

FARMING AND PROPERTY BULLETIN – DECEMBER 2017

New Farming Rules for Water

From 2nd April 2018 **all farmers** in England will be required to follow a new set of farming rules for water. The rules will be:

- Promote good practice in managing fertilisers and manures
- Encourage land managers to take reasonable precautions to prevent diffuse pollution from runoff or soil erosion
- Require soil testing at least every 5 years

A summary of the new rules can be found below:

Rule 1: Planning use of manures and fertilisers

Application of organic manures and manufactured fertilisers to cultivated land must be planned in advance in order to meet soil and crop nutrient needs and not exceed these levels. The planning must take into account where there is significant risk of pollution and the results of testing for Phosphorus, Potassium, Magnesium, pH and Nitrogen levels in the soil, which must be done at least every 5 years.

In assessing whether there is a 'significant risk of pollution' a person must take into account the following factors:

- the slope of the agricultural land, especially if the slope is greater than 12 degrees
- any ground cover
- the proximity to inland and coastal waters
- the proximity to wetlands
- the weather conditions and forecasts
- the soil type and condition
- the presence and condition of agricultural land drains

Rule 2: Storing organic manures

Organic manures must not be stored on land:

- within 10 metres of inland freshwaters or coastal waters
- where there is significant risk of pollution entering inland or coastal waters
- within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole

Rule 3: Applying manures or fertilisers

Organic manures or manufactured fertilisers must not be applied:

- if the soil is waterlogged, flooded or snow covered
- if the soil has been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours
- if there is significant risk of causing pollution

Rule 4: Where not to apply organic manures

Organic manures must not be applied:

- within 10 metres of any inland freshwaters or coastal waters, or within 6 metres of inland or coastal waters if precision equipment is used
- within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole

Rule 5: Where not to apply fertilisers

Manufactured fertilisers must not be applied within 2 metres of inland or coastal waters.

Rule 6: Reasonable precautions to prevent soil erosion

You must take all reasonable precautions to prevent significant runoff and soil erosion that may arise from:

- the application of organic manure and manufactured fertiliser
- land management and cultivation practices to include seedbeds, tramlines, beds, stubbles, polytunnels, irrigation and rows
- poaching by livestock

Rule 7: Protecting against soil erosion by livestock

Any land within 5 metres of inland and coastal waters must be protected from significant soil erosion by preventing poaching by livestock.

Rule 8: Position of livestock feeders

Livestock feeders must not be positioned:

- within 10 metres of any inland freshwaters or coastal waters
- within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole
- where there is significant risk of pollution from poaching around the feeder entering any inland or coastal waters

BPS- Payments Update

The BPS payment window opened on 1st December 2017 and will close on 30th June 2018. The RPA is aiming to make 90% of payments to claimants by 31st December 2017. All payments made by the RPA to English BPS claimants will be followed by a remittance advice and Claim Statement.

Claim Statements are being sent out in batches with the first 5,000 being issued the week commencing 4th December with further batches being issued during December and early 2018 and should be sent out around 14 days after payment is made. As in 2015 and 2016 they are being posted to the BPS claimant, not the authorised agent, and will be in the same format as before with no breakdown of the land parcels.

The sole new element on the Claim Statement will be the addition of Greening Administrative Penalties which apply from BPS 2017 with only greening payment reductions applying in 2015 and 2016, not penalties.

**57th ANNUAL HAY & STRAW AUCTION SALE
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THIMBLEBY & SHORLAND**

TUESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2018

At 2.30pm

In the Loyd Lindsay Rooms, Ardington, Wantage, Oxon OX12 8PS

In order to ensure the continuity of the Adkin Annual Hay and Straw Sale we will from hereon be operating in conjunction with Thimbleby & Shorland of Reading. We intend to work closely together to maintain this important service.

Entry forms available from the office or www.adkin.co.uk
All enquiries to Philip Pocock or Hannah Rickards (01235 862888)