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AGRI-BIP NEWSLETTER

Single Payment Scheme - 2007

May 15th 2007 is the deadline for submission of single farm payment forms (SP5) and for this year only, the final date to register exemptions for waste management regulations.

SP5 Forms

DO

- Tell the RPA if you have an interest in any other farming businesses, either in England or elsewhere in the UK
- Double Check the pre populated information is complete and correct
- Remember to activate your entitlements
- Write your SBI clearly on any covering letter, or use the SBI barcode if it has arrived, one barcode should be put on each of any supporting documents
- Strike through a written answer at least three times if it is wrong, write the correct answer close by, initial and date it
- Complete the field data sheets in hectares and to two decimal places

DON'T

- Use pencil, felt pen or Tippex
- Use photocopies
- Write outside the boxes
- Use your own computer generated field data sheets
- Fold the form into a smaller envelope. Use the RPA envelope provided
- Submit the form late

Waste Management Exemptions

At a recent meeting only 5 farmers out of 25 had registered their exemptions, if like the majority you have not requested a waste exemption pack (available from the EA on 0845 6033113) please do so immediately. Not complying with the 15th May 2007 deadline will increase the chances of an inspection to check how you deal with waste.

Agri-BIP staff can help with SP 5 and waste management exemption paperwork, however due to changes in funding we will have to make a charge for this activity. To make the charge reasonable we can offer drop in clinics at our premises in OKEHAMPTON, please ring to book a time and get a cost estimate, in most cases half an hour should be sufficient.

The dates of these sessions are as follows;

Thursday 3rd May, Friday 4th May, Tuesday 8th May, Wednesday 9th May, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th May 2007
10.30am -4.30pm.

SOILS ANALYSIS

Agri-BIP has recently completed a soil analysis contract for the English Catchments Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative. Conducted in three areas Truro, Wadebridge and the Tamar area between Launceston and Holsworthy, over 2000 fields were analysed for pH, phosphate and potash and sulphur. The results will be of interest to anyone who depends on the fertility of the soil for their living.

The key findings are that in general pH levels are low and phosphate in particular has a high index, the consequence of these two findings are costly for farmers. A high phosphate index is the result of using phosphate fertilisers unnecessarily, money you needn't have spent. Conversely, a low pH level (6.2 or less) means the availability of phosphates, nitrogen and potassium is reduced significantly.

Many of the farmers receiving the soil reports were surprised at the findings and pleased that with simple changes in fertiliser practices their farms would become more productive and less likely to contribute to diffuse pollution.

The initiative in 40 catchments in England has recently opened a capital grant scheme; all applications need to be submitted to Natural England before the 29th of June 2007. Grants are available, up to a maximum of £10,000 for a wide range of activities that will reduce the risk of pollution these include fencing of water courses, creation of hard standings and the covering of slurry pits to name but a few. For further details contact the relevant catchment officer for your area or look on the DEFRA website.

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BEEF BETTER RETURNS PROGRAMME - SOUTH WEST LAUNCH

Thursday 24th May 2007

Loosebeare Manor, Zeal Monachorum, Devon EX17 6DW

10.30 am - 4.30 pm

The invitation to this event will be e-mailed to the recipients of this newsletter. Agri-BIP will be attending and will look forward to seeing you there.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort has been taken to ensure the information contained in these notes is correct, however, West Devon Business Information Point will not be liable for any loss arising from the use of these notes or any omissions or errors contained within.