

# UTASS Briefing: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2015

## CAP REFORM PROGRESS.

The RPA announced a timetable earlier this year for implementation of the Basic Payment Scheme leading up to the deadline of 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 for the submission of claims. They expected the different elements of the IT system to be ready for customer use as laid out below:

<b>January</b>	<b>Registration and “empowerment” (appointing of agent with IT).</b>
<b>February</b>	<b>Checking and confirming mapping and land use details.</b>
<b>March</b>	<b>Checking entitlements and trading of entitlements where necessary.</b>
<b>April</b>	<b>Submission of claims.</b>

There has been some serious slippage in delivery which means we need to be highly organised at UTASS to help those of our members who need assistance through the four stages of the process. As the mapping element is being developed at the moment but is not currently working reliably, we feel it would be prudent to prioritise getting everybody registered for the scheme and any “empowerment” issues sorted out as soon as possible and preferably before the end of February! *If you had assistance from us last year with the SPS application process* a member of staff will be contacting you in the near future to arrange an appointment for Registration (your consideration and cooperation will be greatly appreciated by all the staff). However, if you have not heard from us by the 20<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and have not made other arrangements please **do** contact us: we do not want anybody who needs support to miss out. Unfortunately, at least one additional appointment will need to be made to check and confirm mapping and entitlement details as the other elements of the IT system become available. With patience and good organisation we, at UTASS, hope that the chaos of 2005 when the Single Payment Scheme was introduced can be avoided.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP.

CAP reform has necessitated the introduction of an “annual claim form” for all environmental schemes (HLS, UELS and ELS etc.). This year it will be a paper form that has to be returned to Natural England by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015 or financial penalties will be applied in the same way as for SPS late submissions. Natural England have not said yet exactly what information will be required but hope that the form will be sent to all Environmental Stewardship agreement holders during March.

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.  
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