

# East Midlands Policy Update

## EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 898 28 April.

### TIME TO ACT ON NEONICS BAN

Today we have sent members on our email system with cereals, sugar beet and vegetable crop interests a request to help the NFU lobby on the Commission. As with glyphosate, this is another crop protection issue where the politicians making the decisions need to hear farmers' voices telling the story of what the impact would mean for their farm and business, and we now need individual farmer member help to compliment NFU activity at national and EU level. The Commission want to ban all outdoor uses of neonicotinoid seed treatments in non-bee-attractive crops such as wheat, barley and sugar beet. That decision could be pushed through the EU Standing Committee of Plants, Animal Food and Feed by the Commission scheduled for 17 -18 May. Members are asked to lobby Defra direct and MEPs. Defra for example needs to change its position from one of abstention to one of voting against the Commission. Full details are in the briefing we sent round. As with glyphosate, farmer lobbying has helped get traction on the issue at EU and Westminster level. We need to do it again on neonics.

### DEFRA TO LIFT AI PREVENTION ZONE ON 15 MAY IN ENGLAND

The Avian Influenza Prevention Zone that is currently in place will be lifted in England on 15 May 2017. From this date, keepers will no longer be required by law to follow specific disease prevention measures to reduce the risk of infection from wild birds. [Read more.](#)

### BPS 2017 – APPLY NOW

It's only a few weeks until the 15 May application deadline for this year's Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). Don't leave it too late to apply - late applications get a penalty of 1% per day. Everything you need to apply is online at [www.gov.uk/guidance/bps-2017](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/bps-2017), including the booklet 'How to claim BPS online in 2017' and this year's scheme rules. Please also check the [downtime page](#) before you start applying so you know when the Rural Payments service is available. Paper applicants should ensure their claim is posted in sufficient time to reach RPA by the deadline

### COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP DEADLINE REMINDERS

- **Hedgerow and Boundary Grant – 28 April.** Applications can be made by post or online. All supporting evidence must be in the post (i.e. with a post mark) by 28<sup>th</sup> April. The current article can be found [here](#).
- **Higher Tier application – 5<sup>th</sup> May.** Article on CS Higher and Mid Tier application dates is [here](#).
- **ELS/ HLS/ forestry / CS annual claim – 15 May.** To get paid [all environmental scheme agreement holders](#) need to submit a claim form by 15 May. This includes agreements starting on 1 January 2017. Original article can be found [here](#).
- **Mid-Tier request an application pack by 31 July.** The deadline for applications is 31 July. NE are currently running Mid-Tier events for interested applicants. Article on CS Mid Tier application dates is [here](#) and includes the link to the Mid-Tier events.

### LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS DOWNTIME THIS WEEKEND

Due to essential maintenance work, we have been informed that the following livestock systems will be unavailable from 7am on Saturday 29th April until 10pm on Sunday 30th April 2017: CTS Online; CTS Web Services; CTS Self Service Line; Cattle Ear Tag Allocation System; Sheep & Goat ETAS; Animal Movement Licensing System. Farmers should try to submit notifications to BCMS before or after this weekend. If however farmers believe that this downtime will result in late movement notifications or late passport applications, they should notify BCMS to make sure that the weekend downtime will be accounted for at BCMS validation, to avoid any cross compliance payment reductions.

### DEFRA SMALL DAIRY FARM SCHEME

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The Defra Small Dairy Farmers Scheme is now open for one-off applications. It is a fund of around £8.5 million from the EU Exceptional Aid Scheme that is available to dairy farmers who produced less than 1 million litres of milk in the last milk year. There is a 2 page application form to be filled in if you choose to apply and this can be found on the Defra website. Applications should be emailed or posted to the RPA by midnight on 31<sup>st</sup> May. The payment value will only be determined when the RPA knows how many applicants there have been - all details [can be found here](#).

## ARLA MAY MILK PRICE – NFU COMMENT

The NFU has welcomed a move by Arla Food's UK Board to balance the milk price for May despite the co-operative announcing a price drop. NFU dairy board chairman Michael Oakes said although the price reduction was disappointing, he was pleased that the UKAF board had recognised the fragility of UK members and decided to act accordingly by bringing forward the benefit of the currency smoothing mechanism to negate the impact of the Arla AMBA milk price drop. The conventional standard litre price in the UK will remain at 28.13ppl. Mr Oakes said: "Although we have seen improvements in dairy markets since the lows of last year, many dairy farmers remain in an extremely fragile place. They lack confidence in the future of the sector - compounded further by the impact and uncertainty of Brexit and the forthcoming General Election. "All dairy farmers need a period of stability to recover from the downturn and prepare for the future. That's why we need to look at new ways of managing risk and sharing reward." Full Arla press release [here](#).

## RAVE WARNING

Northants Police have reminded us to be on the watch out for raves this weekend. Please keep gates secure and block entrance ways to fields in an attempt to prevent access to land, and also make sure barns and other outbuildings are secure. Report suspicious circumstances, via the non-emergency 101 number. Alternatively if you suspect a rave to be starting by the appearance of a number of vehicles in a location or access being gained to your land, please call 999 immediately. Any information about potential raves can also be given anonymously via 'crimestoppers' on 0800 555 111.

## MEP EMMA MCCLARKIN VISITS LINCOLNSHIRE FARM FOR GLYPHOSATE AND NEONICS TALK

NFU members in Lincolnshire hosted Conservative MEP Emma McClarkin on-farm today (28 April) as part of the NFU East Midlands' ongoing campaign for the reauthorisation of glyphosate and to discuss the EU Commission's new proposal to ban all outdoor uses of neonicotinoid seed treatments in non-bee-attractive crops. [Read more](#).

## ASSISTANT GROUP SECRETARY VACANCY AT RUTLAND AND STAMFORD NFU

An exciting opportunity is currently being advertised for the assistant group secretary post at Rutland and Stamford NFU based in Stamford. This will involve working in partnership with the existing senior in a joint role as an insurance business partner and the NFU assistant group secretary. Please see the vacancy details at this link: [NFU Mutual vacancies](#) If you would like to discuss the role in more detail please talk the Rutland and Stamford Senior Group Secretary, Ashley Oxer on 07811 715010. The closing date for applications is 21 May 2017.

## EVENTS

### HIGH SPEED BROADBAND – SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS NOTTINGHAMSHIRE/DERBYSHIRE AREA

Join the eBusiness Club at three separate events to find out more about how your business can benefit from adopting high speed broadband technologies. [Read more here](#).

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

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- 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**
- 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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