

NFU Technically Speaking

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

October 2013

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Farm Safety Partnership Website

The NFU-hosted **Farm Safety Partnership** has launched its **website** (www.farmsafetypartnership.co.uk). Here, information can be found on the latest farm accidents; guidance for on-farm safety; real-life tales of injury, overcoming adversity and the lingering effects of a farm fatality; and how to get involved with the Farm Safety Partnership's important work.

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'Safe Stop' Campaign

The Farm Safety Partnership has launched its **"Safe Stop" campaign** aimed at reducing accidents which could have been prevented by applying the handbrake and turning machinery off. Participating agricultural dealers will check handbrakes on equipment when installing new equipment and issue reminder stickers to the customer

(<http://www.nfuonline.com/business/farm-safety/farm-safety-partnership/campaigns/safe-stop/>).

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Tractor and trailer lighting

As the nights start to draw in and there is still plenty of work to be done in the field, many members will find themselves out on the road after dark. Here we look at some of the basic lighting requirements for agricultural tractor and trailers.

<http://www.nfuonline.com/business/transport/tractor-and-trailer-lighting-on-the-road/>

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Fertiliser Security Reminder

A recent theft of 62 bulk bags of fertiliser from a farm in Lincolnshire serves as an important reminder of the importance of security of Ammonium Nitrate. You can read more here:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/business/inputs/fertiliser-security-reminder/>
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Call for evidence on Driver CPC

The Driving Standards Agency is asking for evidence about the effectiveness of Driver CPC. This is to inform a UK Government response to an assessment being run by the European Commission.

You can read more here:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/business/transport/driver-cpc-dsa-call-for-evidence/>
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NFU meets Defra Chief Scientist

At a meeting between Vice President Adam Quinney and Defra Chief Scientist Prof Ian Boyd last month, a range of current issues were discussed including the [Agri-Tech Strategy](#) (how to encourage and incentivise more farmers to adopt new practices and technologies; the value, or otherwise, of benchmarking; the need to standardise data); GM (concerns about the UK losing out; the political deadlock in the EU); and bTB (including biosecurity, sampling and diagnostics, and vaccination).

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NIAB-TAG and NFU talk 'strategy'

The NFU and NIAB-TAG have regular meetings to update each other on our activities, extend our organisations' networks, discuss subjects of mutual interest, and explore ways we can work more closely together. Last month we focussed on strategic issues including the [Agri-Tech Strategy](#), skills and training initiatives, [CFE](#), [Innovation Farm](#) and European funding streams. The next meeting is likely to be on more technical topics in the arable sector.

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Precision Livestock Initiative (RASE)

This is a series of events which will showcase the latest technologies and innovations in livestock production. Regardless of the size of operation, the monitoring and measuring of animal behaviour, performance and their environment can help farmers make more informed management decisions leading to increases in production, welfare and on-farm efficiencies.

<http://www.precisionlivestock.org.uk/>

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Advanced training in crop protection

Rothamsted Research is running a course with Nottingham University, Harper Adams and Cranfield to provide growers, agronomists and advisers with a deeper understanding of the science and research behind crop protection. 100% bursaries are available until 2015 and it is recognised as a BASIS Advanced Module. For more information see www.rothamsted.ac.uk/atp or contact Lin Field Tel: 01582 763133, e-mail: lin.field@rothamsted.ac.uk.
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Emergency Approval for Asulam use in 2014

The Asulam product Asulox will be available to control bracken in 2014, the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) has agreed another 120 day emergency approval in 2014. More details [here](#).
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Legal challenge to commission decision on Neonicotinoids:

Syngenta has submitted a legal challenge to the European Commission's decision to suspend the use of the neonicotinoid thiamethoxam on bee attractive crops. Read more [here](#).
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Consultation on the inclusion of low drift nozzles when authorising pesticides.

The Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is seeking views on proposals for authorising use of low-drift nozzles with horizontal boom sprayers. This change is intended to bring the UK in line with other Europe Member states and should allow growers access to certain products currently unavailable to UK growers. Read more [here](#).
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Crop Protection Course at Rothamsted (2013/2014)

AgriFood ATP (headed by the University of Nottingham) is running a Crop Protection Course from 2013-2014.
Course details: <http://www.agrifoodatp.ac.uk/aatp/courses/crops/current-research-in-crop-protection.aspx>.
Bursary details: <http://www.agrifoodatp.ac.uk/aatp/apply/index.aspx>
Criteria for bursary eligibility: <http://www.agrifoodatp.ac.uk/aatp/funding/index.aspx>.
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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-Cobalt

This October's [Parasite Forecast](#) outlines the parasitic challenge facing cattle and sheep in the different regions of the UK including a liver fluke forecast update; PGE in lambs – FECs, worming, concurrent deficiencies; quarantining purchased sheep; lungworm and ostertagiosis in cattle (type I and II); and housing treatments for lice in cattle.

In addition, NADIS publishes a monthly [Disease Alert](#) which brings attention to a key disease for the time of year. This October, keep your eyes open for hypomagnesaemia (grass staggers) in cattle and respiratory disease in sheep.

In this month's webinar, James Aitken BSc BVetMed MRCVS, Orchard Veterinary Group, Glastonbury, discusses these conditions as well as the presenting signs, treatment and prevention of worms in Dairy Cows.



Disease Alert:
Hypomagnesia

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The Latest 'Skills Roundup' (October)

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 link in the article.

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**FARMING
DELIVERS
FOR CAREERS**

Guide to Inspections



The NFU has contributed to a Defra guide on inspections which is intended to provide information about how and when government officials might inspect a farm in England. It will tell you about who may inspect your farm, what they are looking for and why they might visit you. It can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farm-inspections>

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NFU responds to Red Tape Challenge

Agriculture, Animal Health and Welfare, Plant Health and Forestry were the themes of the latest Red Tape Challenge during August and September. The Red Tape Challenge was launched by the Cabinet Office in April 2011 to open up Government regulation to scrutiny and challenge of the public and businesses. The NFU submitted a formal response to the latest theme which can be found on [NFU Online](#).

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