

UTASS Briefing: 15TH July 2016

BREXIT.

The vote to leave on 23rd June 2016 is a popular mandate to the Government to take the UK out of Europe: it does not mean that on the 24th June the UK left the European Union. That process will begin when the Government formally serves notice to the EU Commission as laid out in Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty. This in turn only initiates the formal negotiation process that can (and probably will) take 2 years. Before and during that process the UK is still a full member of the EU abiding by its rules and regulations including everything pertaining to the Common Agricultural Policy. This includes the Basic Payment Scheme as well as all the Pillar Two schemes like Environmental Stewardship (Higher Level Scheme, Entry Level Scheme and Countryside Stewardship), rural development and Leader. Farmers claiming BPS will still be subject to all the Cross Compliance rules including sheep and cattle records, identification and reporting. When the “Brexit” is finally negotiated it will not mean the end of all regulation as trade agreements with either the EU or the rest of the world will require compliance with certain standards to access foreign markets. Cattle passports and records were not initiated by the EU but introduced by the UK government in the wake of the 1996 BSE crisis as a necessary step to lifting the worldwide ban on UK beef exports. **The message is that it is still business as usual as far as Red Tape is concerned.** The alternative is a serious risk of prosecution and/or penalties to BPS payments.

In the short term the referendum result has caused a significant weakening of the pound resulting in lamb prices jumping £7 per head (39% of UK lamb crop is exported to the EU mainly France). If it remains weak, which is good for exports, there could be a significant uplift in the 2016 BPS as the exchange rate with the Euro is based on the average exchange rate during September in the scheme year. On the downside a weak pound makes imports (fuel, machinery, fertiliser etc.) more expensive though there can be a time-lag in filtering through.

BPS 2015.

The RPA have said that they expect to make corrections to over 15,000 BPS claims over the next few months. Farmers who believe that their payment is incorrect should notify the RPA by phone 03000 200 301, email ruralpayments@defra.gsi.gov.uk or letter. The following table may help to calculate what the full payment should be:

Region	Euros Ent/ha	Stirling Ent/ha	Ent/ha less FD%
Non-SDA	248.02 Euros	£181.37	£178.84
SDA	246.24 Euros	£180.07	£177.56
Moorland	65.06 Euros	£47.58	£46.92

To work out approximate expected payment multiply the claimed area in each region by the figure in the final column of the table above and add £20.37 as the first 2000 euros of all claims is exempt from the Financial Discipline reduction of 1.393041%. If you would like assistance checking the accuracy of your BPS payment please contact UTASS to book an appointment.

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USEFUL CONTACTS.

FARMING COMMUNITY NETWORK

Practical/Pastoral support for farming people

03000 111 999 (7am – 11pm every day)

www.fcn.org.uk

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

Welfare and financial assistance

01865 724931 General Enquiries

0808 2819490 Helpline

www.rabi.org.uk

ADDINGTON FUND

Rural Housing Scheme

01926 620135 (Weekdays 9am – 5pm)

www.addingtonfund.org.uk

SAMARITANS

Emotional support

116 123 (24hours every day)

www.samaritans.org

YORKSHIRE RURAL SUPPORT NETWORK

Supporting rural communities throughout Yorkshire and based at the Regional Agricultural Centre, Great Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate

01423 546217 or 07912 495604, Kate Dale kated@yas.co.uk

UTASS

If your need is urgent, UTASS are available, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year,

01833 641010 or 07968874968, Diane Spark diane@utass.org

For further advice and assistance contact UTASS 01833 641010.

Richard Betton.

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