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# AGRI-BIP NEWSLETTER

## Agricultural Waste Regulations

The days of black smoke rising on the horizon from farming businesses came to an end at midnight on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2006, with the introduction of new Agricultural Waste Regulations. These regulations mean that you can no longer dump waste on a farm tip or an old quarry and no longer can you burn plastics or other materials that give rise to pollution and / or harm the environment. An exemption has been made for the next 12 months to continue to use drum type incinerators for the disposal of rinsed chemical containers.

### **What is waste in the farm context?**

Any animal health product that is unused which includes swabs and dressings, used sheep dip, syringes and medicines. Building waste including asbestos, roof concrete, cardboard and paper. Hazardous waste including agro chemical concentrates, anti-freeze, batteries, brake fluids, fluorescent light tubes, metals, wood, glass and rubber, this includes old fence posts as they have been treated. Plastic baler twine, net wrap, tree guards, plastic packaging, lubricating oils and waste fuels.

### **Most farms produce a quantity of waste under those descriptions so what do you do with your waste now?**

You are allowed to store waste for up to 12 months as long as it is stored properly and in such a way that contamination and pollution can't take place. Once you have reached the 12-month stage, you need to dispose of the waste and this can be done in a number of ways.

Waste can be taken to a recovery or disposable site and the Waste Recycling Directory (found on The Environment Agency website) is a system, which will allow you to search by postcode for the nearest facility. A cost maybe incurred when using this method of disposal. You can also pass the waste to someone else. A number of firms are now organising collections of waste as a commercial operation, you get rid of your waste by giving it to them but you need to make sure that you get a **Duty of Care Transfer Note** for your records. This is in case anyone comes to inspect your farm and asks you what you had done with your waste; you will have a record of what has happened to it.

There are a number of exemptions in order to store and keep waste, there is no cost attached to this and a wide range of exemptions are available and you only have to do this once per business.

Exemption registrations are required in the following areas (these are only an example of some of the exemptions which are available) -

- Using waste paper as animal bedding
- Using tyres on a silage clamp
- Chipping logs and branches from cutting down trees and hedges, and shredding plant material

(Continued overleaf)

- Clearing mud and debris (dredgings) from water-courses such as streams and ditches and depositing it along their banks
- Using a compactor bin to crush waste, baleing waste plastic silage wrap, shredding paper packaging, crushing empty containers and cleaning pesticide containers.

Should you need to register exemptions from the above list, there is a timetable for doing this.

If you produce oil seed rape, potatoes, horticultural or sugar beet, then you are asked to register for exemptions during June.

If you are a beef producer, exemptions are to be made in July /August 2006.

If you are a sheep producer, exemptions are to be made in September/October 2006.

If you are a dairy producer, exemptions are to be made in October/November 2006.

If you are a cereal producer, exemptions are to be made in December/January 2007.

And finally if you are a pig or poultry producer, exemptions are to be made between February and March 2007.

You do not need to stick religiously to this timetable, you can register at any stage as long as it is done before the **15<sup>th</sup> May 2007**, but it will be a smoother process if you can try and work to the deadlines shown in the timetable above.

Some confusion has occurred with regards to old farm machinery. Most farms have a number of old machines that are a valuable source of spares for other machines or for bits of metals with the right size holes in it, you know what I mean! In these circumstances, you are recycling the machinery and guidance from the Environment Agency suggests that you would not need to register an exemption to keep that machinery on your holding, in order to recycle it.

**Stewart Horne  
Manager**

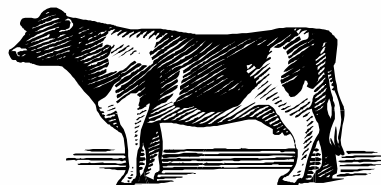
### **Beef Producers Potential Profit Increase**

The latest annual carcass classification summary from the English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) shows that just over 40% of prime beef marketed in England meets the preferred 'R4L or Better' specification. This contrasts with Scotland where over 50% of carcasses meet the 'R4L or Better' classification.

The greatest area for improvement continues to lie in the conformation of animals marketed. In England barely 50% reached this 'R or Better' classification which again contrasts significantly with 79% 'R or Better' from Scotland.

The marketing with the correct level of fatness is continuing to improve with less than 15% of all beef carcasses grading '4H or Worse'.

So what! you may say, well it costs the same amount of money to grow a kilogram of beef with an animal grading of 'R4L or Better' as it does with one grading worse than this. Hence, every animal that does not achieve the optimum classification is a lost opportunity for making additional profit.



## Events Page

### Computer Training

These workshops are ideal for beginners through to intermediate, and offer you a choice of topics such as Internet & Email, Managing Files, Spreadsheets, Web Page Creation, Database and Publisher with individual support from our in-house tutor.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> May – The George Hotel, South Molton

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Cotley Farm, Whimble, Nr Exeter

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June - West Devon Business Information Point, Okehampton

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June - Teignbridge Business Centre, Teignbridge

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June – West Devon Business Information Point, Okehampton

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Teignbridge Business Centre, Teignbridge

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June – The George Hotel, South Molton

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July – West Devon Business Information Point, Okehampton

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**

### **Need someone to talk to?**

The delays in paying the SFP will be causing some individual's extreme financial pressure and stress. It's fine the banks saying they will support viable businesses but they will still charge for the privilege. What should you do if things are difficult? The key thing is to talk. Talk to your bank, talk to your suppliers, talk to your landlord, talk to your family- do not bottle it up, you will only feel worse. If you have tried all the above and things are still bad there are a number of people that will support you confidentially and do all they can to help.

For confidential support - **Agri-BIP 0800592872 (Freephone), Farm Crisis Network, 07002 326 326, Rural Stress Information Network 01409 259146, The Samaritans 08457 90 90 90**

Following last month's article regarding the somewhat brighter outlook for agricultural enterprises in the future, a representative of the Taw Valley Creamery who is keen to take on new milk producers has contacted me. I know a few people are currently examining the possibilities of re-entering dairy production, it would be worthwhile talking to the Milk Link line on 0845 3003123 to see what sort of price could be achieved for milk supplied into Taw Valley. Don't forget to talk to other milk buyers before contracting.

### Game Meat Hygiene Courses

Due to lots of interest, we will be running more Game Meat Hygiene courses during the late summer of 2006.

Almost 200 people have benefited from undertaking the Game Meat Hygiene qualifications, which have been delivered across a wide number of venues throughout the South West by Agri-BIP. With the shooting season about to re-commence towards the end of the year, it will be important for those who have yet to undertake their Game Meat Hygiene certificate to get this organised.

We are currently taking names of interested people who would like to gain their certificates prior to next season.

If you would be interested in coming along to one of our Game Meat Hygiene courses, please contact Mervyn Rice in the office on **Freephone 0800 592872** to register your interest and to find out more information.

## Cross Compliance Record Keeping

Recent Cross Compliance inspections have highlighted cases of poor records on some farms. This coupled with the 2-metre rule and tagging issues makes record keeping the most common cause of failure. To put this into perspective, over 40% of all Cross Compliance inspections have failed on one or more elements of the inspection, which has led to penalties being applied to the farmers Single Farm Payment claims.

To help farmers and landowners comply with the new scheme and to avoid expensive penalties, we are putting together a series of workshops, which will cover the areas that are most important under Cross Compliance.

The first element of these workshops is **Soil Management Planning**, both for ELS and OELS applications and to complete the Soil Protection Review, which will need to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

Linked with this is the second workshop on **Manure Management planning**, again an option under ELS and a requirement under many Farm Assurance Schemes. This workshop will help with the records and will also cover the new **Waste Management Regulations** and how records will need to be kept to ensure that you have legitimately disposed of waste produced from the farm.

For those farmers in NVZ zones, a further workshop will be arranged which will concentrate on the records required under **NVZ regulations** such as field records, manure records etc. Again this is an area where Cross Compliance has highlighted shortcomings.

Finally, we will be running a workshop on **Cattle & Sheep Record Keeping** associated with keeping of animals, flock registers, movement records and how these need to be linked to fallen stock disposal and all the other records which are required.

For people who book early or book for 3 workshops, there will be no charge for these workshops as they can be funded through our European Social Fund Project. The early birds will catch the worm and be confident that they have the correct paperwork in place should the RPA inspectorate come knocking on the door!!!

For more information, or to register your interest for one or more of these courses, please contact us in the office on **Freephone 0800 592872**.

## NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

If you would like to receive your Agri-BIP newsletter by email or fax, send your details through 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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