

# East Midlands Policy Update

## **EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 899 5 May.**

### **NEW CASE OF AVIAN INFLUENZA**

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed H5N8 avian flu in a small backyard flock of chickens at a farm near Thornton, Wyre, Lancashire. [Read more.](#)

### **BPS/AGRI-ENVIRONMENT DEADLINE**

The BPS 2017 and agri-environment annual claim deadline is 15 May. Not completed and need help? Contact NFU CallFirst on 03708458458. The BPS hub, which is regularly updated on NFUonline, can be found [here](#).

### **EXTENDED OPENING HOURS**

In addition to the usual helpline opening hours the RPA are extending opening times over Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 May. The helpline will only be able to advise on BPS 2017 queries during 8:30am and 2:30pm on those days.

### **PAYMENT QUERIES FROM PREVIOUS YEARS**

If you have a query about a BPS 2015 or BPS 2016 payment that you've received, please fill in a [BPS payment query form](#) and send it to RPA. Then carry on with your 2017 application, declaring your land as it is at 15 May 2017.

### **ONLINE SYSTEM DOWNTIME / GOV.UK VERIFY DOWNTIME**

Reminder that the system is down for 15 May, key is to look at webpage here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bps-2017> for updates

### **RPA HINTS AND TIP GUIDANCE FOR BPS 2017**

RPA are shortly to issue additional guidance to support those that have yet to submit their 2017 BPS claim. It will be published [here](#). (Where all the BPS 2017 guidance and forms can be found). If you have submitted your form, then we would suggest that you also look at this document, as there is still time to make changes to claims already submitted, without penalty.

### **RPA AT BAKEWELL MARKET TO ASSIST WITH BPS**

RPA staff will be at Bakewell Market, this Monday, 8 May (9am – 12 noon) to assist with paper and online applications.

### **DROP-IN CENTRES**

While we don't have an East Midlands drop-in centre, if you need one the two closest will be Reading or York, [more info here](#).

### **UPDATE FOR MEMBERS AFFECTED BY WELLGRAIN'S ADMINISTRATION**

The NFU has been offering help and support to members affected by WellGrain in administration. This has been through initial advice provided by the Specialist Advice Team at NFU CallFirst, which has assisted over 160 members, as well as the Q & A provided by the legal affairs team. ([The latest Q&A is available here](#)). In addition, the Legal Assistance Scheme (LAS) has funded the cost of independent professional advice provided by NFU legal panel firm Tees. Following the publication of the administrator's report, affected members will be receiving a letter from Tees explaining the administrator's proposals and inviting them to a meeting on 17 May at 10am. At the meeting, Tees Insolvency Partner David Perry will update members on the report, answer questions and gauge the view of the unsecured creditors who attend. If you are affected it is strongly recommended that you come to this meeting. Contact NFU CallFirst on 0370 845 8458 to book your place. Please note the venue in the letter from Tees is likely to change and the NFU will inform you of this. This is a private meeting for affected NFU members / LAS subscribers so please

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bring a copy of the letter you receive from Tees, as well as your NFU Membership Number, with you. If you have any queries contact NFU CallFirst. The NFU will personally email members who have contacted us with a Wellgrain account with the meeting details enclosed.

## VIKING LINK

For most of its route from the Lincolnshire coast across 40 miles of farmland the electricity cable will be direct current, in one trench with no above ground link boxes or other paraphernalia. In the last 1.5 kms up to Bicker it will be alternating current in two trenches with link boxes above ground every 250 metres. Planning permission will be sought at the end of this year with construction in 2019. Key issues which the NFU has raised with National Grid include depth and land drainage. National Grid is employing Ray Lambert of Land Drainage Consultancy to advise on pre- and post-construction drainage. Louise Staples, NFU HQ Chief Rural Surveyor is on a steering group with four valuers from the Lincolnshire Association of Agricultural Valuers who will discuss and negotiate terms with National Grid. Dalcour Maclaren, NG's agents, are arranging surveys for all manner of items on farmland at the moment. Farmers are paid £250 to grant permission for non-invasive surveys each cropping season and there are other payments for invasive surveys which cause damage. Surveyors should obviously not be on farmers' land without permission. Members with concerns about the project or issues that you wish us to take up with National Grid, please contact Paul Tame at the Regional Office on 01572 824255, email [paul.tame@nfu.org.uk](mailto:paul.tame@nfu.org.uk)

## SMALL DAIRY FARMER SCHEME –DON'T MISS 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY DEADLINE

The [small dairy farmer scheme](#) is open for email or postal applications. There are two eligibility requirements for the one-off payment:

- Annual cows' milk production of up to 1 million litres in the April 2015 – April 2016 milk year.
- Still in milk production.

The application process is simple – [the form can be found on the RPA website here](#).

## NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SHOW – 13 AND 14 MAY 2017

There'll be a fresh look to the farming areas at this year's Notts County Show on 13 and 14 May and lots more to see for farming visitors. Around 20 machinery manufacturers and dealers from the East Midlands region have confirmed their attendance at this year's county show - they've been invited on the back of the great success of the Midlands Machinery Show, last year. Come along, too and see the NFU's exhibit in the Food Experience area, on the main avenue near the Cedric Ford Pavilion. This year's theme is poultry, so we'll be promoting the very best of Nottinghamshire eggs and poultry meat, and all our fantastic locally grown produce. Details of the show and how to join Newark and Nottinghamshire Agricultural Society, can be found at [www.nottinghamshirecountyshow.com](http://www.nottinghamshirecountyshow.com)

## 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. 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 Oxe on 07811 715010. The closing date for applications is 21 May 2017.

## EVENTS

### FAS COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP EVENTS

Natural England have organised a series of Countryside Stewardship Mid-Tier events around the region. [More details here](#).

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## REGISTER YOUR PLACE AT FLOODEX 2017

There is still the opportunity to register for free for this year's FLOODEX event which is being held at the Peterborough Arena on the 17-18 May 2017. [Read more.](#)

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

- 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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