

October 2012 - Newsletter issue 04

Welcome to the 4th Farming Advice Service newsletter.

This newsletter includes links to technical guidance regarding animal identification and registration, important updates regarding farming in bad weather conditions, as well as some information regarding events upcoming FAS events.

We hope you find this newsletter helpful.

If you have any comments or ideas for topics you'd like us to cover, please get in touch.

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**Farming
Advice Service**

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Sheep identification and movement guidance

Sheep (and goat) identification and movement legislation exists to enable animal movements to be traced during a disease outbreak. To improve the traceability of sheep across the EU, new rules for electronic identification (EID) and individual recording of movements were introduced on 31 December 2009.

Certain provisions of this legislation are covered by cross compliance in Statutory Management Requirement 8 (SMR 8). As such, Single Farm Payment (SFP) reductions can apply for non-compliance. In 2011, 13% of holdings that were inspected failed one or more elements of SMR 8 and of these 170 holdings with failures, 152 had reductions made to their SFP.

The main areas of non-compliance found by inspectors are:

- Flock/herd records not maintained in accordance with legal requirements.
- Sheep/goats that have never been tagged or are incorrectly tagged.

FAS has written a technical article that provides guidance on the implementation of EID and movement recording to reduce the risk of non-compliance, and explains some management benefits of EID. The article is on the FAS website [here](#).

Additional guidance on this topic can be found on the [Defra Sheep Identification and Movement](#) page and [video guidance](#) can be viewed on YouTube.

Manure management after the exceptionally wet summer

The Environment Agency has published advice for farmers on how to manage manures in the coming weeks to minimise the risk of causing pollution. This can be found on their [website](#). [Defra](#) and the [RPA](#) have also published statements.

FAS provides free advice on Nutrient Management (including NVZ Regulations) and cross compliance (including SMR 4). Our advisers can also provide advice on measures which may help alleviate the need for slurry spreading. The FAS helpline number is 0845 345 1302.

Key information about cattle identification

To ensure compliance with the cattle identification and movement requirements, cattle keepers must ensure that they are adhering to the following rules:

Tagging

- All cattle born on a holding must be tagged within set time limits:
 - dairy calves: one eartag within 36 hours of birth and the second within 20 days of birth;
 - bison calves: within 9 months of birth or when they are separated from their mother if this is earlier;
 - other calves: within 20 days of birth;
 - all animals leaving a holding: must have both eartags before they leave.

- Cattle imported from outside the EU must be tagged within 20 days of release from import checks.
- Illegible or lost eartags must be replaced within 28 days of noticing the loss. Replacement eartags should bear the same number if cattle were born after 1 January 1998. For older cattle, a new tag number may be used and a new passport requested.

Passports and registration

- Applications for cattle passports must be received by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) through an approved channel (pre-printed application form, CTS online, CTS Web Services or CTS Self Service Line) within 27 days of birth (7 days for bison).
- Cattle imported from within the EU, but outside Great Britain, must be registered within 15 days of arriving on a holding by sending the foreign passport/movement document to BCMS and making an application for a passport.

- Cattle imported from outside the EU must be registered within 15 days of tagging and no later than 35 days from release from import checks by making an application for a passport from BCMS.
- Cattle born before 1 July 1996 do not require passports. They are issued with Certificates of Registration.
- A signed and valid passport must be produced, on request, for every animal in your care.
- When cattle are moved off a holding, a properly completed and signed passport must accompany them.

Notification of movements and deaths

- All movement documentation is completed and welfare rules are observed when movements are undertaken:
 - notify BCMS through an approved channel (CTS Online, CTS Web Services, CTS Self Service Line, through an agent or by movement card if applicable) of any cattle movements on and off a holding within 3 days of the movement, ensuring that the 6-day standstill periods are adhered to;
 - notify BCMS through an approved channel (CTS Online, CTS Web Services, CTS Self Service Line, through an agent or Death Details section of the passport) of any cattle deaths on a holding within 7 days of the animal dying. The death details must be entered in the passport or certificate of registration and returned within 7 days of the animal dying;
 - notify BCMS of any lost or stolen

animal by returning the passport within 7 days of becoming aware of the loss or theft.

- All movements must comply with the conditions of the general licence for the movement of cattle.

Record keeping

- Ensure that farm herd registers are kept up to date. Examples of records required for each animal include:
 - official eartag number;
 - dam's official eartag number;
 - date of birth;
 - sex;
 - date of movements on and off a holding;
 - details of where an animal has moved to or from;
 - breed;
 - date of death.
- Complete the herd register in the following timescales:
 - movements: 36 hours of them taking place;

- birth of a dairy calf: 7 days;
- birth of any other calf: 30 days;
- a death: 7 days;
- eartag replacement (where the number is changed): 36 hours of the replacement.

- Make sure that these on-farm records are up to date, kept for at least 10 years from the date of the last entry and are available on request for cattle inspections as and when required (3% of cattle holdings are inspected on a yearly basis).

Further information regarding cattle identification and movement can be found on the [RPA website](#) and under SMR 7 in the RPA publication '[Guide to Cross Compliance in England 2012](#)'.

Available nitrogen in slurry and poultry manure - why are the values in RB209 different from NVZ guidance?

FAS has received a number of queries regarding the values given for available nitrogen (N) in slurry and poultry manure in the 2010 version of [RB209](#) and those in the Nitrogen Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) [Guidance leaflet 3](#). The following article seeks to clarify why there is a difference, provides practical guidance on when to use the different rates and the benefits of recognising the differences.

There are two main reasons why there is a difference in the values given for available N.

The first is that the values presented in the two publications are for different application periods:

- RB209: from 1 August to 31 October (autumn), 1 November to 31 January (winter), from 1 February to 30 April (spring).
- NVZ Guidance leaflet 3: outside closed periods before 1 January 2012 and outside closed periods after 1 January 2012. The change in 2012 is to bring the values more closely into line with the RB209 values.

The standard values given in the NVZ leaflet are those cited in the Regulations, so it is these that must be used for NVZ NMAX calculations. RB209 is intended for use across the entire country, not just within NVZs. Hence, RB209 guidance needs to be given on the availability of N in manure applied throughout the year. When manures are applied during the autumn and winter,

much of the available manure N will be lost following application, the amount varying greatly with date of application and subsequent rainfall, which is contrary to good practice, and a waste of valuable resource. This explains the wide variation shown in the table for RB209 estimates of available N from manures applied in the autumn. NVZ closed periods vary according to soil and cropping type, but basically prohibit slurry application in the late autumn/winter. There is a much closer correspondence between the NVZ values after 2012 and the RB209 values for spring and autumn.

The second reason is that RB209 gives separate results for layer and broiler/turkey manure whereas the NVZ leaflet combines information for both of those manures under 'poultry manure'.

Total N in slurry and poultry manure available for crop uptake in the growing season in which it is spread to land according to RB209 and NVZ leaflet 3 (%)

RB209 presents several different estimates of the proportions of manure N applied before 1 January available for crop uptake according to:

- Whether the manure was applied in the autumn (August-October) or winter (November-January).
- Soil type (sandy and shallow or medium and heavy).
- Whether the poultry manure is layer or broiler/turkey.

Because of the greater discrimination according to soil and manure type, and the different time periods, the estimates of manure-N

The table below shows the values used in both publications.

	Time of manure application	Cattle slurry	Pig slurry	Layer manure	Broiler and turkey manure
NVZ 3, 2009	Before 1 January 2012	20	25	20	20
RB209, 2010	Autumn	5-25	10-30	10-25	10-25
RB209, 2010	Winter	25	35	25	20-25
NVZ 3, 2009	After 1 January 2012	35	45	30	30
RB209, 2010	Spring	35	50	35	30

available for crop uptake given by the two publications will not be the same.

Using [Tried & Tested](#), you can manage your nutrients efficiently to save money and reduce

environmental risks. The plan will also help you meet the latest NVZ regulations in a step-be-step, manageable way.

Forthcoming events

FAS will be organising a programme of events this autumn. These will cover topics such as cross compliance including soil protection review, NVZ, livestock identification and movements, nutrient management and water efficiency. The following events are already confirmed:

Get up to date with cross compliance in 2012

Tuesday 23 October at Shiplake Farm, Shiplake, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon, RG9 4BX.

This workshop and farm walk will cover cross compliance issues and top tips for inspections to help you avoid penalties for non-compliances.

Workshop: focused on livestock ID, registration and animal welfare.

Walk: covering topics such as soil protection review, the new requirements for nutrient management in 2012 (including GAEC 19 requirements for 'no-spread zones'), risk maps, NVZs and the use of pesticides (SMR 9).

Sessions will run from 10.00am to 1.00pm and from 2.00pm to 5.00pm. If you do not have livestock you are welcome to attend the walk only please state when booking and you will be advised what time to arrive.

Cross compliance briefing and farm business update

Friday 26 October at Tansley Village Hall, Church Street, Tansley, Derbyshire DE4 5FH

The workshop will cover will cover cross compliance issues and top tips for inspections to help you avoid penalties for non-compliances. This will be followed by a farm business update from a specialist consultant with a focus on farm-cost structures and the opportunities for greater efficiencies.

Sessions will run from 9.30am to 12.30pm and from 12.45 to 4.15pm.

A detailed look at animal records and soils, to help meet cross compliance requirements and make money

Tuesday 6 November at Gayton Village Hall, Church Lane, Gayton, Staffordshire ST18 0HJ

Thursday 8 November at Prees Cricket Club, Brades Road, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2DX

Monday 19 November at Stratford livestock market, Wincot Lands, Clifford Chambers, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8LE

FAS adviser, Rob Kynaston, will be running workshops that include small group sessions on what animal records are needed and soil health. There will also be a brief run through of Cross Compliance issues, including a check on the Soil Protection Review and the new requirements for nutrient management in 2012.

Sessions will be held from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

If you would like to attend any of the events listed above, please call **0845 345 1302** or email **bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk** to register. Please remember to include the event name, date, session that you wish to attend, your name, company name and contact details.

All of the FAS events are advertised on our [website](#), so please keep an eye on the events page as this will be updated when further events have been organised.



Register for free text message updates

We use text messages to get relevant information to farmers quickly. We send them as a reminder of approaching key dates or in response to current events (e.g. flooding). To register for text message updates, please call 0845 345 1302 or email bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk with 'Register for text updates' in the subject line, and include your name and mobile phone number in the message. Your details will not be shared with any third parties.



Get the latest updates by following FAS on Twitter

FAS has joined Twitter. Follow us on @DefraFAS for up-to-the-minute updates on publications, events and industry information.



Receive a regular email version of this newsletter

Please email bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk

Key dates

1 October	You can burn heather, rough grass, gorse or vaccinium on land in upland areas from this date. (GAEC 10)
1 October	Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (e.g. slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to tillage land on soils which are not shallow or sandy. (SMR 4)
15 October	Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (e.g. slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland on soils which are not shallow or sandy. (SMR 4)
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 return to the Environment Agency. (GAEC 18 if you claim single farm payment, but applies to anyone who holds a summer water abstraction licence)