



FARMING AND PROPERTY BULLETIN – JANUARY 2022

Happy New Year from Adkin

AVIAN BIRD FLU

Avian influenza (bird flu) mainly affects birds. It can also affect humans and other mammals. It is a notifiable animal disease. If you suspect any type of avian influenza in poultry or captive birds you must report it immediately by calling the Defra Rural Services Helpline on 03000 200 301. If you find dead wild waterfowl (swans, geese or ducks) or other dead wild birds, such as gulls or birds of prey, you should report them to the Defra helpline (03459 33 55 77). Do not touch or pick up any dead or visibly sick birds that you find.



If you own chickens

- An Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) came into force across Great Britain on the 3 November 2021 and this was extended to include housing measures across the UK on the 29 November 2021. These measures mean that it is a legal requirement for all bird keepers across the UK (whether they have pet birds, commercial flocks or just a few birds in a backyard flock) to keep their birds indoors and follow strict biosecurity measures to limit the spread of and eradicate the disease.
- The AIPZ in England means that bird keepers must:
 - house or net all poultry and captive birds to keep them separate from wild birds
 - cleanse and disinfect clothing, footwear, equipment and vehicles before and after contact with poultry and captive birds – if practical, use disposable protective clothing
 - reduce the movement of people, vehicles or equipment to and from areas where poultry and captive birds are kept, to minimise contamination from manure, slurry and other products, and use effective vermin control
 - thoroughly cleanse and disinfect housing on a continuous basis
 - keep fresh disinfectant at the right concentration at all farm and poultry housing entry and exit points
 - minimise direct and indirect contact between poultry and captive birds and wild birds, including making sure all feed and water is not accessible to wild birds
- You should register your poultry, even if only kept as pets, so you can be contacted during an outbreak. This is a legal requirement if you have 50 or more birds. Poultry includes chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, pigeon (bred for meat), partridge, quail, guinea fowl and pheasants.
- Additional dates have been released for the Defra's 'stop the spread' webinars for smallholder and commercial keepers. Find out more on what you can do to keep your birds free of avian influenza by registering for a webinar using this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/avian-influenza-bird-flu-stop-the-spread-webinars/stop-the-spread-webinars>

GRANTS AVAILABLE – FOR EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE PRODUCTIVITY

- The next stage of the grant has been released under the Farming Investment Fund and you could receive 40% towards eligible costs
- There is a minimum grant of £35,000 and a minimum required total spend of £87,500.
- During the next stage the following types of kit will be eligible
 - Robotic or autonomous equipment
 - Systems to aid crop and livestock production
 - Slurry acidification equipment
- Later in January an eligibility checker will be released. Projects scoring high enough against DEFRA's targets will be invited to make a full application.



COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP SCHEME PAYMENT RATES

- Revenue payment rates for Countryside Stewardship have been revised based on current costs.
- The new rates can be found using this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/countryside-stewardship-revenue-payment-rates-from-1-january-2022/countryside-stewardship-payment-rates-for-revenue-options-from-1-january-2022>
- The new rates will apply to all Countryside Stewardship agreements from 1 January 2022.
- If you have a revenue agreement, or an application for a revenue agreement starting on or before 1 January 2022 then where the new rate has:
 - increased, the new (higher) rate will be paid
 - decreased, the existing (higher) rate shown on the signed agreement will be paid
 - not changed, the existing rate shown on the signed agreement will be paid.
- For new agreements starting from 1 January 2023 all of the new revenue rates will apply.
- The Defra review related to payment rates for revenue options. There are no plans to change payment rates for capital options for 2022.



ENVIRONMENTAL LAND MANAGEMENT (ELM) SCHEMES

Further plans have been released for two new Environmental Land Management (ELM) Schemes. These plans were unveiled by Environment Secretary George Eustice at the Oxford Farming Conference and will pay farmers and landowners to help restore habitats

The Local Nature Recovery

- The “improved and ambitious successor” to the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in England
- Farmers will be paid for locally targeted actions for example planting trees, restoring peat and wetland areas, and creating wildlife habitats in the farmed landscape
- Detailed options will be developed in 2022 by DEFRA along with the input from farmers and other experts
- Scheme rolled out in 2023
- Look out for the release of a full list of options and scheme rules later this year.

The Landscape Recovery

- Payment to landowners or managers for land-use change and habitat and ecosystem restoration which has long-term environmental and climate change impacts.
- Projects which are more radical and large scale
- Open to individuals or groups
- 500-5000 ha projects
- Look out for the release of the application process. The first round will consist of 15 pilot projects.

Diary Dates: Is your land in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ)?

1 January

- From this date, apply organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (e.g. slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland and tillage land on shallow or sandy soils if conditions are suitable and you adhere to the quantity restrictions for applying these manures.
- This is also subject to the Farming Rules for Water being complied with and there is agronomic justification (SMR 1)
- For any land located in an NVZ, this is the beginning of the year for assessing the annual amount of livestock manure applied to your land. (SMR 1)

16 January

- From this date you can apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to grassland and tillage land if conditions are suitable. This is also subject to the Farming Rules for Water being complied with and there is agronomic justification. (SMR 1)

1 February

- From this date, apply organic manure with a high, readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland and tillage land on all soil types if conditions are suitable and you adhere to the quantity restrictions for applying these manures. This is also subject to the Farming Rules for Water being complied with and there is agronomic justification. (SMR 1)