



Foreword

Martin McKendry,
Head of Development Service, CAFRE

I am pleased to introduce the first edition of DARD's new 'Farm Advisory System' newsletter. This newsletter, which will be published biannually, will be an important means for DARD to communicate key information on the CAP Reform Pillar I (land payments) and Pillar II (Rural Development Programme) schemes to farmers. The newsletter will focus on the key advisory messages to help you realise the benefits of these schemes for your business and minimise penalties from inspections.

This first issue focuses on providing up to date information on the new area-based schemes which are replacing Single Farm Payment. It is particularly important that you find out about the changes and how they will affect your business as entitlements are being allocated this year.

Remember, DARD must receive your Single Application Form and any evidence needed on or before 15 May otherwise you will be penalised. Applications received after 9 June will not be accepted whatever your circumstances. Our advice is:

- Read the guidance provided;
- Make sure you meet the eligibility criteria;
- Apply only for eligible land;
- Please consider applying online;
- Provide supporting evidence where required; and
- Apply on time.

Forthcoming CAFRE events

Events on sward improvement, soils and drainage are planned for June. Please see press for details nearer the time.

In addition CAFRE will be delivering a range of training courses for farmers. Please use the enclosed reply paid postcard to book onto FAS related training courses.

To help you gain a better understanding of the new area-based schemes, their eligibility criteria and how to apply, DARD is hosting a series of public roadshows on CAP Reform during March at six venues throughout Northern Ireland. Details are on page 15. If you want to find out more about CAP Reform and area-based schemes in particular, please visit the DARD website at: www.dardni.gov.uk/index/grants-and-funding.htm

You will receive your Single Application Form and accompanying guidance pack in late March.

Other articles in this issue cover the important topics of feed traceability, bracken control and sprayer operator training which are all important for maintaining your area based schemes payments through meeting Cross-Compliance and land eligibility standards. You will also find enclosed a summary sheet outlining the revised requirements of the Nitrates Action Programme for 2015-2018 and a FarmSafe leaflet promoting these important training courses.

Bracken – How best to control and advice if considering aerial spraying in 2015

Graeme D Campbell, Crops, Horticulture and Sustainability Development Branch, CAFRE

Bracken is found throughout Northern Ireland on a range of habitats. It survives on highly acidic soils, deep loams and sandy soils and is tolerant of a wide range of climates. Bracken is very invasive and can severely damage many priority habitats by smothering and blocking light and moisture from other plant species.

If not controlled bracken spreads very rapidly using a network of thick, fleshy underground stems. Fronds grow from the stems and become visible from mid May onwards and can grow up to 1.5m in height. Bracken produces spores which may be carcinogenic and its fronds can be poisonous to livestock when ingested, although livestock normally tend to avoid consuming bracken.

Land with bracken cover is not eligible for area based schemes. The area of bracken must be deducted even when bracken is present in only part of a field for 2-3 months of the year.

Bracken can be difficult to eradicate completely but it can be controlled by using chemical and non chemical methods.

Chemical Control

Over the years products containing the active ingredient Asulam, such as Asulox have commonly been used to control bracken. However, from 31st December 2012 it became illegal to sell, transfer, promote or use Asulam products. It is hoped that the re-registration of Asulam Products can be completed by 2016. In the meantime, an Emergency Authorisation for Asulam products has been granted and will allow the application of the product Asulox to control bracken in the UK during the specified period in 2015. This is reviewed annually.



Bracken spraying on a CAFRE demonstration site.

Important dates to remember for 2015 if considering chemical control:

18 May 2015: Start Date for Emergency Authorisation for the sale and distribution of Asulam products.

1 July 2015: Application of Asulam products can start.

15 September 2015: First expiry date for sale and distribution of stocks. Application can continue.

31 October 2015: Final expiry date for disposal, storage and use of Asulam. It will be illegal to apply or store Asulam products after this date.

Bracken can be treated by either knapsack sprayer or tractor/quad boom sprayer. Follow up treatment in subsequent years is essential for full control.

Aerial Spraying

Bracken is quite often found on steep areas of land which are not accessible to machinery. Aerial spraying is an alternative option however you must meet specific legal obligations before, during and after applying pesticides by air. It is essential to note that consent is required from the Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD) in all cases and if planning aerial spraying on environmentally designated sites consent from Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is also required.

Four steps

Step 1.

Consult NIEA before applying pesticides by aerial spraying if;

- The land to be treated is next to or within 50 metres of water. This includes any river, stream, water course, inland water whether natural or artificial, tidal water or any channel or passage in which water flows.
- Any part of a local nature reserve, marine nature reserve, a national nature reserve or an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) lies within 150 metres of the land to be treated.
- The works are within an ASSI - an application for consent will be required in these circumstances.
- The pesticide will be applied to control weeds in water or on the banks of waterways or lakes permission from NIEA is required.

You can contact NIEA by phone on 0845 302 0008.

Step 2.

Only products which are specifically authorised for aerial spraying can be used;

Step 3.

Aerial spraying must be done in line with an approved plan;

- Operators must complete the application plan template and submit it to CRD for approval and permission to carry out aerial spraying.
- Further information and The Aerial Spraying Application Plan template for asulam in Northern Ireland can be found on the CRD website at: www.pesticides.gov.uk/guidance/industries/pesticides/topics/using-pesticides/General/Aerial-Spraying.htm
- A single map detailing the area to be sprayed should be submitted for each job. Maps for Northern Ireland showing the location of conservation areas, nature reserves and

ASSI's can be obtained from <http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/naturalheritage/default.aspx>

- Maps showing the location of water bodies are available at: <http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/wmuviewer>.

Step 4.

Everyone applying pesticides from the air must hold a Civil Aviation Authority qualification (the aerial application certificate).

Non Chemical Control

Bracken can also be controlled by cutting and rolling. Research has shown that cutting where possible is most effective when it is cut twice in the same growing season. Cutting must be repeated yearly until bracken disappears.

Rolling is another method of bracken control. It damages the stems reducing food energy for bud development the following year but must be carried out yearly to help eradicate the bracken.

CAFRE Demonstration Project

CAFRE have established six bracken demonstration project sites throughout Northern Ireland as part of a project to demonstrate different bracken control methods and to establish which methods are most effective. This project is expected to run for 3-5 years and monitoring will take place throughout each growing season. Rolling, cutting and spraying will take place at each demonstration site and there is also an untreated plot at each site for comparison.

CAFRE recently held information evenings to discuss bracken control methods and to discuss land eligibility matters in relation to bracken. Further events and site visits will take place in 2015. To register your interest in attending a bracken control event please complete and return the enclosed reply paid postcard.

Pesticides - Don't forget about Grandfather Rights changes!

Deirdre O'Reilly, Environmental Policy Branch

Certificate of competence for sprayer operators

By law, everyone who uses pesticides (plant protection products) professionally must be in possession of an accredited certificate of competence or they must work under supervision.

The Regulations define 'under supervision' as under the direct and personal supervision, and in the presence, of a person who holds a specified certificate, where such supervision is being provided for the purposes of training.

'Grandfather Rights' holders

(those born on or before 31 December 1964) have been exempt from the requirement to have a certificate of competence. However, to meet the requirements of the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides this exemption will cease on 25 November 2015.

Training

Farmers can obtain assessment and certification by City & Guilds through CAFRE, Greenmount Campus. A range of training courses on pesticide application (spraying) for farmers are provided by CAFRE. These include a new certification option specifically catering for those operating under 'Grandfather Rights' which has been developed by City & Guilds.

Farmers can now book a place on the Grandfather Rights or other sprayer training courses in two ways:

1. Enrol online at <https://os.cafre.ac.uk/website/onlineservices/courses.aspx> (select Industry Training - Agriculture) or
2. Contact the Industry Training Administration Team directly:
 - Email: industry.trainingadmin@dardni.gov.uk or
 - Telephone: 028 9442 6880

Currently training is provided free of charge to farmers, however, there is a charge for assessment, registration and certification with City and Guilds.



Calibrating a boom sprayer during a training course at CAFRE

Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) - Establishing entitlements

Catherine Coll, Grants & Subsidies Policy Branch

To establish Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) entitlements, you must submit your Single Application Form (SAF) to DARD **on or before Friday 15 May 2015** (except in cases of *force majeure*/ exceptional circumstances). Applications received between 16 May and 9 June 2015 will incur late claim penalties.



It is important that you submit your application to establish entitlements by 15 May. For 2015, there will be an additional 3% penalty for a late application to establish BPS entitlements as well as a 1% penalty, which means that DARD **will reduce your payment by 4% for each working day** (except in cases of *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances).

If you are an active farmer with at least 3 ha of eligible land at your disposal on 15 May 2015, and you previously held Single Farm Payment (SFP) entitlements and you activated at least €100 of SFP entitlements in **2013** (prior to the application of penalties), you will have the right to receive an allocation of BPS entitlements in 2015.

This is the route that the vast majority of farmers will follow. There are a number of other ways to qualify for an allocation of entitlements.

1. Regional Reserve

You can apply for an allocation of entitlements from the Regional Reserve if:

- You are a young farmer aged no more than 40 years in 2015, or
- You are a new entrant to farming.

As well as new entrants and young farmers, the Department may also use the regional reserve to provide entitlements where, due to *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances, applicants have been unable to apply for entitlements. If you fall into this category, you will have to notify the Department of your circumstances within 15 days of being in a position to do so.

You will need to complete a separate application form as well as completing your 2015 Single Application Form. For further details please see the article on Regional Reserve in this newsletter.

2. Production Activity on 15 May 2013

If you have never held SFP entitlements and are not eligible for the Regional Reserve, but were farming on 15 May 2013, you may be able to establish entitlements if you can provide verifiable evidence of the production activity that you were undertaking on 15th May 2013.

To apply to establish entitlements in this way, you should answer yes at question 2 on the 2015 SAF. You should indicate whether you had a beef, dairy or sheep enterprise on 15 May 2013.

DARD will cross check this information against its records to ensure that you had animals in your herd or flock on 15 May 2013.

If you did not have a herd or flock on 15 May 2013, you will need to submit other documentary evidence by 15 May 2015 with your 2015 SAF. If DARD receives the information after that date, late application penalties may be applied which will reduce the value of your payment. DARD will not accept information received after 9 June 2015.

Documentary evidence that you could provide may include seed receipts, sales receipts, evidence of belonging to a quality assurance scheme, agronomist reports or other relevant documentation.

As 2015, is the first year of the convergence process (for information on convergence, see page 11 paragraph 2), BPS entitlements allocated to you in this way will increase in value as entitlements move towards the regional average rate which is currently estimated to be around €329/ha.

3. Private Contract Clause (PCC)

You could acquire the right to an initial allocation of entitlements via a PCC. A PCC of this type would allocate the right to establish BPS entitlements to you from another farmer who has leased or sold land to you.

There is a second type of PCC which can be used by those who are acquiring land and wish to take the value of the SFP entitlements/pot.

A separate application form will need to be completed if you wish to establish entitlements this way. More detailed guidance and application forms are available on the DARD website or from local offices.

Business changes

If there has been a change to your existing business, for example, if you inherited a business or where there has been a merger or scission (split) between the 16 May 2014 and 15 May 2015, this change could impact on the value of the SFP entitlements which is being used as the starting point for the calculation of Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) entitlements in 2015.

You will need to complete the appropriate forms to request a transfer of the value of the entitlements. If approved, the value of SFP entitlements held on 15 May 2014 will move between the relevant businesses according to the business change.

It is important that your business structure represents the reality on the ground, particularly as regards the active farmer provisions which will apply in 2015. It is highly unlikely that a business which rents out all of its land to another family member will meet the criteria to be allocated BPS entitlements in 2015. A business merger may need to be considered.

The acceptance of a business change does not imply that the business is eligible or will receive a payment under the new BPS or any other scheme.

Forms and supporting information are available from DARD Grants and Funding on 0300 200 7848 or from local DARD offices. Forms are also available on the DARD website.

Young Farmers' Payment

Roisin Quinn, EU Area-Based Reform Branch

Who is eligible?

The Young Farmers' Payment is a top-up to the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS). To be eligible, you must be no more than 40 years of age in the year you first apply to the BPS/Reserve and be setting up, for the first time, an agricultural holding as head of the holding, or have already done so during the five years preceding your first application to the BPS. In addition, you must hold at least a Level II qualification in agriculture (or a related subject containing a farm business management module) and have established and activated payment entitlements under the BPS. If you currently have no entitlements and you wish to apply for the Young Farmers' Payment, you must also apply to the Regional Reserve for an allocation.

Further information

A Young Farmers' Payment Guidance booklet is scheduled to be available on the DARD website from early February 2015. It will provide detailed information on the eligibility criteria and the evidence that applicants will need to submit to support their application. Key items of evidence include photographic identification, birth certificate, a statement from your accountant, most recent business accounts and corresponding tax return and a certificate showing your qualification. For a complete list, you should refer to the Guidance booklet as soon as it becomes available. A registration process will be open from mid March through to 15 May 2015. During this period, you must present your evidence, in person, at a DARD Direct office.



Regional Reserve

Ray McClurg, EU Area-Based Reform Branch

Awards from the Regional Reserve may be available to young farmers, new entrants and those unable to be allocated payment entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) as a result of *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances. Eligible claimants will receive an allocation of entitlements at the regional average or have the value of entitlements increased to the regional average from the Regional Reserve. Those applying to the Reserve must also apply to the BPS by submitting their Single Application Form (SAF).

The Reserve is scheduled to operate for 5 years, although Young Farmers or New Entrants will only be able to apply once, during this period, for the allocation of and/or increase in value of entitlements.

To be eligible as Young Farmers, applicants must meet the same conditions as those applying for the Young Farmers' Payment (YFP) which are;

- (a)** be no more than 40 years of age in the year they apply to the Reserve, and
- (b)** be setting up, for the first time, an agricultural holding as head of the holding, or have already done so during the 5 years preceding their application, and
- (c)** have at least a Level II qualification in agriculture (or related subject containing a farm business management module).

To be eligible as New Entrants applicants must have;

- (a)** at least a Level II qualification in agriculture (or related subject containing a farm business management module),
- (b)** commenced their agricultural activity in the 2013 calendar year, or later year,
- (c)** submitted an application to the BPS and the Reserve not later than 2 years after the calendar year in which they commenced their agricultural activity, and



- (d)** had no previous agricultural activity in their own name and at their own risk or did not have the control of a business exercising an agricultural activity in the 5 years preceding the start of their agricultural activity.

A Regional Reserve Guidance booklet is scheduled to be available on the DARD website from early February. It will provide more information on the eligibility criteria and the evidence applicants will need to submit to support their application. Key items will include photographic identification, accountant's statement, most recent business accounts with corresponding Tax return and certificate showing their educational qualification.

The application period for the Reserve will be the same as for the BPS i.e. mid-March 2015 through to 15 May 2015 (or 9 June 2015 with penalties).

DARD Online Greening and Value Going Forward Calculators provide help with Basic Payment Scheme Calculations

Charlie Kilpatrick, Crops, Horticulture and Sustainability Development Branch, CAFRE

To help farmers comply with greening requirements and to calculate the future value of their area based payment, a series of interactive decision support tools have been developed and are available from the DARD Online services website. This article summarises the main points and provides guidance on how to use these applications.

1. Field Classification Identifier

Initially farmers need to identify the area of their farm land that is classified as arable land. This area will include temporary grass (land currently in grass that has been in an arable crop in any of the 5 years in the period 2010 – 2014).

This DARD web based application allows access to records for all fields mapped in Northern Ireland. Farmers can enter the farm survey number and field number to check the cropping history of individual fields. The program will indicate the last year that the field was classified as an arable crop. Where there is doubt on the past cropping of a grass field this will identify if it is classified as temporary grassland which is deemed as arable land for greening requirements. In the example shown in Table 1 the individual Farm Survey Number (FSN) and field number is entered in the white cells on the top line. This then generates a report (on the bottom line) indicating the last year that the field was in an arable crop. Alternatively entering details of a Farm Survey Number (FSN) alone will show the history of all fields within that FSN.

Table 1: Screen shot showing worked example for field classification

Farm Survey Number	Field No	Field Suffix	Classification	Last Year Arable
7/28/32	3	b	AR	2014

After identifying the area of land on the farm classified as arable land the farmer must then clarify what measures are needed to meet the new Greening requirements and this is where the Greening Calculator can help.

2. The DARD Greening Calculator

The DARD Greening Calculator is a decision support tool that will allow farmers and growers to enter the breakdown of arable and non arable crops on their land to determine if the greening requirements for Crop Diversification and Ecological Focus Area (EFA) are met.

In the event that the Greening Requirements are not being met then this calculator will give a range of options to meet Ecological Focus Area (EFA) and Crop Diversification requirements.

The first step is to enter the total available land for both arable and permanent crops and then enter the breakdown of areas for different crops as shown in Table 2 below. Each cell for an individual crop area has a drop down menu giving a list of crops to choose from.

The Greening indicator box will indicate green for compliance with crop diversification for the range of crops, covering the correct percentage of arable area. If the Greening requirements are not met the box will indicate red and will give a note to indicate the reason for non compliance and recommended action. For example if the EFA requirement is not or only partially met then the number of additional hectares required will be displayed beside the Greening Indicator results.

Table 2: Screen shot showing example land and crop areas

The screenshot shows the 'Your Farm Details (ha)' section with a dropdown menu for 'Eligible Agricultural Land' set to 100.00 ha. Below it, 'Arable land area' is 90.00 ha. The 'Please enter your Crop Use' section shows a table with columns for Crop #1 to #7, Fallow, Legumes, and Temp Grass. The 'Greening Indicator' section shows 'Rule' and 'Compliance' for Cropping and EFA, both marked as 'OK'.

Your Farm Details (ha)

Eligible Agricultural Land	100.00 ha
Of which:	
Permanent Grassland area	10.00 ha
Permanent Crops area (Orchards, Short rotation coppice, etc.)	
Arable land area	90.00 ha
Of which:	
Used for temp grass	10.00 ha
Available for Cropping (including fallow)	80.00 ha

Please enter your Crop Use

Please use only ONE crop type per area using the drop down list located in each crop type cell

Crop type	Crop #1	Crop #2	Crop #3	Crop #4	Crop #5	Crop #6	Crop #7	Fallow	Legumes (Protein Crops)	Temp Grass
Area (ha)	20.00 ha	20.00 ha	35.00 ha	W Oats	Wheat	F Maize	SOSR	5.00 ha		10.00 ha
% cover	22%	22%	39%	0%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%	11%

Greening Indicator

	Rule	Compliance
Cropping	Three Crop	OK
EFA	EFA applies	OK

To comply with the EFA requirement of 5% of arable land the farmer can select from a range of EFA features to suit their farm business. The two immediate choices of Fallow or Legume crops are provided as options as part of crop diversification. Please note that the ratio of leguminous crops needed to meet EFA requirement is 1 : 0.7. These options can be seen in Table 3. Where the option of leguminous crop is chosen on Table 2 this is transferred to the black coloured cell in Table 3.

Table 3: Screen shot showing EFA options

The screenshot shows a table of EFA qualifying measures. A red box highlights the 'Actual area / length' column, and a red arrow points to it with the text 'Enter EFA feature area/length available for your farm'. The table lists various measures like short-rotation coppice, legumes, hedges, ditches, etc., with their respective coefficients and equivalent areas.

EFA qualifying measures

	Actual area / length	How much EFA does it count for?	Coefficient	Equivalent area (ha)*
Areas of short-rotation coppice	0.00 ha	1 ha = 0.3 ha	0.3	0.00 ha
Legumes	0.00 ha	1 ha = 0.7 ha	0.7	0.00 ha
Hedges	0.00 m	1 linear meter = 10 m ²	10	0.00 ha
Shared hedges	0.00 m	1 linear meter = 5 m ²	5	0.00 ha
Ditches	0.00 m	1 linear meter = 6 m ²	6	0.00 ha
Traditional stone walls	0.00 m	1 linear meter = 1 m ²	1	0.00 ha
Banks and Archeological features	0.00 ha	1 ha = 1 ha	1	0.00 ha
Afforested areas	0.00 ha	1 ha = 1 ha	1	0.00 ha
Total EFA Area				0.00 ha

3. Value of Entitlements Going Forward Calculator

This decision support tool has been developed by CAFRE to allow farmers to calculate the values of their area-based payment over the next five years.

The regional average payment is currently estimated to be approximately €329 per hectare. The convergence between 2015 and 2019 will take place in equal annual steps and is consistent with achieving a flat rate payment by 2021, i.e. a seven year transition period. For those farmers whose initial unit value of entitlements is below the regional average, the unit value will be increased towards the regional average. For entitlements above the regional average, a decrease will be applied to the difference between the initial unit value in 2015 and regional average over this period.

The red boxes in Table 4 are first completed by the farmer from his or her 2014 payment details and the area planned to be farmed in 2015. The calculator takes into account all reductions in payment before either scaling up or down towards the regional average value of entitlement over 5 years. The resulting future value of the Basic Payment Scheme can be seen in both euros and pounds.

Table 4: Summary screen shot showing top and bottom lines of calculator

Enter the number of entitlements and value for 2014				Enter the number of hectares to be used in 2015		
	No of Entitlements 2014	Entitlement Unit Value (€) 2014	Total Value	Total Initial Value 2015	Eligible Area Claimed 2015	Initial Unit Value (€)
1	20	78	1,560	1,345	20	67
Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
Average Entitlement Value (€)	105	142	179	217	254	
Total BPS and Greening (€)	2,093	2,840	3,588	4,335	5,083	
Total BPS and Greening (£)	£ 1,632	£ 2,215	£ 2,799	£ 3,382	£ 3,965	
						Total SFP (15-19) (€)
						17,939
						Total SFP (15-19) (£)
						£ 13,993

To register for DARD on-line services and to get access to Area Based Scheme Decision Support Tools either:

Visit the DARD website: www.dardni.gov.uk/index/online-services/

Phone DARD Online services helpline: **028 9442 6699**

Email: info@ruralni.gov.uk

Apply online in 2015 and help us pay you early!

Max Cronin, Area-Based Schemes Development Branch

Last year, many more of you applied online, which helped us pay a record number of you your Single Farm Payment (SFP) earlier than ever before. In fact, we finalised 95% of SFP claims by the end of December 2014, significantly bettering any previous performances.

However, as you know, DARD is working on a new set of area-based schemes, including the Basic Payment Scheme which replaces SFP, which are being introduced from this year onwards. Although these changes will bring challenges, you can once again help us to help you by applying online in 2015.

Using the online application service is the quickest and easiest way to apply for payment and even though there are some big changes this year, we have made our online service better and easier to use. As well as the usual benefits, such as giving you an instant receipt and avoiding the need to queue at a DARD office to hand in your paper form, the 2015 online application service features a facility to highlight if you have a Greening requirement to meet. Determining if you have a Greening requirement can be complicated so using the online application service will take away some of the work and worry related to this aspect of your claim.

Not only that, it's worth reminding you that when applying online you'll get an on-screen warning if you don't answer a question or if you have made a simple mistake. The paper form won't do this for you and it is these types of mistakes which can often lead to a delay in your payment or, worse still, a financial penalty.

So, if you haven't thought about going online before, maybe now is the time to do so as it ticks all the right boxes!



	Online	Paper
Check my application is complete	✓	✗
Check my totals	✓	✗
Work out Greening requirement	✓	✗
Earlier payment	✓	✗
Guaranteed receipt	✓	✗
Available anytime, anywhere	✓	✗

To find out how to apply online call us on, 0300 200 7843 or text EASY to 66101 or go to www.dardni.gov.uk/online-services

Feed Safety and Integrity – Protecting the Reputation of our Agri-food Sector

Stephen Nixon, Agri-food Inspection Branch

Reputation is a bit like character, it's something which someone can rob you of which makes them no richer but costs you greatly. What about the reputation of our agri-food industry - can it be readily damaged? The simple answer to that, as we know from experience, is a resounding **Yes**.

The illegal practice of 'dusting' in the 80's; the BSE crisis in the 90's; and the dioxin crisis in 2008, were all connected to feeding animals and they have cost our industry from tens to hundreds of millions of pounds. In this decade, now we're at the mid way point, it's worth taking stock and considering how we can ensure the integrity of our industry and avoid another major feed incident occurring.

Our Agri-food Industry here is vital to our economy. Compliance with animal feeds legislation is critical to ensuring the reputation of our industry and underpinning trade. The local agri-food sector is worth in the region of £4.2 billion and accounts for around 20% of total manufacturing sales, 17% of external manufacturing sales and 25% of manufacturing employment. It is thought provoking to consider that an estimated 70-80% of this industry depends on farmers feeding safe animal feed.



Don't forget to include farm to farm sales of grain and forage in your feed traceability records.



The economics of the industry are important enough, but fundamentally consumers expect compliance with feed and food safety legislation and re-assurance that suitable controls are in place to help ensure public health, through the safety, traceability and integrity of the food we produce.

Therefore, it is appropriate to remind farmers and those supplying animal feed of their legal responsibilities which are to ensure they do not place on the market or feed to any food producing animal feed that is unsafe. Animal feed must only be sourced from premises which are registered or approved by DARD. This is a clear requirement in current EU and local implementing legislation which places the primary responsibility for feed safety with you, the farmer.

You must have a system in place relating to the traceability of inputs and outputs that is food, feed, food-producing animals, and substances incorporated into food or feed to and from the farm. Records for inputs should identify the:

- Name and address of the supplier;
- Nature and quantity of products supplied; and
- Date of delivery of these inputs.

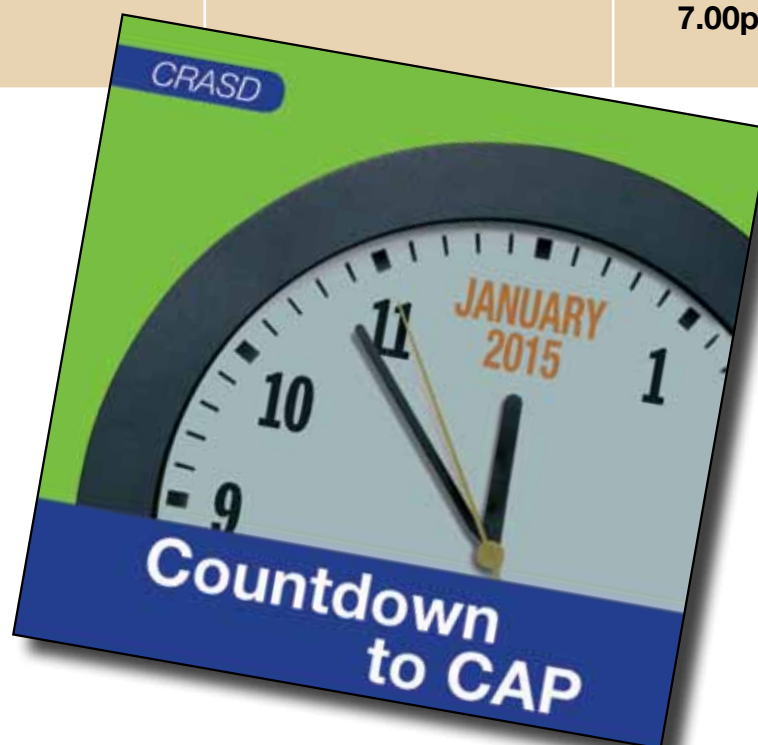
Feed receipts and dockets are acceptable provided the information above is recorded. Failure to keep relevant feed records could result in a reduction of your area-based scheme payment. Food and feed inspections for cross-compliance are unannounced as required by EU auditors, so be sure to keep your records up-to-date. Play your part in maintaining the reputation and integrity of your industry and if you are offered feed of unknown origin, don't compromise – just say **No**.

If you want further information please check out the link below:

www.dardni.gov.uk/index/farming/animal-feed-primary-production-hygiene.htm

CAP Reform Roadshows

VENUE	DATE	TIME
Roe Park Resort, Limavady.	10 March 2015	2.00pm to 4.30pm & 7.00pm to 9.30pm.
Millbrook Lodge, 5 Drumaness Road, Ballynahinch.	12 March 2015	2.00pm to 4.30pm & 7.00pm to 9.30pm.
CAFRE, Loughry Campus 76 Dungannon Road, Cookstown.	19 March 2015	7.00pm to 9.30pm.
CAFRE, Enniskillen Campus Levaghy, Enniskillen.	24 March 2015	2.00pm to 4.30pm & 7.00pm to 9.30pm.
CAFRE, Greenmount Campus 45 Tirgracy Road, Antrim.	26 March 2015	2.00pm to 4.30pm & 7.00pm to 9.30pm.
Armagh City Hotel, 2 Friary Road, Armagh City.	31 March 2015	2.00pm to 4.30pm & 7.00pm to 9.30pm.
Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road, Omagh.	2nd April 2015	2.00pm to 4.30pm & 7.00pm to 9.30pm.



DARD telephone numbers

(charged at local rate)

Animal Health & Welfare and Veterinary Public Health

Information and services relating to livestock movements, trade, animal welfare, veterinary public health, and the prevention and control of animal diseases.

0300 200 7840

Cattle Registration Line

Registration of cattle births and deaths by telephone.

0300 200 7855

Education and Training

Education and training courses provided by CAFRE.

0300 200 7841

Environment

Agri-environment schemes. Countryside Management advice including Cross-Compliance, Nitrates Directive, Codes of Good Agriculture Practice, Farm Waste Management, Uncultivated Land Regulations and Field Boundary Removals.

0300 200 7842

Farming

Livestock. Crops. Horticulture. Plant health. Equine. Organic farming. Farm business management. Information technology and online services.

0300 200 7843

Fisheries

Aquaculture. Sea fisheries. Fish health. Foyle, Carlingford & Irish Lights Commission.

0300 200 7844

Flood Defence and Drainage

Sea and river defences. Flood protection. Flood risk management. Drainage. Maintenance of designated watercourses. *For flooding emergencies call the Flooding Incident Line 0300-2000-100.*

0300 200 7845

Food

Knowledge and technology transfer. Marketing support to food businesses. Food industry training. Food Business Incubation Centre. Food Safety. Product certification. Marketing and quality standards.

0300 200 7846

Forests

Timber production and marketing. Plant health controls for wood and bark, Woodland grants (including Short Rotation Coppice). Recreation. Educational visits. *For caravanning and camping bookings you will need to book directly with the Forest Park.*

0300 200 7847

Grants and Funding

Single Farm Payment, LFACA, agri-environment, farm, fisheries, forestry and rural development payments and grants, pre-2005 schemes.

0300 200 7848

Rural Development

Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme, Rural and community development, Farm diversification, Rural Champion, Rural Proofing, Rural White Paper.

0300 200 7849

DARD Corporate Services

DARD Headquarters, Press Office, information services and systems, human resources and facilities management.

0300 200 7850

Calls from non-UK numbers or networks/International Calls

**+44(0)
28 9037 8418**