

GUIDANCE NOTES

Basic Payment Scheme - Wales

Davis Meade's BPS team can assist you in a number of ways with regards to your 2018 claim, including:

- Initial online registration for new and young farmers
- Completion of Basic Payment Scheme online or paper submission
- Greening and EFA obligations
- Checking Entitlement Statements
- Formulating Farm Business Tenancy agreements and grazing licences to cover BPS clauses and land at your disposal rules
- Helping with cross compliance issues
- Trading of BPS entitlements and authorisations
- Appeals for loss of payment



Changes to the BPS rules for 2018 – Wales

- The **Active Farmer** rule remains in force unlike England.
- The **Young Farmer Scheme** eligibility is changing. The five years in which payment will be made is now from the year of the first application. For example If a Young Farmer became head of holding in 2014, and claimed for the first time in 2015 they will now be eligible for payment in 2019.

Changes to Greening Rules for 2018 – Wales

- The EC has banned the application of Plant Protection Products (PPP) on fallow land and Nitrogen Fixing Crops (NFC), when declared as Ecological Focus Areas (EFA). This ban includes seed dressings and will apply from sowing to harvest; so therefore includes any NFC sown in 2017. The ban on fallow land will only apply during the EFA fallow period (1 February – 31 July)
- There is a change to the use of fallow land, whether it's declared as EFA or not, including when the fallow period has closed. As a result, what grows during the fallow period cannot be utilised by the farm business. Therefore, no grazing may take place, or a cut taken after the fallow period has closed. You should leave and not graze for the rest of the calendar year, or cut and leave cuttings on the ground to rot and not remove, burn or use them.
- Trees in line are now available as an EFA. Trees in line are defined as trees with a crown diameter of 4 metres and the canopies being no more than 5 metres apart.
- The EFA weighting for Short Rotation Coppice (SRC) and NFC has also changed. The weightings for SRC and NFC were 0.3 and 0.7; they are now 0.5 and 1.
- EFA and Crop Diversification exemptions have changed and are now the same. They are where more than 75 % of the arable land is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage, is used for cultivation of leguminous crops, is land lying fallow or is subject to a combination of these uses. Or where more than 75 % of the eligible agricultural area is permanent grassland, is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage or for the cultivation of crops under water for a significant part of the year or for a significant part of the crop cycle, or is subject to a combination of these uses. There is now no limit to the remaining arable land, which in previous years has been 30 hectares or less.

For more information on any of the above please contact either Kathryn Williams.

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