

UTASS BRIEFING 10th November 2023

Vet Attestation Declaration

From 13th December, changes in legislation will require all producers selling livestock for slaughter to have had an annual farm veterinary visit to comply with EU export requirements. For products to be exported to the EU, farms must have had, in the 12 months leading up to 13 December 2023, one of the following: a routine on-farm veterinary visit an Animal Health and Welfare Pathway veterinary visit or be part of a recognised assurance scheme.

If you are not part of an assurance scheme you need to contact your vet to arrange a visit, in some cases vets may be able to provide a retrospective declaration if a visit has taken place recently and meets the relevant requirements.

The visit can be funded by Defra's Annual Health and Welfare Review, please note you need to apply for this before you arrange the vet visit, you can do this by clicking on the link below or contact UTASS for assistance [Annual health and welfare review of livestock \(defra.gov.uk\)](https://www.defra.gov.uk/annual-health-and-welfare-review-of-livestock/)

If in doubt, please contact your registered veterinary practice who will be able to assist you further.

Delinked Payments

The RPA have started to issue BPS claimants with a Delinked Payment Statement, this will indicate how the delinked payments for the next 4 years (2024-27) have been calculated. We urge you to check the reference data contained within the statement against your BPS payment information for the relevant years. Claimants have until 29th February 2024 to raise any queries in relation to the statements.

We have been advised that the statements are being sent out in batches from early November and via email to the addresses which are registered to the business through the Rural Payment Service, please log on to the service and make sure your email address is correct. If there is no email address registered a printed statement will be posted.

If you have not received your statement by early December, please contact the RPA on 03000 200 301 or a member of the UTASS Team.

Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI)

Farmers no longer need to submit registrations of interest for the scheme and will be able to apply directly online, apart from on common land where applicants should continue to express their interest with the Rural Payments Agency.

It is still important that potential applicants check mapping details on the Rural Payments system are correct prior to starting an application. If you need assistance with this or support completing an RLE1 form should you need to make corrections or putting a SFI application together please contact Richard or Charlotte.

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Defra Need Your Thoughts.....

DEFRA is currently consulting on proposed changes to identification, registration, and movement reporting of bovines in England. Proposals have been developed with input from industry representatives, however it is vital that they understand your point of view.

Their ambition is to modernise the cattle traceability system in England, which will improve their ability to stem the spread of disease, reduce administrative work for keepers, and simplify the law. They also propose more proportionate enforcement, where keepers are helped to fulfil their traceability requirements.

DEFRA are inviting farmers to respond to the consultation by 15th November.

<https://buff.ly/3Qt0duZ>

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund (Animal Health & Welfare Grant)

If you received a grant funding agreement for items on the Animal and Health Welfare list, you should check your chosen items are available with your supplier and claim your money by midnight on 5th December 2023.

[How to claim your Farming Equipment and Technology Fund \(FETF\) 2023 payment - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/how-to-claim-your-farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-fETF-2023-payment)

Farm for the Future

Our next round of Farm for the Future meetings are starting across Teesdale and Weardale in the coming weeks. This is our best way of updating you on the changes that are coming and helping you prepare.

Why should you get involved?

- Free support focussed on helping you plan for the future post- BPS
- Group meetings on different subjects that could help you look at your farm differently- other potential income sources, how could I reduce costs, should I get bigger or should I focus on one area etc.
- 121 support so you can talk through your farm business and plan for the future in more detail
- Delivered locally, here in the dales, by people who understand your area

If you'd like to sign up and book meeting places you can use this link <https://www.tfaforms.com/5019669> or contact Caitlin, either by emailing caitlin@utass.org or call the office on 01833 641010

Have your say to the RPA

We have arranged for Sandy Kapila, Head of External Affairs for the Rural Payments Agency to come up to meet with members here at UTASS on Wednesday 29th November 2023, 7pm start.

The Rural Payments Agency will be talking about their plans for the future, including changes to their approach, post- EU progress, new schemes and opportunities and there will be the chance to ask questions directly. Supper will be provided, so please contact the UTASS office to book places in advance.

For further advice and assistance please call UTASS on 01833 641010

Charlotte Fletcher