



## Foreword

**Martin McKendry,**  
**Head of Development Service, CAFRE**

I am pleased to introduce the second edition of the new 'Farm Advisory System' (FAS) newsletter. FAS news is published biannually and focuses on key advisory messages to help you realise the benefits of area-based schemes and minimise penalties from inspections.

### What is FAS?

It is an EU mandatory requirement for all member states to have a Farm Advisory System to provide training and support for farmers in the following five areas:

1. Cross-Compliance regulations
2. Greening regulations and Land Eligibility
3. Rural Development Programme
4. Water Framework Directive
5. Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive

In addition to this newsletter FAS will be delivered to Northern Ireland farmers in the following ways:

- DARD training for farmers and growers;
- Online computer programs and information on the DARD website;
- DARD press articles and publications on topics related to the five FAS topics; and,

## Forthcoming CAFRE events

**A list of FAS training courses and events is provided at the back of the bulletin together with details on how to book onto them by either going online, by telephone or by email.**

- Direct contact with the industry through CAFRE and Countryside Management Advisers.

This issue contains a range of articles on Cross-Compliance including a detailed look at the inspection process, TB testing, animal welfare inspections, Food and Feed law and the new Nitrates regulations. In addition there are articles on the Water Catchment Partnership, rush control and pesticides training which relate to the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive.

A list of FAS training courses and events is provided at the back of the bulletin together with details on how to book onto them by either going online, by telephone or by email.



## Understanding the Inspection Process for the CAP

**Stephen Trew, Countryside Management Inspectorate Branch**

The European Commission requires that funding is only paid on eligible agricultural land and to active farmers who are entitled to receive payments. For this reason DARD carries out a series of administrative checks and farm inspections, known as On-The-Spot Checks (OTSC), to ensure the correct amount of money is paid to the right person doing the right thing.

### How are inspections selected?

In addition to the administrative checks carried out on all claims, OTSCs are carried out on at least 5% of claims to ensure the eligibility conditions of the schemes applied for have been met. This includes both the eligibility of the applicant and the land that is being claimed. Claims are selected for inspection on a random and risk basis. A further 3% sample of claims that are exempt from greening requirements will be checked to ensure their exemption from greening is valid.

### Will inspections be conducted by remote sensing or by an inspector?

In 2015 DARD is aiming to increase the proportion of OTSCs carried out by Control with Remote Sensing (CwRS), compared to OTSCs by classic inspection where an inspector walks all the fields. Sometimes CwRS checks require an inspector to walk fields to carry out a Rapid Field Visit (RFV) if a satellite image is unclear or if further checks are required. CwRS has proved to be an important tool in improving DARD's payment performance in past 3 years.

### What will be checked?

On-the-spot checks in 2015 will check for land eligibility, Cross-Compliance, greening and non-greening requirements, active farmers, young farmers and applications to the regional reserve.

Land eligibility checks identify features that are not eligible for payment. In addition, land is only eligible if agricultural activity is taking place on the entire area being claimed on a significant and consistent basis throughout the calendar year.

Cross-Compliance checks ensure that farmers comply with basic standards concerning the environment, climate change, good agricultural and environmental condition of land, public health, animal health, plant health and animal welfare.

Checks on greening requirements look at compliance with rules on crop diversification, ecological focus areas and environmentally sensitive permanent grassland fields.

Non-greening checks will establish if farmers should have declared a greening requirement.

Checks for young farmers' payment, active farmer and regional reserve will largely be administrative checks, but OTSCs will be carried out to ensure a business is sufficiently separate from any other businesses and has not been formed artificially to avail of EU support.

Guidance on all aspects of land eligibility, greening, young farmers, active farmers and regional reserve is available on the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk/information-and-guidance](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/information-and-guidance).

### What is the timetable for inspections?

Classic inspections commence shortly after the application period closes on the 15th May and will continue through the summer months. OTSCs using Control with Remote Sensing (CwRS) will use a range of 2015 imagery captured throughout the year across four randomly selected areas. CwRS checks will be supported by Rapid Field Visits throughout the inspection period. The majority of these inspections will focus on land eligibility but depending on the business inspected may include additional active farmer, young farmer and regional reserve checks.

### How to prepare for an inspection

Classic OTSC's and Rapid Field Visits will be unannounced, the inspector will make contact with you at the end of the inspection to discuss their findings and to record your signature. OTSCs carried out by CwRS will also be unannounced. If you have been subject to an OTSC the results will be posted to you in the form of a report when the inspection is completed. You will have an opportunity to examine this report and respond if required. Payment will be made once the inspection results have been processed.

Finally, farm businesses can be referred for an OTSC at anytime during the year and outside the normal management protocols. These specific inspections can be the result of a whistleblower or a query on the Land Parcel Identification System(LPIS) maps for example.

## Farm Animal Welfare Inspections

**Paddy McGuckian, Welfare and Zoonoses Branch**

Animal welfare inspections are carried out by DARD staff as part of Cross-Compliance requirements and in response to complaints.

Based on annual figures for 2014 89% of welfare inspections were categorised as satisfactory (compliant). If a non-compliance (breach) is recorded during an inspection this must be categorised by Inspectors as either intentional or negligent. A breach will result in a





Cross-Compliance penalty being applied to the area-based schemes (including the Basic Payment Scheme) claimed by the farmer in the year in which the breach was identified. Negligent penalties fall within the range 1% to 5% and intentional breaches fall within the range 15% up to 100% of the total area-based scheme payments due in the year of funding.

The criteria used to determine whether a breach is regarded as intentional are set out below.

**Criteria which determine whether a breach is regarded as intentional:**

**Either**

- 1) The same breach is being recorded for a particular business for the 3rd time in a 3 year period.

**Or**

- 2) The farmer has –
  - a. knowingly breached the relevant measures
  - b. with an understanding of what he was doing, and
  - c. with an understanding of the likely consequences of his actions.

If a breach is categorised as intentional as a result of criteria 2 (detailed above), the farmer will be given the opportunity to appeal this decision and put forward reasons why the breach should be classed as negligent rather than intentional. This can be in the form of either a written statement or by a formal interview with DARD staff. All information provided will be considered by an independent Welfare Panel who will make the final judgement on a case by case basis.



## New Guidance available on the Nitrates Action Programme 2015 – 2018 and Phosphorus Regulations

**Alan Morrow, Countryside Management Delivery Branch**

The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) aims to improve water quality by protecting water against pollution caused by nutrients from agricultural sources. To meet the requirements of the Directive, a Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) was established by DARD and DOE in 2007 to improve water quality through more efficient and better management of farm nutrients. At the same time Phosphorus Regulations were introduced to support these objectives. Meeting the rules set out in the NAP and Phosphorus Regulations is a legal obligation for all farm businesses. As well as this, compliance with the NAP is one of the Cross-Compliance Statutory Management Requirements. For farm businesses claiming area based payments, such as the Basic Payment Scheme, a breach may mean a reduction in the payment received.

### New guidance booklet

The NAP Regulations were reviewed in 2014 and the revised NAP for 2015-2018 came into effect on 1 January 2015. A useful NAP summary leaflet was sent to all farm businesses with the February edition of the FAS Newsletter. It may also be found at <http://www.dardni.gov.uk/summary-of-nap-2015-18-phosphorus-regs.pdf>. This summary provides basic information about how you can meet the requirements of NAP such as closed spreading periods, livestock manure limits and storage requirements. A much more detailed guidance booklet is also now available at [www.dardni.gov.uk/nitrates-action-programme.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/nitrates-action-programme.htm) and farmers should find this particularly useful when assessing their individual farm circumstances.

### Key changes

The NAP 2015-2018 and Phosphorus Regulations Guidance booklet includes a list of key changes from the previous guidance booklet. Although much remains the same as the previous action programme, it is well worth having a close look to see if any of these changes impact on your business and which could in turn effect your area based scheme payment.

One important change is the requirement for all farmers who export organic manure to another farm to submit records annually to NIEA by 31 January for the previous calendar year. This means that details of all organic manure moved off your farm to another farm from 1 January 2015 – 31 December 2015 must be submitted to NIEA by 31 January 2016. The detail required includes date moved, type of manure, quantity and the business ID number of the farmer receiving the manure. There is a template included in the Guidance Booklet to help farmers provide sufficient information when making their return to NIEA. The template can also be found at [www.dardni.gov.uk/nitrates-action-programme.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/nitrates-action-programme.htm).



*Don't forget a key change for 2015 is the submission of manure export records to NIEA by 31 January 2016.*

### Seasonal reminder

Much of what is contained within the NAP is to do with matching the supply of farm nutrients to crop uptake which is considered to be good and efficient farming practice. As such, many of its requirements and restrictions are seasonal. In recognition of this, a "Typical Annual NAP and Phosphorus Regulations Calendar" has been included in the NAP Guidance booklet. This is a useful reminder about key dates for farmers and what action needs to be taken on the farm.

### Training

CAFRE's popular Nitrates and Nutrient Management training courses will be held once again this autumn and winter. The Nitrates course has practical information to help farmers understand and farm within the regulations. The Nutrient Management course goes further and it will help farmers improve soil fertility, determine the correct fertiliser type and rate to grow high yielding crops within the NAP regulations and may even save you money on fertiliser costs.

If you would like to book a course please turn to the back page for further details.

## SMR 4 Food and Feed Law – Tuberculosis Testing Cross Compliance – Test on Time

David Kyle, Veterinary Service Cross-Compliance Policy Co-ordinator

The SMR requirement is:

**“You must observe the testing frequency required in the legislation for Tuberculosis”**

At present DARD is awaiting the outcome of a strategic review, which will help shape the way we collectively tackle this issue in years ahead.

Testing for disease is vital for eradication, and TB tests are set by DARD in an organized, co-ordinated way. Since 2006, Cross-Compliance inspections for the 1% of herds selected have included a check to ensure that all testing for TB was completed on time. Herds found to be in breach were subject to a disallowance of between 1% and 3% of their Single Farm Payment. Unfortunately we often find breaches in this area.

For 2015, the Department has significantly increased the likelihood of disallowance for keepers posing a disease risk to their own herd, and potentially their neighbours', through not testing on time.



All TB tests overdue by more than 30 days are liable to trigger a Cross-Compliance negligent breach penalty, with all herd tests overdue by more than 90 days a more severe penalty. The message is clear. **Test on time to avoid incurring any financial penalty.**

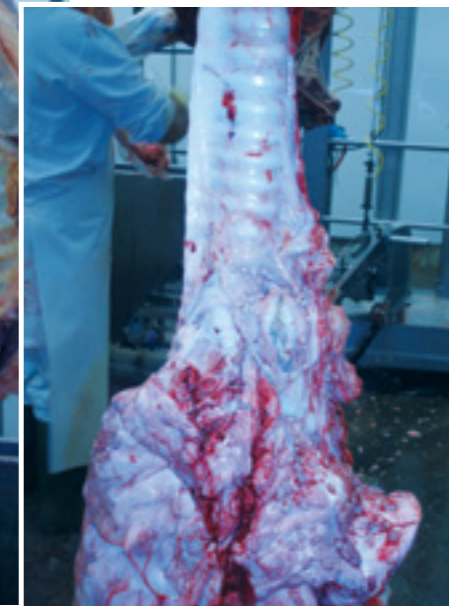
### The cost of TB.... and why testing is important!

We know that the TB skin test isn't perfect, but when applied across the herd, it is the best live animal test currently available. We must test our cattle to be able to trade with other countries. Trade is important in context to the Going for Growth strategy. Therefore, to increase our markets NI needs to satisfy these requirements. TB compensation costs between £12 and £15 million every year and a further £6-7 million is spent on testing. These figures do not include farmer time, lost revenue potential due to lost yields, lost genetics and of course the stress and uncertainty that restrictions can bring.



### TB – The Disease

Generalised tuberculosis found in an animal at slaughter in Northern Ireland. The whole carcass was destroyed. Here the liver and glands of the internal organs were found to be heavily infected.



Tuberculosis lesions in the lungs and glands of a bullock found at slaughter in Northern Ireland.

Tuberculosis is a disease which can affect many species, but particularly cattle of all ages. In NI approximately 6% of herds are affected. It can be present in herds which have shown no obvious signs for a long time. The first sign of infection can be either at the tuberculosis test or at routine slaughter. Only very rarely will an infected animal show any sign of illness. One animal or several can be affected in a herd. The disease can also spread to humans. If your business is affected by tuberculosis or you are keen to find out more, you can consult your local Divisional Veterinary Office and get further advice or search the internet at [www.dardni.gov.uk/bovine-tuberculosis.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/bovine-tuberculosis.htm)

## Cross-Compliance – Food and Feed Law

### Helen Garry, Agri-Food Inspection Branch

The overall aim of European Food and Feed Law is to ensure the safe production of food for human consumption and feed for food producing animals. Furthermore, it underpins free movement of safe, wholesome food in the EU single market. In the context of the Going for Growth Strategy compliance with Food and Feed Law is critical to underpin access to both existing exports and for our ambitions to grow exports further. It's worth bearing in mind that 70% of sales are to outside of Northern Ireland with 30% of sales to outside of the United Kingdom.

Statutory Management Requirement (SMR) 4 Food and Feed Law applies to you if you are a food or feed producer, rearing animals for food or producing products of animal origin (for example, eggs or milk). It is one of the SMRs that you must adhere to Cross-Compliance in return for receipt of direct agricultural support (including Basic Payment Scheme). This requirement reinforces existing legislation, and farmers should therefore already be meeting most, if not all of these.

Agri-Food Inspection Branch (AFIB) inspectors complete on-the-spot farm inspections to verify compliance with SMR 4 Food and Feed Law. Failure to maintain adequate on-farm records continues to be the most common breach identified over the last number of years, along with herd keepers not conforming to the statutory testing frequency for Tuberculosis (TB)/Brucellosis (BR).

The 4 main Food and Feed Law non compliances have been:

#### 1. Inadequate medicine records

You must keep records on veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to animals including dates of treatment and the withdrawal period.

#### 2. Inadequate traceability records

You must put in place systems and procedures related to the traceability of inputs (that is, food, feed, food-producing animals and substances incorporated into food/feed) to the farm, identifying:

- The name and address of the supplier
- The nature and quantity of products supplied
- The date of delivery of these inputs.

You must also put in place systems and procedures related to the traceability of outputs (that is, food, feed, food producing animals) when they leave the farm, identifying:

- The name and address of the customer
- The nature and quantity of products supplied
- The date on which the products left the farm.

#### 3. Failure to complete TB/BR testing on time

You must observe the testing frequency required in the legislation for TB/BR or other diseases.

#### 4. Failure to abide by the statutory BR testing before sale/removal of animals off farm

Ensure that you maintain adequate records on your farm and take adequate measures to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases transmissible to humans through food. For further information please see the DARD booklet entitled 'Statutory Biosecurity Guidance for Brucellosis' which is available on the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk/biosecurity-guidance-for-brucellosis.pdf](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/biosecurity-guidance-for-brucellosis.pdf).

Compliance with Food & Feed Law helps ensure the production of safe, wholesome food; underpins your industry and will reduce the risk of a Cross-Compliance penalty being applied to your business.

Details of all the requirements applicable for SMR 4 can be found in the Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards booklet via the following link:

[www.dardni.gov.uk/statutory-management-requirements.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/statutory-management-requirements.htm)

Food and feed record templates are available in your local DARD Direct office or available at the DARD website on:

[www.dardni.gov.uk/pph-record-keeping.htm](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/pph-record-keeping.htm)



*Keep records of all inputs and outputs including feedstuffs and don't forget farm to farm sales of grain and straw.*

## Pesticides – Reminder to all Grandfather Rights holders!

Deirdre O'Reilly, Environmental Policy Branch

From 26 November 2015 all operators who apply pesticides must be in possession of an accredited certificate of competence or they must work under supervision. The exemption for 'Grandfather Rights' holders (those born on or before 31 December 1964) ends on 25 November 2015.

CAFRE provides training and this can be arranged by:

1. Enrolling online at: [www.cafre.ac.uk/industry-support](http://www.cafre.ac.uk/industry-support) (select Industry Training - Agriculture) or
2. Contacting the Industry Training Administration Team directly:
  - **Email:** [industry.trainingadmin@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:industry.trainingadmin@dardni.gov.uk)
  - **Telephone:** 028 9442 6880

Information on pesticide regulations can be found on the DARD website at: [www.dardni.gov.uk/dard-pesticide-legislation](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/dard-pesticide-legislation).

Comprehensive advice on all aspects of using pesticides is contained in the DARD Code of Practice for Plant Protection Products. The Code explains how to use plant protection products safely and so meet the legal conditions which cover their use.

A summary A3 wall chart has also been produced to accompany the Code and provides users with a quick reference guide. Both documents can be downloaded from DARD's website: [www.dardni.gov.uk/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products).

**Note:** the Code of Practice will shortly be updated to reflect changes to pesticide spraying law.

**A reminder about sprayer application equipment requirements under the EU Directive on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides, will be published in the next edition of this Newsletter.**



## The Water Catchment Partnership

Karen Hughes, Environmental Policy Branch



### Stop and think about the water you drink- use pesticides responsibly

The Water Catchment Partnership is a working partnership established from representatives of Ulster Farmers Union, Northern Ireland Water, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise and the Voluntary Initiative.

Our aim is to deliver one message incorporating the ethos from all organisations to effectively tackle the problem of pesticides in the water environment; particularly in drinking water catchment areas. We aim to proactively work together to promote and raise awareness of best practice when using pesticides in the garden or on the farm, through a voluntary approach to improve water quality.

#### What's the Problem?

Pesticides used for weed control are often detected in rivers and lakes by NIEA and NI Water. These pose a risk to local aquatic life and very significantly increase the cost of treating drinking water to remove the pesticides. The majority of pesticide problems at water treatment plants in Northern Ireland are caused by MCPA. This herbicide is largely used for the control of broadleaf weeds and rushes in grassland. If the levels of MCPA currently detected in water do not reduce, it may become necessary to take enforcement action and remove the product from use.

\* Phenoxy products include the following: 2,4-D, 2,4-DB, dichlorprop, fenoprop, MCPA, MCPB, 2,4,5-T. Of these products MCPA is causing the most concern with water quality.

## Think water in the field!

### Plan ahead when using pesticides.

- **Think where water contamination is most likely to happen;**
  - **Organise work to avoid left over spray and reduce sprayer cleaning;**
  - **Do not spray if -**
    - ground is waterlogged
    - heavy rain is forecast in the next 3 days
    - ground is frozen
- as pesticide may run off into the nearest watercourse.

### Avoid spills in transit - Think where they could do most damage.

- **When spraying -**
  - Use low drift nozzles where appropriate
  - Check flow rates
  - Avoid conditions where spray drift can occur
- **Do not overspray buffer zones & watercourses;**
- **Ensure cleaning activities take place away from watercourses;**
- **Spray tank washings on to the crop;**
- **Wash the outside of the sprayer before leaving the field;**
- **Keep tyres as mud-free as possible; contaminated mud can carry pesticides out of the field.**



**You should carry out all mixing, filling or loading well away from waterways, ditches, drains, boreholes, wells or springs, on an area where any spills can be easily contained.**

#### **WARNING**

**Remember, even the smallest amount of pesticide can have a major environmental impact. The pesticide residue on one foil seal can pollute water in 18 miles of stream to a level greater than the European drinking water standards.**

### Additional Information

Comprehensive advice on all aspects of using pesticides is contained in the DARD Code of Practice for Plant Protection Products\*\*. The Code explains how to use plant protection products safely and so meet the legal conditions which cover their use. A summary A3 wall chart has also been produced to accompany the Code and provides users with a quick reference guide. Both documents can be downloaded from DARD's website: [www.dardni.gov.uk/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/code-of-practice-for-using-plant-protection-products)

Leaflets on best practice can be found on The Voluntary Initiative's website: [www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/en/library](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/en/library)

\*\*The Code of Practice has further information on buffer zones and Local Environment Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAPs)

## Rush – How best to control?

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

Rush cover has become a major problem throughout Northern Ireland in the past few years. Rush is a herbaceous, low-nutrient value plant which is often associated with poorly drained soils and is very common in areas with high rainfall and heavy clay soils. It is often found in areas with low soil pH values i.e. acid soils.

Heavy infestations of rush can be very damaging to priority habitats and they also reduce both the quality of grazing and the stock carrying capacity of the land. Where rushes are present it is very important to consider if the eligibility of land for area based schemes is affected. A scorecard has been developed to help determine the ineligible areas of rush which must be deducted. For further information please refer to the **'2015 Guide to Land Eligibility'** booklet which can be found on the DARD website at [www.dardni.gov.uk/guide-to-land-eligibility-.pdf](http://www.dardni.gov.uk/guide-to-land-eligibility-.pdf).

It is important to note that small areas of rush in fields are beneficial for ground nesting birds such as curlew and snipe as cover is required for nests and to provide protection for the chicks. Rush also provides cover for the Irish hare so it is about getting the correct balance as severe infestations can have very negative implications for wildlife. Fields with over one third rush cover require management to achieve a better balance between open space and cover.

### Rush Control

Rush Control can be carried out by chemical and non chemical methods. It is important to remember that if land is within an agri- environment scheme agreement there are some management restrictions to protect wildlife and 10% of the rush area in a field must be retained. Chemicals can be applied using a tractor or quad mounted boom sprayer or with a weed wiper. Typically in MCPA and glyphosate products have been used to control rush. It is important to ensure that you thoroughly check the pesticide label before applying chemicals to ensure that you are using the correct product and also authorisations on labels can change from year to year. For example MCPA, can no longer be applied using a weed wiper. It is also important that chemicals are applied at the optimum time and it may be worth considering cutting first and then treating the young regrowth.

Cutting is a traditional way of controlling rush and quite often standard grass toppers are used. Flail type cutters are an alternative as they chop the rush into small pieces and this avoids large amounts of trash being distributed back onto the sward. Cutting several times per year for a number of years is normally required if not using chemicals to eradicate rush.



**Dense rush is ineligible for area based schemes such as the Basic Payment Scheme.**

**Summary of management guidelines to help control rush:**

- Avoid overgrazing and poaching so that rush seeds don't get the chance to establish;
- Aim where possible for short and dense grazing swards which provide lots of competition for rush seedlings;
- Carry out a soil analysis to determine the nutrient content of the soil;
- Renovate old swards on improved land by ploughing, applying lime if required and reseeding;
- Control rushes by either cutting or by careful use of pesticides.

It is important to remember that a two or three year programme is usually required for successful rush control.

**MCPA Weed Wiping Trial**

The Water Catchment Partnership provides practical advice on pesticide best practice and in particular the problem of grassland herbicides contaminating water and the knock-on problems for NI Water in dealing with contamination of drinking water, in particular by MCPA.

In July 2015 an MCPA Best Practice Trial will commence on a 3ha area of rough grass and rush at CAFRE and the objective is to demonstrate how best practice can reduce MCPA levels in raw water.

Further details and findings will be available in 2016.

**CAFRE Rush Technology Project**

CAFRE established five rush project sites in 2014 across Northern Ireland to demonstrate different rush control methods and to establish which methods are most effective. This project is expected to run for 3-4 years and monitoring will take place throughout each growing season. Cutting, weed wiping with glyphosate, spraying with MCPA and liming have taken place at each demonstration site and there is also an untreated plot at each site for comparison.

It is proposed to hold a Rush Control Workshop in September 2015 to demonstrate different rush control methods and to see practical demonstrations of the different control methods.

To register your interest in attending the Rush Control Workshop please turn to the back page for contact details for this and our other training events.



*Rush cutting in action using a quad type flail mower.*

**How to book a Farm Advisory System training course?**

Farm Advisory System training courses can be booked in 3 ways:

1. Go to the following website <https://eservices.ruralni.gov.uk/onlineservices/secure/AphisTraining/ExpressionIndustryTraining.asp> enter your details and select the course(s) you are interested in and click to book.
2. E-mail: [developmentservice.admin@dardni.gov.uk](mailto:developmentservice.admin@dardni.gov.uk)
3. Telephone CAFRE's Development Service Administration at Greenmount Campus on 028 9442 6770 or

**Farm Advisory System Training Topics**

- Nitrates Information
- Dealing with Farm Nutrients and Wastes
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Bracken Control
- Field Boundary Management
- Rush Control Workshop
- Cross-Compliance
- Dry Stone Walling
- Hedge Restoration (Laying and Coppicing)





# 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**