

East Midlands Policy Update

EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 897 21 April.

PLANNED BPS ONLINE APPLICATION DOWNTIME – 26 APRIL

With less than a month to go before the BPS 2017 deadline, watch out for online system downtime. The RPA did have plans for essential maintenance, from 26 April until the end of the claim window. We have raised member concerns about “downtime” and we now understand that it will take place on Wednesday 26 from 7:30pm for approx. 2 hours. Keep an eye on Gov.uk as the RPA will update their pages with more accurate end times.

RURAL ECONOMY BENEFITING FROM £3MILLION SUPPORT VIA D2N2

Businesses and organisations are being encouraged to bid into a £3million fund to boost the rural economy in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Money for three programmes is now available via the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) portion of D2N2's current European Union funding. Three programmes cover Food Processing, Business Development (inc. farm diversification) and Tourism Infrastructure. For more information about all three programmes and to apply for funding [please click here](#).

POULTRY INDUSTRY PROGRAMME (PIP)

The third PIP has been launched and we are looking for people working within the poultry industry aged between 20-35 years old. The deadline for applications is the 28th April 2017 and those interested should send a copy of their CV and a cover letter to Aimee Mahony via post or email, full details can be found [here](#). We have also uploaded an article online for interested members [here](#). Please note applicants must be NFU members (or related to an NFU member) or employed by a company who are members.

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](#).

JOIN THE INNOVATIVE FARMERS NETWORK FOR FREE

This means you can access the full write-ups from field labs and attend most network events without paying an annual membership fee. They'll only ask you to chip in to take part in some events and individual field labs, to help cover costs. [Register here](#).

NORTHANTS LIVESTOCK HANDLING EQUIPMENT

Unfortunately there are more incidents of sheep and cattle handling equipment being stolen over the last week. If you have not done so already please mark your equipment preferably with a postcode so it can be linked back to you. Take photos of your equipment. The Police tell us that they have seen repeat victims targeted who have replaced the equipment stolen last year and have now had it stolen again.

PICTURES OF HAPPY COWS REQUIRED!

1 June is World Milk Day and we will be promoting #HappyCows as we did in 2016. We are asking for new happy cow photos in preparation for the day, so if you were able to take any over the next month, send them to us and it would be much appreciated. Short clips for use on social media are also good. Pictures and video clips to andrew.critchlow@nfu.org.uk

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>

The voice of British farming

NFU East Midlands, Agriculture House, North Gate, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9NX
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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.

EVENTS

ROBOTICS, AUTOMATION AND ASSOCIATED TECHNOLOGIES – 26 APRIL 2017

Syngenta and Farmers Weekly are holding a Robotics, Automation and Associated Technologies Lecture, the third in a series of interactive lectures exploring the science and technology that will revolutionise the way we farm. The lecture will be hosted at the National Space Centre, Leicester (LE4 5NS) on Wednesday 26th April at 5.30pm. [More details here.](#)

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP

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. Event dates below and on our website [here](#).

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](#).

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

- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Melton Mowbray & Bugbrooke – **24 APRIL**
- Arable Horizons Lecture – Leicester – **26 APRIL**
- R.A.B.I Quiz Night – Derby – **27 APRIL**
- Bakewell Food Festival – Bakewell – **29/30 APRIL**
- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Spalding – **2 MAY**
- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Lincolnshire & Derby – **9 MAY**
- AHDB Beef KPI Project – Louth – **11 MAY**
- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Loddington – **11 MAY**
- Newark and Nottinghamshire County Show – Newark – **13/14 MAY**
- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Northampton – **16 MAY**
- Rogation Sunday – Southwell Minster – **21 MAY**
- Woodhall Spa Country Show – Woodhall Spa – **21 May**
- CSF Countryside Stewardship event – Bakewell & Newark – **23 MAY**
- Farming Fit For Food Nuffield Conference – Nottingham – **8 JUNE**
- Open Farm Sunday – **11 June**
- Cereals 2017 – Lincolnshire – **14/15 JUNE**

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