

East Midlands Policy Update



EAST MIDLANDS NFU Policy Update No 909 14 July.

WHY GOVERNMENT MUST ADDRESS LABOUR CONCERNS - NFU REPORT

There could be a significant shortage of people to work on Britain's farms and throughout the food and farming sector if government does not address growing concerns over agriculture's access to workers, a new NFU report says. [Read more.](#)

BPS 2018 - GREENING – NFU PUSHING FOR CLARITY

We are pursuing the Commission to release their guidance to member states on implementation following the recent rule changes. The NFU continue to press the RPA and Defra for the need for updated greening guidance to be produced as soon as possible. We have also urged them not to block any further flexibility within the changed regulations. There is one chink of clarity. DEFRA are suggesting that the ban of PPPs does not impact on the BPS 2017 EFA Cover Crop option (established by 1 October 2017 and needing to be in place until 15 January 2018), as this option is connected to the 2017 scheme year and the PPPs ban relates to the 2018 scheme year.

COMPOSTING CONSULTATION

The NFU is calling for details of members' experiences with the PAS100 composted materials specification. In particular, the environment team is looking at whether compost quality expectations have been matched under the standard, and any parameters for compost quality farmers might seek to change. Examples of previous potential issues have included the limit for stones, a limit of E.coli or issues of plastics in compost. [Make your voice heard here.](#)

BARCLAYS DOUBLES AGRICULTURE FUND

Barclays is ploughing a further £100 million into its UK Farming Loan Fund to support UK agriculture. [Read more.](#)

RESERVOIRS

Defra is looking into reservoir safety. The NFU has been appointed to the advisory group that will steer the project. It is possible that this evidence review could change the way that regulations apply to small farm reservoirs, i.e. those with capacity less than 25,000 cubic metres. We would encourage reservoir owners to participate. Please contact Paul Hammett, National Water Adviser at NFU HQ, email paul.hammett@nfu.org.uk to get involved. [More information here](#)

MORRISONS MOVES TO BACK BRITISH LAMB AND LIVESTOCK

A move by Morrisons to fully support British livestock farmers has been praised by the NFU. [Read more.](#)

NFU FEATURED ON BBC PANORAMA PROGRAMME

NFU Vice President Guy Smith and NFU Cymru Deputy President John Davies were featured on the BBC's Panorama programme 'Britain's Food and Farming: The Brexit Effect', which talked about farming priorities post-Brexit. [Read more.](#)

WATER SITUATION REPORT

Please find [here](#) the water situation reports from the EA for the region including data for June.

GET INVOLVED: YOUR DEADWEIGHT AND PAYMENT SPECIFICATIONS NEEDED

As part of the NFU's ongoing work to help provide producers with access to clear, comparable pricing information, the livestock team is collecting data from members on the specifications, levied charges and individual processor terms and conditions from both beef and lamb processors. [To take part, please click on this link.](#) By taking part, you'll also receive an NFU fleece.

The voice of British farming

NFU East Midlands, Agriculture House, North Gate, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9NX
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DAIRY INDUSTRY WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

Do you know someone who connects with the dairy industry and the public? Do they inspire you and others? Do they share their experience and knowledge? Then why not nominate them for the brand new [Dairy Industry Woman of the Year Award](#).

NFU SEEKS MEMBERS' VIEWS ON WATER FITTINGS REGULATIONS

The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations came into force in 1999 but their enforcement on farm by public water companies has been so slow that, for many members, the requirements arising from a first inspection can come as a shock. [Read more](#).

EAST MIDLANDS NEXT GENERATION GROUP

The NFU's East Midlands region is bringing together a programme of events to help engage with the next generation of farming. We're planning a visit NFU HQ in Stoneleigh in October, to meet with the NFU's Vice President, Guy Smith, and Director General, Terry Jones and take a tour of the building. Later in the year, there will also be the chance to visit the Houses of Parliament and meet with our team in London led by Head of External Affairs, Olivia Seccombe. If you're a young(ish) farmer and would like to take part or find out more [click here ...](#)

EVENTS

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

EUROPEAN FUNDING WORKSHOP – 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](#).

D2N2 RURAL MEANS BUSINESS CONFERENCE – 18 JULY

In light of the calls, D2N2 Growth Hub are holding an event for rural businesses, support agencies and public bodies to find out more about the provision that is available to boost the D2N2 rural economy. They will look at EAFRD and LEADER funding and the range of support available for rural businesses through the D2N2 Growth Hub. [For more information please click here](#).

WHAT'S NEW IN SEARCH 2017 SEMINAR – 19 JULY

This online marketing for local businesses seminar will bring you right up to date with changes in the world of search engines, [read more](#).

SUSTAINABLE DAIRYING – MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC AND CONSUMER DEMANDS – 24 JULY

NFU East Anglia Dairy board's meeting on Monday 24 July at 12:30pm will hear from guest speaker Dr Jude Capper. The venue will be the NFU East Anglia Regional Office, Willie Snaith Road, Newmarket CB8 7SN. If you would like to attend, please reply by email jim.mckeane@nfu.org.uk. Dr Jude Capper, renowned livestock consultant, will present on the topic of: 'Sustainable Dairying – How do we manage environmental, economic and consumer demands?'

NATIONAL TENANT FARMERS' CONFERENCE – 9 NOVEMBER

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This year's conference will be on Thursday, November 9 at [Macdonald Kilhey Court Hotel](#), Chorley Road, Standish, Wigan, WN1 2XN, starting at 9.50 a.m. The theme for this year's conference is "Vibrant Tenancies – Fit For the Future". Details of the conference programme are [online](#) Please book in at east.midlands@nfu.org.uk or by phoning 01572 824250.

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