

UTASS BRIEFING 6th March 2014

CAP REFORM:

This is the last year of the existing CAP regime and therefore the last year of the SPS. Though a lot of the implementation details are yet to be decided, some key decisions have been made.

- The new scheme will be **“digital only”** in other words no paper forms and just online claims.
- **Entitlements** for SPS will continue to be valid for the replacement scheme starting in 2015 (“rolled over”) and called the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). However, any spare entitlements held by applicants and **not** activated in the first year of the BPS will revert to the National Reserve. Defra have announced that there will be a trading period for entitlements after the closing of the current period on 2nd April 2014 which will run until October 2014.
- BPS will include an **Active Farmer** test. This definition is not totally clarified yet but will include a requirement for an applicant to make at least 5% of their income from agricultural production. Some applicants may need to consider their eligibility for BPS and trade entitlements accordingly.

SINGLE PAYMENT SCHEME 2014:

The RPA have opened their SPS Online application process. Tessa and Richard are now available at UTASS for appointments to assist members who wish to make an online claim. The RPA are keen that as many applicants as possible should use the online service this year before it becomes compulsory next year. Paper forms will be issued but not until late March 2014 and then only to those who applied using a paper form last year. All applicants should have received reminders and new applicants issued with PIN numbers. For us to access SPS Online we need both the PIN and SBI numbers of new applicants. It is also important that any mapping changes/correspondence and a copy of last year’s form are brought to the appointment to ensure that all the information on the form is correct. If the information submitted on the claim is not 100% correct the chance of penalty deductions is extremely high.

This year we can only help those that are UTASS members. If you have not returned your UTASS membership form please do so as soon as possible.

The deadline for submission of claims is the **15th May 2014**: we would appreciate appointments well in advance of the deadline for staff lambing commitments. *We hope the poem overleaf from one of our members will help keep bureaucracy in perspective!*

UTASS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) REMINDER: Please help us to continue helping you by attending your AGM at UTASS on **Tuesday 18th March 2014 at 7.30pm**. A hot supper will be served so booking on 01833 641010 or info@utass.org would be appreciated. Apologies for stating the meeting was taking place in 2013 in previous correspondence.

OTHER INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THIS MAILING: A training update/reminder and contact details of organisations accepting donations to support those affected by the recent floods.

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