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# AGRI-BIP NEWSLETTER

## Waste Disposal

Most farmers will be aware that the regulations regarding agricultural waste are due to change.

For information on agricultural waste, The Environment Agency is a good starting point. The new rules are as follows: -

- You must stop burying waste on your farm.
- If you have a farm dump/tip/old quarry you must stop using it immediately.
- It is recommended that if you do have this sort of site and it has been used recently, that you cover it up with soil or other materials in order to seal the site.
- If you continue to use the farm dump, it is possible that the Environment Agency could request that the materials are removed at your cost and taken to a licensed site.
- Burning waste in the open – The Environment Agency has recommended that this is stopped, particularly the burning of plastics and tyres. It is still possible to use a drum incinerator to burn rinsed polythene, pesticide containers until early 2007.
- The only materials that will be able to be burnt in the future are crop residues.

The regulations do give examples of agricultural waste, some of which you maybe unaware falls in to the category: -

- Animal health products – any unused medicines that you may have around are waste and need to be disposed of correctly. Most veterinary surgeries can deal with this sort of waste and will supply a container that can deal with empty bottles etc.
- Building waste – concrete, wood, glass and metal etc is also considered a waste. Although it is legitimate, to burn untreated wood, in wood burners etc.
- Cardboard, paper, silage wrap, feedbags etc are also regarded as waste, as are oils from your vehicles, old batteries and brake fluids etc.
- Redundant vehicles and machinery is also regarded as waste and under the Cross Compliance regulations become waste if they are unused after a period of 12 months or so.

### ***What to do with your waste?***

There are 5 options that can be used to deal with waste.

- Firstly, you can store your waste for up to 12 months if it is stored securely.
- Secondly, you can take the waste to a recovery or disposable site yourself and there will be a waste recycling directory that allows you to search for you're nearest site. This system will be launched shortly. There will be a cost with this, so you will need to do some shopping around.

*(continued overleaf)*

- You could also give the waste to someone else. A number of firms now will provide a waste recycling service. You must ensure that when waste leaves your farm, whether you take it to a site or someone collects it, you do need to ensure that you have a Duty of Care Transfer note that you can keep within your records and again this will be looked at under Cross Compliance.
- You will also need to register for licence redemptions. Most farms will need to register one or more of the redemptions within the next twelve months or so. There is no cost to this, but a registered system is being developed and when it is up and running on-line we will let you know.
- The final choice is to obtain a Waste Management Licence yourself which is quite an onerous obligation and only those people who are thinking about going into professional Waste Management activities as a business are likely to want to go down this route.

Most farmers will take the option of taking it to a licensed waste disposal site or sign up to one of the various schemes around in order to pass the waste on to somebody else. There are a number of commercial companies out there that do this sort of thing, mostly advertising in the Western Morning News. Each one will have advantages and disadvantages so you will need to examine carefully what they are offering before signing up.

There is one firm, which will supply bags that you can then fill with your waste materials for an annual fee; other firms will supply bags at a cost per bag. The main thing is that the waste is reasonably clean and stored under cover, because dirty and wet waste is very difficult to deal with and will incur additional costs if you want to dispose of this. In some parts of the region, FWAG have put together a scheme where you can take trailer loads of waste for a set cost. This maybe the simplest method of disposing of the waste, but just be careful when carrying out that type of operation that you are only taking your own waste to the disposal site. The minute you try and take somebody else's waste with yours, you are then becoming a 'Waste Operator' and you also would be required to run your tractor on white diesel as opposed to red, so this is one to watch out for!

For more information or help, please contact us in the office on **Freephone 0800 592872**.

## **SINGLE PAYMENT UPDATE**

### **Payments have commenced!**

Some farmers have discovered that without any documentation the SP has arrived in their bank account. It was expected that letters would be sent notifying you of your entitlements, then a remittance advice and then the payment.

The entitlement notification letter needs checking carefully. Firstly, that the area on which your entitlements are attached is correct and secondly the total value of the entitlements are as expected. One thing to look out for is whether the letter tells you if the entitlements have been **validated** or not. If they have not been that means that there are still some things to be clarified by the RPA, before they issue payments. These will probably be around mapping. Where entitlements have not yet been validated, then it is unlikely that these will be paid in the early part of the payment run.

The Rural Payments Agency has recently announced the rates of the 10% Regional Flat Rate element of the Single Payment Scheme. In 2005 for 2005 payments these are likely to be on the moorland £2.29 per hectare, on the enclosed STA land £16.09 and on the lowland £19.23. These amounts will be contained within the value of the entitlement. The flat rate payment is lower than expected in the lowland region compared with the predictions of £21 to £23 per hectare. This is obviously due to the large increase of eligible land that was registered specifically for the Single Payment.

Some good news, the National Reserve deduction has been calculated at 4.2%, which has been removed from the figure on the statement. When the payment arrives there will be further deduction of 5% to cover modulation. A small cheque (up to 150 euros), which is a refund of the European modulation on the first 5000 euros, will arrive in September 2006.

## Events Page

### Environmental Stewardship Scheme

If you are undecided about making an application, want to know more about the schemes and how they would fit your farm and business, and want assistance in putting together applications, we are running a number of workshops across the region. We will help with the completion of the forms, maps and points calculation. These workshops start at 11.30am.

### ELS Awareness and Form Filling

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March - West Devon BIP, Okehampton

### Cross Compliance

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March – The Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton

### Soil Management Planning

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Stanborough Farm, Kingsbridge

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – The Ordulph Arms, Tavistock

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March – West Devon BIP, Okehampton

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – Taunton area (*venue to be confirmed*)

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April – Cheddar area (*venue to be confirmed*)

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April – The Crown and Sceptre, Holsworthy

### Easy Care Sheep workshop with John Vipond

Back by popular demand in mid April at Okehampton

### Computer Training

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March – Teignbridge Business Centre, Heathfield

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March – The George Hotel, South Molton

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March – West Devon BIP, Okehampton

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March – West Devon BIP, Okehampton

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – Teignbridge Business Centre, Heathfield

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March – West Devon BIP, Okehampton

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April – West Devon BIP, Okehampton

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April – Teignbridge Business Centre, Heathfield

The majority of workshops require a small charge of £10 including VAT to attend.

For more information or to book a place on one of these workshops, please call the office on  
**Freephone 0800 592872**



## SINGLE FARM PAYMENT ENTITLEMENT TRANSFERS

The deadline for entitlement transfer forms, which are known as RLE 1, must be received at the Rural Payments Agency's offices by **midnight Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2006** in order that transfers can take place before the deadline for SP5 2006 forms.

There are a number of reasons why entitlements may need to be transferred in this current year:-

- Inheritance
- Changes in partnerships
- Retirement
- Selling or leasing of entitlements whether they be set aside entitlements or normal entitlements

Trading of entitlements is commencing but it would appear that English entitlements are not currently worth as much as those in Scotland but this is very early days as people wait to see what they are actually entitled to from the RPA.

## UPDATE ON SHEEP ANNUAL EVENTORY FORM

Deadline for submission of this form has been extended to the end of **March** now that Defra have discovered that they have failed to send 6,000 sheep farmers the necessary forms.

If you have yet to send the form that arrived or have never seen a form and keep sheep, then please contact Defra to obtain a Survey Form and the contact number for that is 01904 455284 and they will be happy to send you a form.



## SOIL MANAGEMENT WORKSHOPS

We are running these regularly now as SPS claimants get to grips with the Soil Protection Review.

If you want to find out the: -

- The difference between run off and soil erosion?
- What is semi natural grassland?
- How steep is steep?
- Do you have a clay loam or sandy clay loam?
- How can soil compaction be identified and many other bits of information that will enable you to complete your Soil Protection Review painlessly.

Please see the events page for details of all Soil Management Plan Workshops.

Don't delay give us a call to book a place or we can arrange to have a workshop put on in your area.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

A big thank you to everyone who has responded to our request for email addresses and fax numbers over the last few months. We would still like more so please keep them coming if you have not already responded. You can email, fax or write to us at: -

E-mail: [team@bipwestdevon.biz](mailto:team@bipwestdevon.biz)

Fax: 01837 659314

Address: West Devon Business Information Point, FREEPOST EX 1119, Okehampton, EX20 1YZ

## **DISCLAIMER**

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