

# UTASS Briefing: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

## BPS 2021

DEFRA have published as part of their Agricultural Transition Plan the reductions that will be applied to BPS payments as they are phased out by 2027.

Payment Band	2021	2022	2023	2024
Up to £30,000	5%	20%	35%	50%
£30,000 - £50,0000	10%	25%	40%	55%
£50,000 - £150,000	20%	35%	50%	65%
Over £150,000	25%	40%	55%	70%

There are also some changes to cross compliance including the continued dropping of Environmental Focus Areas and the “three crop rule”. The RPA have also notified a lot of recent mapping updates. Many of them are insignificant but they will still need to be checked to ensure a correct application is made. UTASS staff may be contacting you by phone to check the accuracy of these changes before the actual application window opens.

We had hoped that this year we could have resumed our usual practice of appointments in the UTASS office to check maps and complete the 2021 BPS application. However, the new Covid 19 lockdown is likely to cover some if not all of the application window for the 2021 application period running up to the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It would be risky to wait for a lifting of restrictions, especially as this may not even materialise in time, before booking appointments. To protect both you and our staff, we would like to conduct as much as possible of the business of checking information and making applications over the phone. We appreciate that the BPS claim is very important still to most farmers and that checking maps and other details over the phone is not ideal, but we did manage to make it work last year and keep everyone safe. Many thanks in anticipation for your help and cooperation

## AGRICULTURAL TRANSITION PLAN.

Defra have issued a leaflet called “Farming is Changing” that outlines the main elements of their plan to deliver the broad strategy contained in the Agriculture Act passed late last year. It is very short on details but promises that these will be developed through consultation with the industry and other stakeholders. We would welcome comments and views from our members and will be contacting you at the appropriate time to make sure the views of Teesdale farmers are put forward to Defra.

## UTASS USER SURVEY

We really appreciate your willingness to complete yet another form on top of all the forms and records that are part and parcel of running a farm. For those who would prefer to complete the survey online the link is [bit.ly/UTASS2020SURVEY](https://bit.ly/UTASS2020SURVEY)

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS 01833 641010.  
Richard Betton.