

UTASS BRIEFING 14th DECEMBER 2023

It's that time of year again....Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory

All keepers of sheep and/or goats MUST complete the annual inventory showing the number of animals on their holding on 1st December 2023.

This information needs to reach DEFRA by 31st December at the latest!

If you have not received an email or paper copy please contact Defra farm surveys by emailing: surveys@defra.gov.uk / Telephone: 03000 600 140 or alternatively you can complete your inventory online by clicking on the following link <https://www.gov.uk/.../sheep-and-goat-keepers-complete...> (All you need is your CPH Number and Post Code to log in and complete the form).

Should you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact one of the team.

REMINDER - Vet Attestation Declaration

In the previous briefing we made you aware that changes in legislation require all producers selling livestock for slaughter at market or direct to abattoir from 13th December 2023, will require a Vet Attestation, unless they are already a member of Red Tractor or other qualifying 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.

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.

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SFI UPDATE

The RPA are planning to stop SFI 2023 applications at midnight on December 31st and then reopen as SFI 2024 on 2nd January 2024. This means that no SFI application can be started after December 26th and all must be submitted by 31st December 2023. If that deadline is missed the process will have to begin again with a new application for SFI 2024 and potentially a later start date.

We understand that there will be some significant announcements in January which may include outlines of new SFI actions for later in 2024 and a review, hopefully upwards, of CS payment rates.

It is important that farmers planning to enter SFI make sure that their mapping details on the Rural Land Registry are correct. This can be checked on Rural Payments for:

- Land Cover using the View Land screen to check land classification of Arable, Permanent Pasture, Moorland or Other.
- Land Use using the Land Use screen to check the land use/crop currently declared.
- Field boundaries and permanent ineligible features (buildings, ponds, roads etc).

If any of this information is wrong it may be necessary to submit a RLE1 form to make the necessary correction. This may take some time to be processed by the RPA and delay the submission of a SFI application.

Farm for the Future

We're delivering the Farm for the Future programme with The Royal Countryside Fund. We're offering FREE support to help you tackle the challenges your farm is facing and understand more about post-BPS opportunities and identify opportunities on offer, and how you can prepare for the future.

The next programme of meetings are starting across Teesdale and Weardale in the coming weeks.

Why should you get involved?

- Free programme that is 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 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

Sign up for the programme today using the link below, and you'll be offered support between now and 2025.

<https://www.tfaforms.com/5019669>

If you'd like more information please contact Caitlin, either by emailing caitlin@utass.org or call the office on 01833 641010

For further advice and assistance please call Richard or Charlotte on 01833 641010