

UTASS Briefing: 12th May 2015

BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME (BPS).

The RPA have expressed concern that there are still a significant number of previous claimants of SPS who have not yet registered with the RPA for BPS. The RPA believe that there are still over 4000 potential claimants nationally who have not registered with a significant number in both Teesdale and Weardale. Registration has to be completed before a valid claim can be submitted. It is doubly important to make a valid claim this year as entitlements carried forward from SPS will be returned to the government if not activated for BPS 2015. The deadline for receipt of claim forms was extended some time ago to the 15th June 2015. It will not be easy to complete registration, acquire new maps from the RPA and submit an accurate claim form at the “eleventh hour”. The RPA are running some events locally with the NFU on Thursday 14th May:

13:30 Helme Park Hotel, Bishop Auckland, DL13 4NW

19:30 The Lion Inn, Blakey Ridge, Hutton le Hole, YO62 7LQ

Places need to be booked through the NFU on 01904 451550

and Friday 15th May:

10:00 Newton Rigg college, Penrith, CA11 0AH

13:00 Crooklands Hotel, Kendal, LA7 7NW

Places need to be booked through the NFU on 01695 554 900

Any potential BPS claimant who has registered but has not yet received a pre-populated form should contact the RPA as soon as possible on 03000 200 301. UTASS are still intending to support members with the completion and submission of BPS applications by the end of May 2015 as this will give the RPA a “sporting chance” of processing and validating claims for payment at the earliest permitted opportunity (December 2015). UTASS will be providing the usual hand delivery service.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

If you have not completed and returned the new “annual claim” form yet, (see Briefing 16th March 2015) the deadline has been extended to 15th June 2015.

As previously mentioned, Natural England are writing 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”. HLS is more complicated and will depend on the prescription attached to the different options. Livestock grazing records at parcel (field) level will now need to be kept for these options. This is necessary to meet the requirements of the EU for evidence that the options are being implemented and to avoid the EU imposing financial penalties on the UK as a result. The letter will contain a livestock record that must be used for each field parcel. These livestock records need to be available at inspection or on request.

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.

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