, HLS, CS and forestry grants. You must complete and return your claim form no later than the 15 May 2017 in order to avoid penalties being applied to your claim. A 1% penalty per working day will be applied to claim forms received after this date, with a 100% penalty applied to all claim forms received after 9 June 2017.

AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES

All agri-environment schemes need to have a claim submitted by May 15 to receive payment. This deadline applies to all ELS, HLS, CS and forestry grants, more information [online](#). The deadline to request a CS Higher Tier application

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pack is April 13. There is no leeway with this date. The deadline for completed Higher Tier applications is May 5. For Hedgerow and Boundary Grants the deadline is April 28. Supporting evidence needs to be submitted by that date too. Natural England is running events to support potential mid-tier applicants. These run from late April to end June. The details of the events for each area can be found on gov.uk.

GROWTH PROGRAMME RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Defra has launched £120 million of RDPE Growth Programme funding through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). Calls are currently open, inviting Expression of Interest (EoI) applications for Rural Tourism Infrastructure, Food Processing and Business Development projects. The funding is intended to create jobs and growth in the rural economy. The calls remain open until January 2018, subject to the availability of funds. Details of the eligible activities and who can apply are in three applicant handbooks [here](#). Applicants will need to ensure that their applications comply with the national priorities set out on pages 15 and 16 of each booklet and the local priorities set out in the page in the second half of the booklet which relates to your LEP.

WATER SITUATION

The Environment Agency has produced its reports for March for the water situation for irrigators in Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire and the Midlands available [here](#).

BANK HOLIDAY RAVE WARNING

Northamptonshire Police are reminding farmers to be vigilant towards the possibility of illegal raves over the bank holiday. This equally applies to all farmers and landowners around the region. Keep gates secure and block entrance ways to fields in an attempt to prevent access to land, also make sure barns and other outbuildings are secure. Report suspicious activity to 101, alternatively if you suspect a rave to be starting, please call 999 immediately. Any information about potential raves can also be given anonymously via 'crimestoppers' on 0800 555 111.

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, farm gate 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.

CONTAMINATED BEDDING

During routine inspections the Environment Agency has discovered instances where waste materials, such as plasterboard and wood contaminated with plastics, metals and other hazardous materials have been used as animal bedding on farms. This may be harmful to livestock, the environment, is illegal and can be very expensive to clean up. Some waste materials may be suitable for use as animal bedding, provided the correct exemption has been registered. The exemption that covers this activity is U8 - Use of waste for a specified purpose. However, some farmers may be unknowingly allowing inappropriate and contaminated materials on to their farms and putting themselves and their livestock at risk. If you suspect that you have unknowingly accepted misclassified waste, the EA asks you to isolate the waste and report all the details to them on 0800 807060.

WASTE SCAM WARNING

This Environment Agency press release is aimed at farmers in Lincolnshire but it applies across the region. Please don't fall for [this scam](#).

FREE TRIAL OF VAN

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Do you use a van for your farm? If so the NFU want to hear from you! The NFU is looking for members to trial vans from our vehicle manufacturers, with photos and write ups to feature in a future British Farmer & Grower magazine. If you are interested in participating please contact benefits@nfu.org.uk

FARMING ORGANISATIONS UNITED IN CONDEMNING MISLEADING GUARDIAN ARTICLE

Farming organisations around the country have joined forces to condemn a “misleading” article in *The Guardian* that made “distorted” claims about the dairy industry. The NFU, Dairy UK and NFU Scotland, AHDB Dairy, NFU Cymru, the Ulster Farming Union, RABDF, CLA and Ruma have issued a joint statement. In full [here](#).

EVENTS

RED TRACTOR MEETINGS

Red Tractor, in partnership with their Certification Bodies, is running some events to engage with RT members on areas in which it has been working over the last few years. Speakers are outlined below, and there will a short update on Red Tractor activity. The meetings are cross-sector and all producers are invited. Registration is compulsory and all the information can be found [here](#).

EASTER COFFEE SHOP IN BUXTON 17 APRIL

Running from 10am – 4pm at the Farming Life Centre, Blackwell, Taddington, Buxton SK17 9TQ, the event is run by 3 members of Buxton Young Farmers who have been chosen as ambassadors on behalf of YF for a trip to Africa. There will be refreshments and a cake stall, plants, raffle and a quiz.

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

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