

NFU Technically Speaking

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

September 2013

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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:
Ostertagiosis

This September's [Parasite Forecast](#) outlines the parasitic challenge facing cattle and sheep in the different regions of the UK including the provisional 2013/14 liver fluke forecast, lungworm in cattle and parasite gastroenteritis in cattle and sheep, all of which may be problems with rain arriving after the prolonged dry spell. SCOPS best practice recommendations are also highlighted.

In addition, NADIS publishes a monthly [Disease Alert](#) which brings attention to a key disease for the time of year. This September, bracken poisoning in cattle and sheep is discussed; this most often occurs after a prolonged dry spell in the summer. Also covered are trace element deficiencies in sheep including cobalt, vitamin E/selenium and copper deficiencies. In this webinar James Aitken BSc BVetMed MRCVS, Orchard Veterinary Group, Glastonbury, discusses the main features of these topics.



Disease Alert: *Bracken Poisoning*

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Agri-Food ATP Training Forum

The Agri-Food Advanced Training Partnership (ATP) is holding an annual even in September to showcase the comprehensive range of 100% funded training and development opportunities that they provide. The event is being held on Wednesday 11 September (9.30-3pm) at Cranfield University Management Development Centre. The programme includes industry-based speakers who will provide updates on policy developments and scientific research. There is also a session for people wishing to find out more about how the Agri-Food ATP operates in practice. Those attending the forum will gain 2 BASIS CPD points.

There are still spaces left at this event. Requests to attend should be made by Thursday 5th September by emailing info@agrifoodatp.ac.uk or via this [link](#). Places will be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

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The voice of British farming

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The Latest 'Skills Roundup' (September)

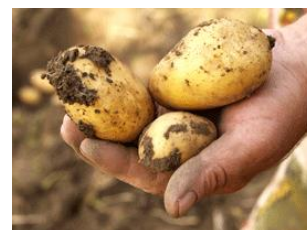
Every month the NFU puts together a list of some of the main agricultural and agriculture-related training courses and events by Region. For more information, please click [here](#) and open the related article attached at the top.

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Funding for HAPI research

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, in conjunction with the Scottish Government, has awarded £2.99M in research funding to four projects to improve food security for some of the world's most valuable crops. This is the first round of awards from BBSRC's Horticulture and Potato Initiative (HAPI) which supports high-quality, industrially relevant research projects on potato and edible horticulture crops. The projects are looking at sprouting of onion and potato in storage; biofumigation to control soil-borne pests in field vegetables; understanding *Fusarium oxysporum* in onion; integrating host resistance and fungicides.



More information: http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/food-security/2013/130807-pr-bbsrc-scottish-gov-fund-for-crop-research.aspx?utm_source=MailingList&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=August+2013.

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Driver CPC Deadline of 9th September approaches for drivers of minibuses.



The deadline of 9th September for drivers of minibuses to undertake at least 35 hours Driver CPC training is fast approaching. The Driver Standards Agency has announced new exemptions to European Driver CPC Rules for drivers of minibuses and large goods vehicles. However the NFU is disappointed that the new exemptions do not include any specific examples for farmers. You can read more here:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/business/transport/new-driver-cpc-exemptions-wont-benefit-farmers/>.

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EU investigation into Ammonium Nitrate: your help needed

The NFU has been given a chance to provide evidence to the European Commission on the need to continue with anti-dumping measures 'taxes' on Ammonium Nitrate imports from Russia. In order to do this we need volunteers to complete the EC survey- you can read more about the survey here:

<http://www.nfuonline.com/business/inputs/eu-investigation-into-an-your-help-needed/>

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Whole body vibration in agriculture



There has been a lot of talk in the media this week regarding whole body vibration in agriculture. Controlling vibration in agricultural vehicles is not a new requirement and rules have been in force since 2005. Taking practical steps can limit vibration to within safe levels and the HSE has sought to downplay fears regarding restrictive working time periods and the need to replace equipment before it is due to be upgraded. You can read more about the issue here: <http://www.nfuonline.com/business/farm-safety/whole-body-vibration-in-agriculture/>

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Danger of using telehandlers for fencing

The HSE is reminding farmers of the dangers of using telehandlers for driving in fence posts. Undertaking this operation can result in people being run over or struck or crushed by the bucket.

You can read more here: <http://www.nfuonline.com/business/farm-safety/dangers-of-fencing-with-telehandlers/>

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