

East Midlands Policy Update

EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 905 16 June.

EAST MIDLANDS MEP ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

East Midlands UKIP MEP Roger Helmer has announced his retirement from the European Parliament, effective as of July 31, 2017. Mr Helmer was first elected to the European Parliament in 1999, as a Conservative. He was re-elected in 2004 and 2009. In 2012, unhappy with the Conservative position on the EU issue, he crossed the floor to join UKIP, and was elected again as a UKIP MEP in 2014. He retires at the age of 73, after serving 18 years in the parliament.

ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME FOR YOUR ANIMAL TRANSPORT AUTHORISATIONS RENEWAL

The NFU has recently reminded members to [check animal transport authorisations and to allow plenty of time for renewal, if required](#). Members have asked for clarification as to whether separate authorisations are needed for each business they operate in. We asked the [Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) (APHA) for clarification. APHA have confirmed to us that each legal entity which is engaged in transport operations requires a separate animal transporter authorisation. This means that if a farmer is operating as a sole trader and transporting animals he will need an animal transporter authorisation in his name. If the same farmer also transports as part of a partnership or as a limited company, authorisations for each separate business entity will also be required in the name of the business entity concerned. Members can obtain additional help and advice on animal transport and welfare from CallFirst on 0370 845 8458 and from APHA on 03000 200 301. A member's briefing on the welfare of animals during transport is available [here](#).

GREENING UPDATE – NOT GOOD NEWS

On Wednesday the EU Parliament voted not to block proposed changes to greening and other elements of BPS rules. Therefore the ban on the use of Plant Protection Products on field based EFA options (fallow / catch / cover crops and nitrogen fixing crops) will now come into force. No timescale is given at this stage. The EU Parliament's Agriculture Committee's resolution objecting to the EU Commission's legislative changes were rejected as it did not win support of an absolute majority of all MEPs, i.e. at least 376 votes. Parliament voted by 363 votes in favour of the veto, 267 against and 43 abstentions, not enough to stop the changes from entering into force. This is a disappointing outcome and attention now turns to how the changes will be implemented. In our discussions with Defra and the RPA this will include minimising the impact of the ban of PPPs on field based EFA options. Perhaps the most pressing issue is to know when the proposals will come into force from – 1 January 2018 or 2019. Equally, publication of RPA / DEFRA guidance will be needed very soon to help farmers. At this stage the NFU suggests you plan for the ban of PPPs on EFA on field based EFA options to come into force for BPS 2018.

FARMERS AND GROWERS URGED TO JOIN CAMPAIGN TO SAVE SEED TREATMENTS

Farmers and growers are being urged to explain the vital role neonicotinoids play on farm to their MPs and MEPs, and via social media, to highlight the impact a proposed ban would have on UK farming. The European Commission has put forward proposals that would effectively ban all uses of three neonicotinoids – clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam – on all outdoor crops. Speaking at Cereals 2017 this week, Dr Chris Hartfield, NFU Acting Chief Science and Regulatory Affairs Adviser, said such a ban would affect around one million hectares of arable crops, including cereals and sugar beet, where there are no effective alternatives to neonicotinoid seed treatments. It would also affect a significant area of vegetable crops. To highlight the consequences of a ban and to help with lobbying work the NFU has produced a new leaflet – [Save our Seed Treatments. You can download it here](#). See also: [Click here for an NFU infographic showing the consequences of this ban if it comes into force](#).

WATER SITUATION REPORTS

The Environment Agency water situation reports for the region for May are [here](#).

The voice of British farming

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NOTTINGHAMSHIRE FARM ENVIRONMENT AWARDS 2017

These awards are as successful as ever in seeking out excellent farm conservation practices from around the county. Entries for the awards will close on Monday 19 June, with on-farm judging taking place in early July. Application forms can be obtained from Lesley Sharpe, Notts FWAG on 07707 220121. [Read more](#)

EVENTS

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND - SOLUTIONS FOR YOUR BUSINESS – 20 JUNE

At this free seminar you can find out how your business can benefit from adopting high speed broadband technologies and specifically, the options available to you. For more information and to book your place, please [click here](#). This free seminar will run from 8am to 11am on Tuesday 20 June at New Bath Hotel and Spa New Bath Rd, Matlock Bath DE4 3PX.

EUROPEAN FUNDING WORKSHOPS 20 JUNE & 18 JULY

These events will be to promote rural funding opportunities to micro, small and medium sized enterprises in the Greater Lincolnshire area. [Read more here](#).

LINCOLNSHIRE SHOW 21 & 22 JUNE

Come and see us as Lincolnshire Show this year; we will be at stand number 4-31 (North side, Main Ring). The usual catering will be available.

DERBYSHIRE BOVINE TB MEETING 26 JUNE

This meeting is taking place to discuss implementation options of new testing policies, including radial and six monthly testing. [More info here](#).

RURAL CRIME MEETING 26 JUNE

Lincolnshire Chief Constable, Bill Skelly, and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Marc Jones, will be at our rural crime meeting on Monday 26 June 2017 at The Granary in Boston, Lincolnshire. The meeting will serve as an opportunity for Lincolnshire's Chief Constable to take our farmer and growers through what his team has done since we last met. Members will also be given the opportunity to have their say on rural crime. [Read more...](#)

NOTTS FWAG SUMMER FARM WALK 27 JUNE

The walk will take place on Tuesday 27 June, 6.30 pm at Rectory Farm, Elton, NG22 0QF courtesy of Martin & Angela Copley, winners of the 2016 Nottinghamshire Farm Environmental Award. We will be using trailers to take us round the farm and the walk will be followed by a light supper. Booking is essential, please contact Lesley Sharpe 07707 220121, lesley.sharpe@live.co.uk.

HS2, AN UPDATE FOR MEMBERS AFFECTED BY PHASE ONE

Meetings have been arranged for members affected by Phase One of HS2. NFU Rural Surveyor Louise Staples will discuss the powers HS2 now have including temporary possession and the notices members are likely to receive. She will also cover timings and access for surveys including ground investigation works (boreholes, trenches and trial pits). The nearest meetings take place:

- 10am, Tuesday, June 27 - NFU Headquarters, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire, CV8 2LZ
- 11am, Thursday, June 29 – The Bell, Winslow, Buckinghamshire, MK18 3AB

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EAST MIDLANDS POTATO GROWERS TO MEET 7 JULY

The East Midlands Horticulture & Potatoes Board will bring together NFU potato growers from around the region on 7 July 2017, to discuss the issues of the day. East Midlands Horticulture & Potatoes Board Chairman, Alex Godfrey, will chair a meeting of NFU potato growers, where attendees will be able to discuss a wide range of key issues such as crop protection, the supply chain, water management and any other topics growers wish to raise. [Read more.](#)

SILT DREDGER DEMONSTRATION EVENT 12 & 13 JULY

The Black Sluice IDB is demonstrating a serious piece of de-silting kit on July 12 and 13 at the South Forty Foot Drain, Neslam Bridge, Lincolnshire NG34 ONH from 9am to 4pm. There will be an ongoing demonstration of the system operating and the partners involved will be present to answer any questions. Drop in at any time between 9a.m. and 4p.m. but please book in with Jessica Baxter on 01205 821440, email Jessica.baxter@blacksluiceidb.gov.uk

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

- CSF Soil Quality & Crop Production Workshop – Walgrave - **19 JUNE**
- DerwentWISE Landowner Networking event – Matlock - **20 JUNE**
- European Funding Workshop – Skegness – **20 JUNE**
- Lincolnshire Show – Lincoln – **21, 22 JUNE**
- Exploiting climate change for UK farmers – Cambs - **22 JUNE**
- Rural crime meeting – Boston – **26 JUNE**
- Notts FWAG Summer Farm Walk – Elton – **27 JUNE**
- R.A.B.I farm and AD plant tour – Nottingham – **28 JUNE**
- RABI Garden Party – Coalville – **1 July**
- East Midlands potato meeting – Spalding – **7 JULY**
- European Funding Workshop – Grantham – **18 JULY**
- D2N2 Rural Means Business Conference – Belper – **18 JULY**

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