

UPPER TEESDALE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES LTD

(Supporting our Communities in the Durham Dales)

Glaxo SmithKline IMPACT Awards 2011 – Highly Commended



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Patrons: The Lord Barnard, T.D., The Reverend Rachel Benson DL, The Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorne, Dr Patrick Lavery, Sir Paul and Lady Nicholson and The Rt Revd Paul Butler - Bishop of Durham

Dear Members

27th July 2015

We hope that this letter and briefing overleaf finds you keeping as well as possible.

JOB OPPORTUNITY WITH UTASS: UTASS seeks to recruit a part time Administration Support Worker (14 hours per week) to join the team of Staff and Volunteers. If you would like an application pack please email diane@utass.org or telephone Diane on 01833 641010.

ROOF OF ENGLAND CYCLING EVENT: We have been asked if we could make our members aware of the cycling event taking place on Sunday 30th August. The following link gives details of the route etc. <http://roofofenglandcycling.co.uk/sportive-2015-routes/4589194378> Details are also available in the UTASS office.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY - NPTC Level 2 Award in the Safe Use of Pesticides:

To help Farmers achieve the necessary certificate to apply professional products, needed by 26th November this year, we arrange theory training & assessments at UTASS and practical training & assessments at the Mart. The next courses to be held are on Monday, **10th, 12th & 13th August** and then on Wednesday **21st, 22nd & 23rd October**, with completed registration form essential prior to training. For further information please contact Julia@utass.org or 01833 641010 or go to the UTASS website.

BUSINESS UNIT AVAILABLE FROM 5.8.15.: One of the business units at the Aspire Building on the Middleton – in – Teesdale Farmers Auction Mart site will be available to rent from 5.8.15. If you are interested please contact either Hayley or Diane at UTASS.

CALL FOR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE UTASS 2016 CALENDAR: Please do send Emma@utass.org any photographs you may have that you feel would be suitable for the UTASS 2016 Calendar.

Thank you for keeping us informed about things that we might be able to help with.

Sincere best wishes

Diane Spark
UTASS Project Manager

UTASS is a Registered Charity 1120120 and Company Limited by Guarantee 06054331.

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LOTTERY FUNDED

UTASS Briefing: 27th July 2015

BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME (BPS).

The deadline for the receipt of RLE1 forms to notify the RPA of any Permanent Ineligible Features (rocks, tracks, streams, ponds, dense bracken beds etc.) for the 2015 BPS application is 30th September 2015. Most claimants will have already done this when they made their application.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

Natural England have written again to agreement holders with “livestock options” that have grazing or livestock management requirements (for ELS and UELS this will include EK5 “Mixed Stocking” and UL18 “Cattle grazing on upland grassland and moorland” as well as UX3 “Moorland Requirements”) cancelling their previous request for information. After forceful lobbying of Defra, Natural England have had to withdraw that request as they need to decide exactly what information they do actually require to demonstrate compliance to the EU Commission. This is good news but, at some stage, Natural England may request some proof of compliance but hopefully in a more proportionate and sensible manner. In the meantime keeping some form of grazing diary would be advisable.

SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME (SPS) PAPERWORK.

Further to details given in our briefings of 26.5.15. & 17.6.15. and our need to urgently generate some space within our filing cabinets, we will only be able to keep members SPS paperwork relating to 2013 onwards. If you would like your paperwork relating to 2012 and before please let us know by the 14th of August 2015. We will then have your items ready to pick up from UTASS on or after 21st August 2015. If we have not heard from you by the end of August 2015 we will assume you are happy for your pre-2013 SPS paperwork to be shredded and disposed of responsibly.

Currently there is no requirement to keep copies of SPS applications for a set time, though it is always advisable to keep a record of any form or associated correspondence with Defra agencies for at least three years.

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.
Richard Betton.