

UTASS Briefing 3rd July 2025



Waste Exemptions

Following the consultation in November 2024, the Environment Agency are introducing the charges proposed for a basket of exemptions for farmers from 1st July 2025. We are struggling to get definitive information on when and how these changes and payments will be implemented. Once we do have more concrete information, we will update you.

Dip Disposal Permits

We also understand that there has been a delay in the charges for Dip Disposal permits, this is due to IT issues. If you have any queries about the above, call the Farm Support Team at UTASS or call the Environment Agency on 03708 506 506.

Delinked Payments

Defra have now confirmed the delinked payment rates for the last three years of the scheme. Delinked payments (which replaced BPS) are paid as a percentage of your average BPS payment 2020-22 (reference amounts) but only on the first £30,000.

The table below shows the reductions and the maximum payments:

Year:	Reduction:	Max. Payment:
2025	76%	£7,200*
2026	98%	£600*
2027	98%	£600*

***Please note, these are the MAXIMUM possible payments.**

If your 'reference amount' is £30,000 or above you will receive the above payments.

If your 'reference amount' is below £30,000, your payment will be scaled down accordingly.

Payments are made automatically without any need to claim. The RPA are planning from this year to make delinked payments in one installment rather than two with payments starting from the 1st August. It is important that any changes to bank account details are notified to the RPA on 03000 200 301 before payments start.

Rat Control

From 1st January 2026, membership of a farm assurance scheme such as Red Tractor will no longer be proof of competence to buy rat poison. If you wish to continue to purchase and use "professional" rodenticides will need to complete

a 'Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use' (CRRU) approved course. We are planning to hold some courses at UTASS this backend. To book a place or for more details please contact Jo on 01833 641010 or email jo@utass.org.

Bluetongue (BTV)

The restricted zone in England has been extended from the 1st July 2025 to cover the entire country. This means that farmers can now move cattle, sheep, and other ruminants throughout England without needing pre-movement testing or movement licences. It is still a “notifiable disease” so by law suspected cases must be reported immediately to the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) on 03000 200 301. Vaccines are available and the government is encouraging farmers to discuss flock and herd protection with their own vet.

Farming Equipment and Technology Fund

The application window for this grant fund closes at midday on the 10th July 2025.

Capital Grants

Defra have announced that a new round of the capital grant scheme will open on 3rd July 2025 [we've reopened the Capital Grants offer](#) .

- Defra hope to offer agreements by the end of July to the applications that were “paused” when the previous capital grant round was temporarily closed in November 2024.
- There are 78 items on offer with funding limits on different groups to ensure fairer access.
- Only one application per SBI will be accepted each calendar year.
- The round will close when the allocated budget has been committed. Defra mention giving reasonable warning of this happening (it didn't last time) but only if possible.
- New items are expected to be added later this year including “using tree surgery to hinge a tree into a water course”; your guess of what this may involve is as good as mine!

For further information and assistance on the items mentioned in this briefing, please contact the UTASS Farming Team on 01833 641010 info@utass.org.