

Winter Update 2016



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government





Gwlad

e-newsletter

Keep yourself informed and up to date by signing up to receive the Gwlad e-newsletter which will deliver the latest agriculture news and information direct to your inbox.

To sign up follow the steps below

1. Go to www.gov.wales and click on the news & alerts icon
2. Enter your e-mail address and click continue
3. Confirm e-mail address and create a password if you wish and click submit
4. Select the Gwlad Rural Affairs newsletter from the list of options and click submit.
5. You will then receive an e-mail to confirm your subscription



Key Dates

December

1 December – Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payment window opens

12 December – Glastir Small Grants Water theme – Expression of Interest (EOI) window opens

23 December – Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ) consultation closes

31 December – submit your Glastir Organic business plan

31 December – submit your Glastir Advanced signed contract

Glastir Organic 2017 – contracts need to be signed within 7 days of offer

Revised Cross Compliance factsheets available

January

1 January – Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory

5 January – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) consultation closes

10 January – Refreshed TB Eradication Programme consultation closes

23 January – Glastir Small Grants Water theme EOI window closes

February

1 February – return Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory form

March

Single Application Form (SAF 2017) – available (online only)

Digital Assistance for SAF 2017

April/May

2 May – BPS Entitlements 2017 transfer deadline midnight (online only)

15 May – SAF 2017 claim deadline midnight (online only)

If you require further information about any of the above please contact the Customer Contact Centre on **0300 062 5004**

RPW Online account – when did you last access your account?

Please make sure you regularly check your RPW online account because there you will find:

- your contracts and correspondence;
- your payment statements (sometimes before they are posted to you);
- your updated mapping with validated data;
- your updated 2016 BPS Entitlements data;

Remember you can use RPW Online to check progress on your claim using the application/claim screen.



Euro Exchange Rate for the Basic Payment Scheme for 2016

The Euro exchange rate for 2016 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) payments is based on the average of the ECB (European Central Bank) rates in September 2016.

The exchange rate has increased from €1 = £0.73129 in 2015 to €1 = £ 0.85228 in 2016, an increase of 16.54% from last year's rate.

2016 BPS payments will commence from 1 December 2016.
Subject to claim validation full payment will be arranged.

Transfer of BPS Entitlements

Farmers can transfer their BPS Entitlements by sale or lease with or without land or via inheritance. Transfer of Entitlements online forms are available for you to complete using your RPW Online account.

You must notify the Welsh Government before midnight on 2 May 2017 of any transfers in order for you to make a claim on entitlements you are receiving, in a particular scheme year. Any transfers submitted after that date will be processed, but will not be available to you until the following scheme year (e.g. if submitted 3 May 2017 those entitlements could not be claimed on the SAF until 2018).

Changes to over-declared penalties for 2016

As part of the European Commission's Simplification agenda, changes have been introduced to the way BPS over-declared penalties will be applied from 2016. This will in the majority of instances reduce their impact.

Where the difference between the area declared and area determined is more than either 3% or 2 hectares of the determined area, the area eligible for payment will be reduced by 1.5 times the difference found. The penalty will not exceed 100% of the amounts based on the area declared.

An additional change is that a one-off "Yellow Card" will be applied to the penalty for a scheme. This means the penalty applied will be calculated (as described above) but reduced by 50%. This will apply separately for each of the Schemes - BPS, Greening, Redistributive and Young Farmer. If the farm business over-declares any eligible area the following year, a penalty for that over declaration will be applied and in addition the remaining 50% of the penalty from the previous year will be recovered. The deferred penalty will be recovered from future BPS payments and any Rural Development agri-environment or forestry scheme within three calendar years of the repeated over-declaration; regardless of whether that over declaration penalty relates to different land.

Exceptions to the "Yellow Card" apply where the penalty is over 10%. That scheme will never be eligible for a "Yellow Card". A "Yellow Card" may be applied only once per scheme.

Glastir Small Grants

Glastir Small Grants is a capital works grant scheme available to land managers and farming businesses across Wales.

Financial support is available to fund environmental work to deliver the aims of the Glastir Small Grants themes – reducing carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, managing our water resources, protecting the landscape and contributing towards a reversal in the decline of Wales’ native biodiversity.

An Expression of Interest (EOI) window will open in December 2016 for the theme of ‘Water’, with an emphasis on water quality, including activities to separate clean and dirty water on farmyards (for example gutters, downpipes and cross drains), hedgerow planting, and small scale tree planting.

A further EOI window is scheduled for March 2017 for the theme of ‘Landscape and Pollinators’. Activities that will be supported include small scale tree planting, restoration of hedgerows and dry stone walls, and orchard tree planting.

Maximum support of £7,500 is now available per farming business during each window. A full list of available activities, payment rates, technical requirements, and the specific dates for the EOI window will be made available on the Welsh Government website www.gov.wales/glastir

At the end of each window, all valid EOIs will be scored wholly on their ability to contribute towards the aims of the Glastir Small Grants theme. Those applicants with the ability to deliver the most towards the aim of each theme are be scored highest and offered a contract.

Land parcels that are currently included in a Glastir Advanced Contract are not eligible for Glastir Small Grants. Some eligible land may be subject to a restricted list of available activities if there are sensitive features or other land management agreements in place.

In order to submit an EOI you must have been issued with a Customer Reference Number (CRN) and be registered with RPW Online. Your land must be registered with the Welsh Government’s Land Parcel Identification Scheme (LPIS). If you have any queries regarding registration, contact the Customer Contact Centre using your RPW Online account or call 0300 062 5004.

Glastir Woodland Creation

Glastir Woodland Creation provides financial support for new planting. Financial support is also available for planting trees in areas that continue to be grazed as part of an Agroforestry system i.e. combining agriculture and forestry.

The 4th Expression of Interest round for Glastir Woodland Creation will open in Spring 2017. The allocated budget for this round will be £1.7m.

To be eligible to express an interest under the fourth round, you will need to ensure that you are able to complete all capital works and planting by 31 March 2018.

The Glastir Woodland Creation Expression of Interest must be submitted through RPW Online. If you are not yet registered with RPW Online and do not have an activation code, please call the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 062 5004 as soon as possible.

If you have any enquiries regarding Glastir Woodland Creation please call the Customer Contact Centre or email RPWOnline@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Glastir Woodland Restoration

Funding is available to replant areas of larch that have been felled to prevent the spread of the Phytophthora ramorum disease currently affecting the trees.

The area eligible for funding under Glastir Woodland Restoration will be equivalent to twice the area of larch identified on the Statutory Plant Health Notice or felling licence. For example, if 1 hectare of larch is shown on your felling licence, the maximum area eligible for funding under Glastir Woodland Restoration will be 2 hectares.

The fifth Expressions of Interest round for Glastir Woodland Restoration will open in summer 2017. A budget of £1m is currently allocated for this round.

To be eligible to express an interest in the fifth round, you will need to ensure that you are able to complete all capital works and re-stocking by 31 March 2018.

If you have any enquiries regarding Glastir Woodland Restoration please call the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 062 5004 or e-mail RPWOnline@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory 1 January 2017

The Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory form will be posted to all registered keepers from mid December. If you have not received a form by 1 January 2017, please contact the EIDCymru service helpline on: 01970 636959

The form includes sections for: 'PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU' (with instructions on how to complete the form), '1. What is your current EIDCymru number?', '2. Do you have any sheep or goats?', '3. What is your sheep or goat population?', '4. Please indicate the percentage of ewes in the flock', and a table for recording the number of sheep and goats. The table has columns for 'Number of sheep', 'Number of other goats', and 'Number of goats'. There are also checkboxes for 'Yes' and 'No' throughout the form.

The Annual Inventory of Sheep and Goats is a legal requirement. It is important that you record all sheep and goats of which you are the registered keeper, by CPH location on 1 January 2017.

In the context of the inventory sheep are defined as breeding sheep, rams, ram lambs, ewe lambs, store and finished lambs, cull ewes and cull rams.

Please remember that you must also record the number of sheep and goats for which you are the registered keeper on 1 January in your on-farm holding register. It is important that you do this to avoid a potential cross-compliance penalty and an increased likelihood of an inspection.

New for 2017: Online Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory Form

Keepers have the option of completing the Annual Inventory online by logging onto www.eidcymru.org. If you are completing the form electronically, you do not need to return the paper form.

All forms must be returned by no later than 1 February 2017 and a receipt will be sent to you which you should retain for record keeping purposes.

If you require assistance, contact the **EIDCymru service helpline 01970 636959** or email contact@eidcymru.org



EIDCymru is the electronic sheep and goat movement reporting service for Wales.

The EIDCymru website allows keepers to:

- Report movements electronically
- Confirm movements on electronically
- Access movement history

This means you can use EIDCymru to confirm the movement onto your holding without the need for you to post your movement licence to EIDCymru.

Give it a try? it's far easier than you might think.
The dedicated EIDCymru service on 01970 636959
is there if you need any help using the system

CPH and Livestock Movements New Rules

Changes are being made to the CPH system in Wales to simplify the current system and to establish consistent rules for all species.

What changes are being introduced?

- 1 Introduction of a 10 mile distance rule for all species
- 2 Removal of all Cattle Tracing System Links (CTS Links)
- 3 Removal of all Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOAs) and Interim Land Association Management (ILAM) agreements
- 4 Introduction of a new process for registering temporary land associations (tLA) and temporary CPH (tCPH)

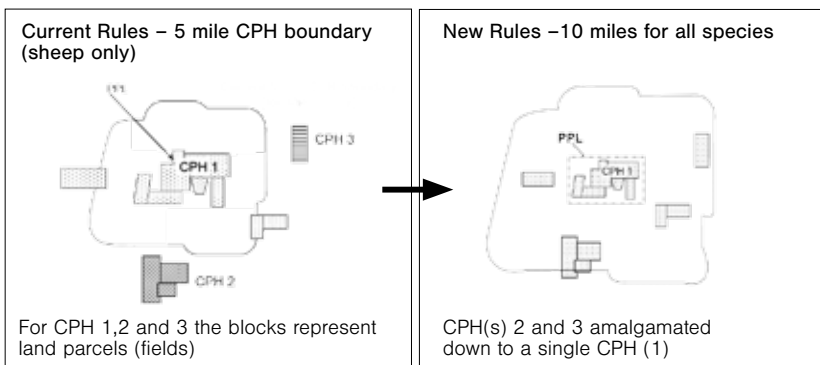
The changes will be introduced over a two year period, and until keepers are contacted by Rural Payments Wales (RPW), the rules **remain unchanged**.

10 mile distance rule

Under the new rules, livestock keepers will be able to move livestock between blocks of land within a 10 mile radius, without the need to report those movements and without standstill, as long as all parcels are registered under the same CPH number. This will cover land used on a permanent or on a temporary basis.

The new 10 mile distance rule will replace the existing 5 mile rule that currently applies to sheep and goat holdings.

Where land is located further than 10 miles from the Primary Production Location (PPL), a separate CPH identifier will need to be allocated, livestock movements will need to be reported, and standstill periods will apply.



	What are they?	When will they be removed?	What do I need to do?
CTS Links	<p>CTS links have allowed cattle keepers to link holdings (CPHs) if they frequently move cattle between locations.</p> <p>Movements between holdings linked on CTS do not have to be reported to the British Cattle Movements Service (BCMS).</p>	No new CTSlinks have been issued since 7 November 2016 and all existing CTS links will be removed by the Autumn of 2017.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a CTS link you do not need to do anything now. • RPW and BCMS will contact you before your link is due to expire to explain your options.
SOA / ILAMs	<p>Sole Occupancy Authorities (SOAs) group together holdings that are under the management and control of the same livestock keeper. SOAs allow keepers to move animals between those holdings without observing a standstill period.</p> <p>Interim Land Association Management (ILAM) agreements were introduced in September 2014 following the removal of the Pre-Movement Testing exemption relating to SOAs.</p>	All SOAs/ILAMs will be withdrawn within the next two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have a SOA and/or ILAM you do not need to do anything now. • RPW will write to you with further information on the options that will be available to you.

How will the changes be introduced?

- RPW started contacting livestock keepers directly about the changes in late September 2016;
- RPW are prioritising holdings with CTS links, SOAs and ILAMs in the first 12 months of the new arrangements;
- Until keepers have been contacted by RPW, the rules remain unchanged;
- If you plan to take advantage of the 10 mile rule under the new arrangements, you will no longer be able to use the ear tags associated with the holding that is closed. You may want to carefully consider the quantities of ear tags required and order the minimum necessary to avoid wastage.

Further information is available on the Welsh Government website.

www.gov.wales/farming



Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs announces regionalised approach to tackling bovine TB

Lesley Griffiths, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs has outlined a new regionalised response to eradicate bovine TB in Wales as part of a refresh of the Welsh Government's TB Eradication Programme. As part of the new regionalised approach to TB eradication there will be Low, Intermediate and High TB Areas established across Wales based on bovine TB incidence levels.

The Welsh Government is currently consulting on measures to be implemented in each of the areas as well as other proposals to be included in a refreshed TB Eradication Programme.

The Cabinet Secretary also announced that there would be increased focus on chronic herd breakdowns with individual action plans developed for persistent and recurrent herd breakdowns. These action plans will be agreed in partnership with farmers, vets and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and will be aimed at clearing up the infection.

To find out more about this and the consultation go to www.gov.wales/environmentandcountryside and www.gov.wales/consultations respectively.

Quarantine Units

If you keep cattle, sheep or goats, in spring 2017 you will be able to choose between setting-up a Quarantine Unit (QU) to manage movements or continuing to adhere to the six day standstill (6DSS) rule on your entire holding.

Movements into a QU will not trigger a 6DSS on your main holding, allowing other animals to be moved off while the incoming animals observe the standstill in a QU. Working with industry representatives the Welsh Government has developed these new arrangements to replace the complex exemptions around isolation facilities and Sole Occupancy Authorities for cattle, sheep and goats. QUs will simplify the standstill regime and provide greater flexibility while maintaining movement controls to help prevent the spread of disease.

There are no changes for pigs. Pig keepers will continue to use their approved isolation facilities to manage movements under 20DSS.

Key principles of QUs

- Biosecurity and practical requirements must be met in order to prevent the introduction and spread of disease with all the cost and trade implications such disease outbreaks can create.
- QUs must be certified by a Certification Body, accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). A fee will be charged for this service.
- Animals must remain in a QU for six days before they are moved to the main holding. Different rules, similar to those for approved isolation facilities, will apply to movements taking place to shows.
- QUs will be allocated a unique CPH number and movements into and out of QUs must be reported via the Cattle Tracing System or EIDCymru for sheep and goats.
- Holdings can have up to two QUs which can be indoors and/ or outdoors.
- QUs will be subject to unannounced in-use inspections by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

Further information on QUs will be available early next year and we anticipate the application window to open in spring 2017.

Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS)



A Cattle Health Certification Standards (CHeCS) health programme for bovine TB will be available to farmers from 28 November. It will indicate the TB status of participating herds and should help cattle buyers make more informed purchasing decisions as well as support farmers who are systematically trying to reduce their exposure to the disease.

Implemented with the support of the herd vet, the programme will provide a status based on added biosecurity measures and the number of years since the last herd breakdown. The status will run from 0 (a herd breakdown within the past year) to 10 (ten years or more since the last breakdown).

Participating herds will be able to improve their score year-on-year and use this status when selling homebred cattle. The scheme will particularly benefit farmers within high TB areas whose cattle have not recently had the disease and who would like their low-risk status to be recognised. Cattle keepers in low TB areas will also be able to 'accredit' their low-risk status.

For TB, like other disease, bought-in cattle can be a source of new infection. The scheme will allow farmers to reduce this risk by sourcing animals from herds which are assigned a low risk and also protect their own herd status by following CHeCS quarantine rules.

Anyone interested in joining should contact the TB helpline on 0800 528 3300 or their vet for more information

Type 1 animal transporter authorisations – change to renewal process

The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) is alerting animal transporters to revised arrangements for renewing type 1 transporter authorisations.

Type 1 transporter authorisations are required for those transporting animals, as part of an economic activity, on journeys over 65 km and up to 8 hours in duration. Transporters involved in economic activity include farmers, livestock and poultry hauliers, and those who move horses in connection with professional riding, livery and stabling.

In order to comply with EU animal transport regulations from 1 October 2016 type 1 transporter authorisations will not renew automatically. Instead, animal transporters must submit an application for renewal of their type 1 authorisations.

Applications to renew animal transport authorisations should be submitted to APHA's Welfare in Transport team by post, email or fax. Renewal application forms and information on how to obtain electronic copies of the renewal application are available at www.gov.uk/animal-and-plant-health-agency.

Transporter authorisations are valid for 5 years, and a significant number were renewed in 2012. This means that a large number of authorisations are due for renewal in 2017 and transporters are urged to apply for renewal at the earliest possible opportunity, to ensure their continued authorisation. Transporters should check their current authorisation documents, which have the expiry dates printed clearly on them.

Transporters with queries about transporter authorisation renewals should contact APHA on 0300 303 8268.

Get ready for winter on the farm

With winter fast approaching, it is very important that you start preparing for winter now to help ease the impact on your farm business and to reduce the risks of something serious happening. Making some small changes now can save you considerable time, distress and money in the future. Below are some tips that you should be considering.

- Review your insurance policies and check that it includes cover for 'severe weather/storm damage'
- Has your machinery been serviced and the anti-freeze levels checked?
- Is there sufficient space in buildings to provide some frost protection for essential vehicles, such as tractors and quad bikes?
- Have you got adequate stocks of fuel oil/heating oil for the winter?
- Do you have sufficient stocks of food if you were snowed-in?
- Have you got sufficient slurry storage for the winter?
- Have you considered livestock welfare such as, bedding, water and housing?
- Have you got sufficient feed supplies for your animals for the winter?
- Identify 'safe' and accessible areas to which stock may be moved in the event of a forecast of severe weather
- Are your buildings secure and sufficiently weather proof?
- Is there a plan in place to maintain access to your farm in the event of ice and snow?
- Have you got sufficient stocks of salt/grit to keep vital access and exit points open?
- Have you got a backup electric supply such as a generator?

A high number of farmers are either killed or seriously injured each year on Welsh farms so it is important that health and safety comes first. Advice on risk assessments is available from the Health and Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture

Further sources of advice / information:

- The Welsh Government – Winter weather advice
- The Welsh Government – Animal Welfare
- The Met Office – Get Ready
- Natural Resources Wales – Flood Alert