

# UTASS Briefing: 10<sup>th</sup> April 2015

## CAP REFORM UPDATE.

The RPA announced yesterday that they would start sending out pre-populated forms for the Basic Payment Scheme on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April. We understand that these will initially all be sent by email. Where an applicant has given full empowerment to an agent (UTASS) the form will be emailed direct to that agent. Most of our members, as all grassland farmers, will automatically qualify for the Greening payment. This means that there will be either no or comparatively minor changes to the information that was submitted for the Single Payment Scheme last year enabling an email confirmation of the claim details to be made to the RPA. UTASS staff will be contacting members to make appointments as soon as the pre-populated forms begin to arrive. We appreciate that for many of our members it could not be a more inconvenient time of year but hope you will be able to work with us to make sure that a valid claim is submitted. UTASS will not be in a position to assist after 29<sup>th</sup> May 2015. There may be some separate issues involving the accurate mapping of ineligible areas on commons but this should not affect the information needed on the application form to register common rights for BPS payments. At the moment the RPA have not made the whole process completely clear but, if sufficient forms are emailed through straightaway, UTASS intends to extend opening hours to include Wednesdays 10.30-17.00 for at least the next two weeks.

The RPA will be running an advice session with “New Entrant” updates and with the satellite link for mapping at Woodland Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> April. We will also be running an appointment service in Stanhope on Thursdays.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

If you have not completed and returned the new “annual claim” form yet, (see Briefing 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015) this needs to be done before 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 or penalties will be applied.

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”. 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.

Richard Betton

UTASS Briefing Sponsored by:

