

November 2012 - Newsletter issue 05

Welcome to the 5th Farming Advice Service newsletter.

This newsletter includes information regarding updating the Soil Protection Review, 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.

Email:

bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk

Telephone:

0845 345 1302

Website:

www.defra.gov.uk/farming-advice

**Farming
Advice Service**

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Remember to update your Soil Protection Review access to waterlogged land record

To maintain land in good condition, it is common sense to keep off the land when it is waterlogged. However, it is recognised that access is needed sometimes during waterlogged conditions and to comply with cross compliance, it is important that it is recorded.

The aim of this requirement is to encourage you to maintain soil structure and prevent compaction when soils are waterlogged. Soil is considered to be waterlogged when the whole of the plough layer is saturated or filled with water, by virtue of a high water table or water collected (perched) above a compacted soil.

If you need to carry out mechanical field operations or use motorised vehicles on land that is waterlogged, you must record all activity in the 'Access to Waterlogged Land Record' of your Soil Protection Review (SPR).

The Waterlogged Land Record is on page 44-46 (Table D) of the [SPR 2010 booklet](#) or you can log into your [SPR online](#) and update the information. Record the field number, month and year of the activity, reason for access and action taken to remediate once conditions allow. Appropriate action to remediate damage caused by accessing waterlogged soil must be taken as soon as possible within 12 months of the first month of access to the waterlogged field. This is in addition to any other actions identified in the SPR Farm Soil Plan.

If you require any additional guidance regarding completing the Waterlogged Land Record or any other aspect of the SPR, please contact the Farming Advice Service (FAS) on 0845 345 1302 or email advice@farmingadvice.org.uk

Farming in extreme weather conditions

Defra asked the Environment Agency to take into account the unusually heavy rainfall when taking decisions about enforcement during the first four weeks of the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) closed period.

The overall objective remains to reduce water pollution caused by slurry, which is why the Government is not able to extend that period. The saturated land means that, closed period or not, spreading would be inadvisable given the risk of pollution.

The Environment Agency has pulled together a range of advice on slurry storage and management, which will be available on its website at:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/135941.aspx>

FAS provides free advice on nutrient management (including NVZ Regulations) and Cross Compliance (including SMR 4). Our advisers can also provide advice on measures that may help alleviate the need for slurry spreading. The FAS helpline number is 0845 345 1302.

Do you hold a time-limited abstraction licence? Act now to protect your right to abstract water

Some farmers hold time-limited water abstraction licences, which are due to expire on 31 March 2013. Check your licence/s to see if they have an expiry date for all or part of the licence.

If your licence, or part of it, expires in March 2013 and you want to continue using the water after that date, you need to apply to replace your licence before 31 December 2012. After this date, you might not be able to get a new licence or any replacement could be more restrictive.

If you submit your application on the same terms and conditions before 31 December 2012, the Environment Agency will grant a new licence provided that:

- the operation continues to be environmentally sustainable;
- you can justify the amount of water applied for; and
- you use the water efficiently.

Application forms are available at <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32034.aspx> or by contacting the Permitting and Support Centre on psc-waterresources@environment-agency.gov.uk or 03708 506 506.

Forthcoming events

FAS will be organising a programme of events this winter. These will cover topics such as Cross Compliance including SPR, NVZ, livestock identification and movements, nutrient management and water efficiency. The following events are already confirmed.

South West

Get up to date with cross compliance

Ross Cherrington from FAS will advise on Cross Compliance issues, with an emphasis on helping you avoid penalties for non-compliances. Key topics of discussion will include livestock identification and registration, animal welfare, the SPR and the new requirements for nutrient management in 2012, including GAEC 19 requirements for 'No-Spread Zones' and risk maps. The meeting begins at **7.30pm** at the following venues:

Wednesday 5 December at The Wilsey Down, Hallworthy, Camelford, Cornwall, PL32 9SH
Thursday 13 December at Victoria Inn & Lodge, Victoria, Roche, St. Austell, Cornwall, PL26 8LQ

Cross Compliance and NVZ update workshops

John Morgan from FAS will provide an update on Cross Compliance, and the NVZ and SSAFO regulations. Key topics of discussion will include common Cross Compliance failures and how to avoid them, as well as how to update your SPR. John will also look at planned changes to the NVZ regulations.

Workshops will take place between **10am and 12pm** and will run again between **1pm and 3pm**. They will be held at the following venues:

Monday 3 December at Jubilee Hall, Blackwalls Road, Chawleigh, Chulmleigh, Devon, EX18 7HH

Thursday 6 December at Lower Shaw Farm, Old Shaw Lane, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 5PJ

Wednesday 12 December at Langford Lakes Education Centre, Duck Street, Steeple Langford, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP3 4NH

Thursday 13 December at Pearce Seeds Ltd, Rosedown Farm, Marston Road, Sherborne, Dorset, DT9 4SX

Tuesday 18 December at Hayle Community Centre, 58 Queensway, Hayle, Cornwall, TR27 4NX

Wednesday 19 December at Kings Arms Hotel, 93 Fore Street, Kingsbridge, Devon, TQ7 1AB

East of England

FAS will be running a series of workshops in conjunction with the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) and the National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB).

Make your farm business competitive and sustainable

In collaboration with NIAB Innovation Farm

Monday 3 December at the National Institute of Agricultural Botany, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB3 0LE

- How to make your business more competitive (FAS);
- What is sustainability? (CFE); and
- Help for small businesses (NIAB).

Nutrient Management and Resource Protection Workshops

Dr Bob Bulmer (FAS) will advise on soil analysis, nutrient planning and NVZs, including nutrient uptake.

Dr Elizabeth Ranelagh (CFE) will advise on resource protection through ELS and campaign voluntary measures.

Thursday 13 December at Rose Cottage, Braxted Road, Rivenhall, Witham, Essex, CM8 3EZ

Monday 17 December at Midloe Grange Farm, Rectory Lane, Southoe, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 5YD

Complimentary LUNCH and SEED for enhancing buffer strips (limited availability, so book early).

All events run from **10am until 1pm**.

South East

Cross compliance and competitiveness workshop

Joe Scarratt and Oliver Lee, advisors from FAS, will brief farmers on Cross Compliance and competitiveness. They will also provide an update on the CAP reform. Mike Lord from Lloyds TSB will be in attendance to provide advice on managing risk in volatile markets.

The workshop will run from **10:30am until 1:30pm**. Lunch will be provided at 12:30pm, courtesy of Andersons and Lloyds TSB.

Thursday 6 December at Upton Training Centre, The Churns, Home Farm Drive, Upton, Banbury, OX15 6HU

If you would like to attend any of the events listed above, please call 0845 345 1302 or email bookings@farmingadviceservice.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.

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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.service.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 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.service.org.uk

Key dates

1 November	You can burn heather, rough grass, gorse or vaccinium on land, other than in upland areas, from this date. (GAEC 10)
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 18)
1 December	You need to carry out your annual inventory of sheep. (SMR 8)
31 December	All new SPR/annual updates to be completed. (GAEC 1)