

# UTASS Briefing: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

BPS, COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP  
Extended deadline 2020 BPS claims and Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship (HLS) annual claims has been extended to **15<sup>th</sup> June 2020**. Claims will be accepted up until midnight 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 but penalties will be applied. Paperwork for Countryside Stewardship agreements starting on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 may only have been sent out recently. Claimants will still need to make an annual claim for 2020 online when the agreement officially “goes live” on receipt of the acceptance letter by the RPA.

## FUTURE AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT

The Agricultural Bill is being debated in Parliament, currently in the House of Lords. The Bill mainly deals with the phasing out of the existing Basic Payment Scheme and the introduction of a replacement Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) to reward farmers for producing “Public Goods”. These are defined as goods which do not have a recognised market to put a value on them so does not include food. The bill at the moment does not mention the high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection that are already enshrined in UK law. The future of UK farming does not look good if food produced to lower standards, and therefore cheaper to the consumer and cheaper to produce, is allowed to be imported into this country.

The NFU is sponsoring a petition to the Government requiring our high standards of production to be either enshrined in the Agricultural Act or protected through a Food Standards Commission. It can be found at

[https://www.campaigns.nfuonline.com/page/56262/petition/1?en\\_chan=fb](https://www.campaigns.nfuonline.com/page/56262/petition/1?en_chan=fb) **UTASS strongly recommends that this petition should be supported by its members and the wider community.** The petition is currently approaching 1 million signatures.

Our new MP, Dehenna Davidson, promised in her opening speech to the House of Commons to support and represent the farmers within the constituency. Please remind her of this promise and ask her to support the petition by voting for the amendment to protect standards when the Agricultural Bill returns to the Commons. The Government is very keen to negotiate a trade deal with the United States in the near future (before the end of the year): our representatives need to know the importance not just of our high standards but protecting them from lower standard imports now or the opportunity might be missed. She can be contacted at The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA or [dehenna.davison.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:dehenna.davison.mp@parliament.uk)

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS 01833 641010.  
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