

Key Reminders and Dates For Your Diary

Farming Wales Editor Daniel Johns spoke to Rita Jones, of the Welsh Government's Farm Liaison Service, to highlight the key reminders and some important dates to look out for

Key dates

Here are some key dates for you to be aware of between now and the end of March 2018.

29 January

Farm Business Grant – 3rd window application available on RPW online

February

Glastir contract summaries to be issued

1 February

Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory – deadline for forms to be submitted

5 February

Farming Connect training application window opens

26 February

Glastir Woodland Creation – expression of interest window opens

28 February

Glastir Advanced Capital Works – closing date for submission of claims for 2016 and 2017

March

Single Application Form (SAF2018) – available online only
Digital Assistance for SAF 2018

Glastir Commons – claim form for 2018

2 March

Farm Business Grant – deadline for submission of 2nd window receipts
Farming Connect training application window closes

31 March

Glastir Small Grants: Water – project completion and claim deadline

31 March

Glastir Small Grants: Landscape and Pollinators – project completion and claim deadline

31 March

Glastir Woodland Creation – capital works need to be completed

31 March

Glastir Woodland Restoration – capital works need to be completed

Sheep and Goat Annual Inventory

Sheep and goat keepers are reminded to complete and return the Annual Inventory form by 1 February 2018. You also 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.

If you require any assistance please contact the EID Cymru service helpline on 01970 636959 or email contact@eidcymru.org

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 30 April 2018 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 (eg if submitted 1 May 2018 those entitlements could not be claimed on the SAF until 2019).

Manage My Land

RPW online's Manage My Land has replaced all of the following functions from the Field Maintenance (FM4) paper forms.

They are:

- Registering land parcels
- Adding, deleting or changing permanent features
- Land transfers (i.e. purchases/sales/rentals)
- Boundary changes (i.e. merges/splits/moving boundaries)

The function to enable you to make changes to rental end dates will be available from February 2018.

Please remember, the Manage My Land must be submitted within 30 days of the change taking place in order to avoid penalties.

Paper FM4 forms are no longer available.

Verifiable Standards 2018 Updated Farmers' Cross Compliance Factsheets 2018

The vast majority of Cross Compliance rules continue to apply as notified in 2017, but the following fact sheets have been updated for 2018 to reflect changes in requirements and good practice:

- SMR 3: Conservation of Fauna and Flora (Biodiversity) – a change has been made to the introduction to clarify the requirements cover all land, not just Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Special Areas of Conservation
- SMR 8: Sheep and goat identification - updated to reflect the new County Parish Holding (CPH) Animal Movement rules
- GAEC 6: Soil and Organic Matter (Maintenance) - updated to incorporate the new Environmental Impact Assessment (Agriculture) (Wales) Regulations 2017
- Useful contact details have been updated.

Verifiable Standards 2018

Changes have also been made to clarify GAEC 5 & 6 of the 2018 Verifiable Standards, although no new rules have been introduced. Further details can be found in the Cross Compliance pages on the Welsh Government website www.gov.wales/environmentandcountryside

Verifiable SGlastir Advanced - Unclaimed Capital Works

All 2016 and 2017 Capital Works have to be claimed no later than 28 February 2018 via your RPW online account.

Farm Business Grants

Administration of Farm Business Grants (FBG) will be transferring to Rural Payments Wales (RPW) for the third, and any future rounds of the scheme. The FBG Guidance and Frequently Asked Questions is available on the Welsh Government website. Farmers will be able to apply for FBG through RPW Online from 29 January.

Sheep ectoparasites

Examination of samples for sheep ectoparasites is being offered free of charge in Wales until 31 March 2018. The scheme, supported by Welsh Government, will aid accurate diagnosis, which is a prerequisite for appropriate treatment and successful control of ovine ectoparasites. Improved control of sheep scab is a priority of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework. Testing will be undertaken at APHA Carmarthen VIC. Samples will be received in the normal way, via a veterinary surgeon and should be posted direct to Carmarthen VIC. They must be accompanied by full clinical history to qualify for free testing. Samples can be submitted on a general submission form found at www.ahvla.defra.gov.uk/vet-gateway