

# UTASS Briefing: 29<sup>th</sup> November 2016

## ANNUAL INVENTORY OF SHEEP AND GOATS.

All keepers of sheep and goats need to complete an annual inventory of all the animals on their holding(s) on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016. This can be done on line

<https://defra.htkhorizon.com/sag> or on a paper form. **The inventory must be returned and the total entered in the Holding Register by the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.**

Failure to do so increases the chance of an inspection and subsequent penalties. The new definition of a holding, which allows farmers to attach all land within 10 miles of their main holding to one CPH number, may make this form simpler to complete.

## BPS 2016.

The payment window for paying 2016 claims opens on the 1<sup>st</sup> December. The RPA are optimistic that they will achieve their target of paying 90% of claims by the end of December 2016. Payment rates, due to the drop in the value of sterling post Brexit, are around 18% up on last year. Remittance advices will be sent when payments are made but the RPA do not expect to be able to send out claim statements until late January 2017.

There are still a significant number of outstanding issues left over from 2015 with many farmers not fully paid and a few yet to receive anything. The RPA have at last appreciated the complexities of processing and validating claims with common rights using an Italian computer programme (SITI Farmer) that was only designed to work with *individually used* rather than *shared* land parcels. It seems that most of the common grazing rights have been correctly attached to the proper claim with the major issue being establishing the correct eligible area of each common on the Rural Land Register, especially when multiple land parcels and Permanent Ineligible Features (screes, bracken etc.) are involved. Good progress in processing 2016 claims has allowed them to transfer additional resources to the outstanding 2015 claims with the intention to be able to complete most 2015 payments as well as paying 2016 claims in the near future.

## FARMING ADVICE SERVICE EVENT.

This will be led by Ian Cairns and Castle Vets at UTASS 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 7.30-9.30pm (tea and coffee available from 7.00pm). The agenda will include:

- Explaining the new CPH 10-mile rule.
- Covering Cross compliance requirements for livestock farms.
- Focusing on explaining common areas of non-compliance to reduce your risk of inspection penalties.
- Introducing the BVD Free England Campaign.

Please ring UTASS to book a place.

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.

Richard Betton.

Please see overleaf

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## **PIG KEEPING REQUIREMENTS.**

It is required by law that anyone who keeps pigs, whether in large numbers or just one, must be registered as a pig keeper and follow regulations especially with regards to feed, movements and identification.

You must have a CPH number or obtain one from the RPA.

You must tell the Animal and Plant Health Agency that you will be keeping pigs.

Phone 03000 200 301 for a Herd mark which will be needed for all movements.

Identifying and reporting pig movements is different from other livestock and guidelines for these are on the RPA website in the Keeping Farmed Animals section.

There are also guidelines about feed and one for those who want to keep a pet pig.

You can report pig movements via the eAML2 website or via the eAML2 Bureau Service. The contact details for the eAML2 Bureau Service are as follows:

eAML2 helpline - 0844 335 8400.

For further advice or information contact;

Alison Greaves on 01833 641010

Or email to [alison@utass.org](mailto:alison@utass.org)

## **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE UTASS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM THURSDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER TO TUESDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY.**

Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS) forms - formerly known as AML 1's which are posted through the letterbox at UTASS will still be faxed daily to South Western and for members who are registered on the Government Gateway (BCMS) cattle births, deaths and movements (on/off) can be relayed to Ann Bell on 01833 622283 or 07870 285413 or posted through the UTASS letterbox.

The usual out of hours urgent needs remains unchanged whilst the office is closed and can be accessed by calling Diane on 07968 874968 or 01833 640320.

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