

NFU Technically Speaking

e-news from the Science and Regulatory Affairs section of the NFU Policy Services Department

July 2013

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New Health and Safety SHAD dates

The HSE has organised a new set of **FREE** Farm Safety Awareness Days (SHADs). The diary can be found here <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/diary.htm>. Well-liked by farmer attendees, SHAD days are far from a lecture on health and safety. Don't underestimate the value of the tips and tricks that you will pick up from the expert trainers who provide simple, well-paced, practical advice which could save your life. The instructors are hands-on, and their advice is designed to make your work easier and, most importantly, safer.

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New NADIS Webinars

NADIS (National Animal Disease Information Service) produces advanced training for on-farm disease recognition. They have recently taken another step in communicating their monthly online Parasite Forecast and Disease Alert by launching **webinars** for each.



[Click for webinars](#)



Parasite forecast: PGE

This July's [Parasite Forecast](#) outlines the parasitic challenge facing cattle and sheep in the different regions of the UK. The main emphasis this month is on PGE in lambs with advice on risk factors, how and when to worm including SCOPS recommendations and movement to "clean" pastures. Lungworm in cattle is discussed as is the risk of liver fluke in cattle and sheep associated with both winter and summer infection of snails. There are also brief updates on blowfly and Schmallenberg virus vaccination.

In addition, NADIS publishes a monthly [Disease Alert](#) which brings attention to a key disease for the time of year. This July, the topics covered include Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) (a highly infectious disease of sheep) which may be introduced or spread within your flock at shearing. Also, heat stress in dairy cattle which can have a major effect on health and productivity. In this [webinar](#) James Aitken BSc BVetMed MRCVS, Orchard Veterinary Group, Glastonbury, discusses the presenting signs, treatment and prevention of these conditions.

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Disease Alert: Heat stress

The voice of British farming

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Confused about flukicides?

Following changes to the Marketing Authorisations of some flukicides for dairy cattle, the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH), which represents pharmaceutical companies, and the Veterinary Medicine Directorate (VMD) became aware that there was quite a bit of confusion amongst farmers, vets and SQPs regarding the use of flukicides in dairy cattle, especially around which products could be used at different stages of the production cycle. As a result, they have collaborated to develop a report outlining what products can be used at different stages of a dairy cow's production cycle, plus details of limitations on use in dry period describing the withdrawal periods that must be followed. This report can be found on the NFU website at <http://www.nfuonline.com/science-environment/animal-health/dairy-flukicides-notice/>

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New Grandfather Certificate Announced

Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) have announced arrangements for a new "Grandfather" sprayer operator certificate that will be a requirement for all operators who were **born before 31 December 1964** and do not hold a current certificate of competence to apply pesticides. The certificate, a legal requirement from 26 November 2015, will be available via City and Guilds NPTC Assessment Centres from 26 November 2013 across the UK. Further details can be obtained from the [CRD website](#). More information is contained in a [set of FAQs](#) compiled by NFU.

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Commission move to restrict uses of Fipronil

Following the publication of European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) [report](#) on the risk to bees from the insecticide fipronil, the European Commission has proposed that restrictions be imposed on fipronil use as a seed treatment on maize, sunflowers, any flowering vegetables and, although not currently an issue, registration on cereal crops. This approach would mirror the actions undertaken to restrict Imidacloprid, Thiamethoxam, Clothianidin by the Commission earlier in 2013. There are no UK product registrations for Fipronil, but it is used in Europe as a seed dressing for maize, sunflower and vegetables and imported into the UK on treated seed.



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Revocation of Fungicide Flusilazole

In April this year, the EU Commission reviewed the registration of the active ingredient Flusilazole. As a result the registration and use of the active ingredient was revoked. Stock will remain on sale until October 12th 2013 to sell product to growers and a year's use up period will last until 12th October 2014 to use Flusilazole stocks on farm. For more details [click here](#).

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Report on Phytophthora control plan

Defra has just released the Final Report of the expert group set up to review and evaluate the degree to which the Defra-funded 5 year Phytophthora Programme (which started in April 2009) has so far met its objective to reduce the risk of significant tree death and significant impact on heathlands within England and Wales. The report is available [here](#).

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Review of Agriculture apprenticeship content

Lantra is currently reviewing and updating the content of the Agriculture Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeship framework and work-based diploma. They have issued a consultation which is running from 24th June to 19th July. They are looking for industry to check the content of the apprenticeship and work-based diploma to ensure it meets the needs of farmers today. The consultation can be accessed via their [consult-on](#) tool and by selecting Agriculture Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeship and Work based diploma.

There will be four areas – Proposed Level 2 and 3 Agriculture Work based diploma and summary of current level 2 and 3 apprenticeships – to comment on. The consultation asks questions on whether the mandatory units within the apprenticeship scheme are appropriate for all pathways of the scheme and whether any units should be optional or whether there are any units missing or duplicated. In terms of the framework they are after comments on the knowledge based qualifications, whether ICT should be included in functional skills and whether there should be any additions to the Additional Employer Requirements. Please submit comments directly to Lantra or to lee.osborne@nfu.org.uk

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The Latest 'Skills Roundup' (July)

Every month the NFU puts together a list of some of the main agricultural and agriculture-related training courses and events by Region. For more information, please click [here](#) and open the related article attached at the top.

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Paterson at Rothamsted: more detail on Government GM policy

On 20 June, Owen Paterson spoke to a small group of key stakeholders at a meeting at Rothamsted Research, setting out why the Government wants to move the GM discussion on so the full potential of the technology can be realised both for UK and the developing world. He gave some examples of economic and environmental benefits already seen around the world and talked about technological advances that could be possible. He finished with a clear signal to public and private sector science communities that UK is the place to do crop biotech R&D. The full speech can be read [here](#). You can read the NFU's immediate response [here](#)

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More GM Wheat at Rothamsted

On 8 June, Defra gave approval for Rothamsted Research to extend its trial of GM wheat this autumn. The independent Advisory Committee of Releases to the Environment (ACRE) concluded that the trial will have no adverse effect on human health or the environment. In 2011 Defra authorised Rothamsted Research to plant its GM aphid-resistant wheat in spring 2012 and 2013. Extending the trial to autumn sown crops will enable further data to be obtained on the performance of the GM wheat later in the year, under different weather conditions and against different aphid populations. Further background can be found at [Genetically modified organisms applications and consents](#).



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Farmer views on GM sought

The use of genetically modified crops in agriculture has stimulated strong opinions across nations, around the world. Surprisingly, relatively few studies have investigated what farmers' think about this powerful technology despite the fact that this group will experience the implications of adopting them first-hand. So, if you are a farmer in England, please take this chance to add your voice to the argument by clicking on the link below, which will take you to a survey that will take approximately 10 minutes to complete!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RBPHXJ6>

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If you no longer wish to receive Technically Speaking or if your email details have changed please email [Amy Gray](mailto:Amy.Gray@nfu.org.uk)

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