

October 2018 - e-news issue 41

Welcome to the Farming Advice Service newsletter

There have been several new or updated Farming Advice Service (FAS) resources released during the summer that you may have missed. This special edition of the newsletter has a particular focus on these resources to help keep you up to date. It also provides the usual forthcoming key dates for cross compliance and greening.

If you do not already receive the FAS newsletter straight to your inbox, but would like to, please email bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk with 'Register for newsletter' in the subject line. Your details will not be shared with any third parties.

We hope you find the information in this issue helpful. If you have any comments or ideas for topics you would like us to cover, please let us know.

FAS technical advice line:

Telephone: 03000 200 301

Email: advice@farmingadvice.org.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/government/groups/farming-advice-service

**Farming
Advice Service**



How can FAS help you?

Free and confidential advice

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) regulations require European Union (EU) Member States to run an advisory system covering cross compliance, greening, water protection and aspects of pesticide use. In England, this is provided by FAS. Under these regulations, the advice given to individual farmers must be **confidential** – that is, FAS must not disclose any personal or individual information or data it obtains during its advisory activity.

FAS updates the farming sector on relevant EU and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) policies. It explains the requirements under and objectives of CAP, EU directives, national legislation and policies;

and the actions that can be taken to help meet compliance. FAS provides free, confidential advice on cross compliance and the greening requirements, some aspects of the Water Framework Directive (such as silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil (SSAFO) and waste exemptions) and the Sustainable Use (of pesticides) Directive.

The cross compliance rules apply to you if you are a claimant of the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS), Countryside Stewardship, or Environmental Stewardship.

Getting in contact with the advice line

Farmers requiring telephone advice from FAS can contact the **Rural Services Helpline** on **03000 200 301** Monday to Friday between **8.30am** and **5pm**.

The Rural Services Helpline provides a single number for all **FAS, Rural Payments Agency, Animal and Plant Health Agency, Natural England and Forestry** enquiries. By providing a single point of contact, the Government aims to make it simpler for farmers to access technical guidance on a range of topics, including cross compliance, greening, CAP payments and animal health inspections.

You can also email enquiries to advice@farmingadvice.org.uk.

Key dates

31 October	If you hold a summer water abstraction licence (authorising abstraction wholly within the months of April to October), the Environment Agency will make actual abstraction return forms available to you from 31 October. You then have 28 days to send your readings to the Environment Agency. (GAEC* 2)
1 November	The burning season for heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium is 1 October to 15 April for uplands, and from 1 November to 31 March for land not within an upland area. (GAEC 6)
30 November	If you have a two-part tariff agreement for your water abstraction licence, expect to receive your second part charge after 30 November. (GAEC 2)
1 December	You need to carry out your annual inventory of sheep and goats. (SMR** 8)

For more details about the information provided in the key dates table, please visit the '[Cross compliance 2018](#)' and '[Basic Payment Scheme 2018](#)' pages of GOV.UK.

You can also download a poster with all cross compliance and greening key dates for 2018 from the [FAS website](#).

FAS publications and resources



Livestock top tips

FAS has produced some top tips to address the most common non-compliances identified during inspections as part of Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 7 (Cattle identification and

registration) and SMR 8 (Sheep and goat identification) inspections. Originally published in December 2016, both documents were updated in August 2018.

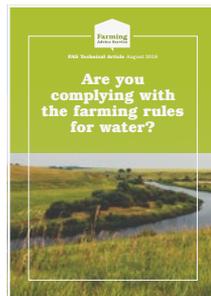
Key dates poster

This one-page poster provides all the cross compliance and greening key dates for 2018 and is available on the [FAS website](#).



Farming rules for water

New rules that apply to all farmers and land managers in England were published on 2 April 2018 help improve water quality by reducing diffuse pollution. FAS published a technical article in August 2018 that explains the requirements of the new rules, which can be found on the [FAS website](#).

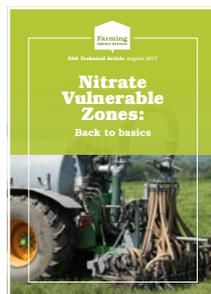


In April 2018, FAS ran a webinar to explain the requirements of the new farming rules for water. This was presented by Matthew Hampshire from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and James Davies from the Environment Agency. A recording of the webinar is available to view on the [FAS website](#).



Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ)

FAS has produced a technical article called 'NVZ: Back to basics', which provides a simple guide to the NVZ requirements. This was originally published in August 2017, but was updated during the summer of 2018 and can be found on the [FAS website](#).



There is also a recording of a webinar on the [FAS website](#) that explains the requirements of SMR 1 (NVZs). This is presented by Andrew Wells from FAS and Corinna Blackmore from the Environment Agency. This webinar was recorded in April 2017.



FAS website



All FAS resources can be accessed for free on our website, including:

- newsletters (<http://farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/newsletters/>);
- technical articles (<http://farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/technical-articles/>);
- posters (<http://farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/resources/>);
- webinars (<http://farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/webinars/>).

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In line with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), FAS has updated its privacy policy to explain how your data is kept safe. To view the policy, please visit www.farmingadvice.service.org.uk/events/privacy/