

UTASS Briefing: 14th March 2019.

BPS 2019 APPLICATIONS.

The 2019 application period opened on 13th March. As Spring is such a busy time for farmers we will again be running an appointment system. We would like to assist as many members as possible with their applications before our staff get too busy with their own lambing so UTASS staff will be contacting you to make an appointment. Overleaf is a list of the forms or information that will assist in making a correct and complete application. The flexibility and cooperation of members last year made the process much easier for all concerned and was greatly appreciated by all the UTASS staff.

Midnight on the 15th May 2019 is as usual the deadline for receiving applications, including transfer of entitlements for use in 2019 and Young and New Farmer additional application forms. Late forms are accepted up to the 10th June but penalties will apply.

We will only be able to help those who want to apply for the Hedgerow and Boundary Capital Grant Scheme (see below) if they make a specific appointment.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

All holders of HLS, UELS and Countryside Stewardship agreements that are not just related to capital works need to submit a claim for their annual management payment by **15th May 2019**.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP.

The window for applications opened on the 18th February for all the schemes running under the Countryside Stewardship banner. The deadline for requesting Higher Tier application packs is 31st March 2019 and for mid-tier 31 May 2019. Defra are also running the Hedgerow and Boundary Capital Grant scheme again with a deadline for applications of the 3rd May. This scheme is open to **all** farmers with an SBI who are not already in an Environmental Stewardship scheme. The maximum grant is £10,000 with applications made through the Countryside stewardship portal on ruralpayments@gov.uk. This may require “empowerment” levels to be amended to gain access. It requires photographic evidence (before and after) and maps showing the proposed work.

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

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DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR BPS 2019 COMPLETION

Members will need to bring along:

- Have you received a paper claim form?
If so you'll need to bring it as it won't be possible to do the claim online.
- Copy of 2018 BPS CLAIM and any Continuation Booklets submitted in 2018
- Copy of RLE1 including maps if submitted in 2018
- BPS Claim statement for 2018
- Details of any changes to your land area in 2018/19 including land given up, additional land, new buildings etc.
- 10 Digit Customer Reference Number and Registration Password if you have not empowered UTASS to act on your behalf.
- Are you a Young Farmer (40 or under in 2018)
Evidence of eligibility for those claiming the Young Farmer Payment (form completed by accountant/ solicitors)
- Are you a new entrant? (2013 onwards)
- Bring any BPS correspondence from the RPA received in 2018/ 2019 including inspection reports
- Do you receive a HLS payment? If so have you received / sent off a claim form?
- Please note Hedgerow and Boundary Grant applications will need to be completed in a separate appointment.