



Agribuzz - land management news

Issue 11 – autumn 2013

Midlands edition

Welcome to AgriBuzz

Welcome to AgriBuzz, our quarterly e-newsletter for farmers and land managers in the Midlands, keeping you up to date with information relevant to your agricultural business.

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Hot topics

Livestock Manure Storage and Enforcement

We need to reinforce the message to farmers regarding the storage of livestock manures in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ). Farmers who have been in an NVZ since 2009 or before, had to meet the requirements for storing slurry and solid manures by 1 January 2012, (or 2013 in deferred slurry storage areas). It is important that anyone who does not currently comply should understand the rules, and the risks of non-compliance.

A [briefing](#) outlining the rules, why they matter and what may happen if you fail to comply is available on the [Tried and Tested](#) website. Further, more detailed, guidance can be found on our [website](#).

2014 NVZ Grassland Derogation

If you farm grazing livestock and at least 80 per cent of your land is grassland, you may be eligible for a derogation from the livestock manure N farm limit. NVZ regulations limit the amount of nitrogen (N) from livestock manure that can be applied across the farm to 170kg per hectare per year.

In 2009, the UK government successfully negotiated with the European Commission, a derogation to allow farms with grazing livestock and more than 80% of their area under grass to work to a higher limit of up to 250 kilograms of nitrogen per hectare. This was as long as you made a successful application each year and met certain conditions.



Dairy cattle at grass

The application period for a derogation for 2014 opened on 1 October 2013 and will close on 31 December 2013. You can find further information on our [website](#). You can apply [online](#) or by telephoning 0845603 3113.



Maize harvest

Maize, Mud and Manure

We have observed significant quantities of soil on roads this autumn, which can be linked to maize harvesting and other field operations. While this represents a loss of the primary agricultural resources, soil, it also poses risk to road users and local rivers when the weather turns wet. Road traffic and rainfall carry nutrient and sediment laden water into streams and rivers, choking fish spawning grounds and affecting other wildlife.

Preparation for next year's maize crop can cause problems too, particularly if large volumes of manure are applied. Soil nutrient levels can become excessively high, which can increase the risk of nutrients, such as phosphate, being lost to local rivers.

You can help reduce the loss of this valuable resource and prevent run off to our roads and rivers. For more information see this [Maize Best Practice Information Sheet](#).

Land Management and Business Resilience

[Climate East Midlands](#) has been working with businesses, taking a risk management and business continuity approach to building their resilience to severe weather and climate change. The [Land Management Business Resilience](#) project (LaMB) is a complementary project that aims to develop support for the land management sector in 2013-14. It is funded by the Environment Agency and is being delivered in partnership with the Defra-funded Farming Advice Service.



Windblown arable soil

Agriculture is an important sector in the East Midlands. The region is a major food provider for the UK, containing large areas of prime agricultural land.

To support farmers and land managers in the East Midlands to prepare for severe weather and climate change, the project has published a guide called "[Weathering the Storm – Saving and Making Money in a Changing Climate](#)" for farmers and land managers.

The guide was launched at a series of half-day soil management workshops, held in Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire in August.

A summary of key messages from the Soil Management workshops is available to [download](#).

Events and diary dates

Event	Date(s)
Bakewell Market Drop in Centre Come and see us on the first Monday of the month: 10am – 2pm, together with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for advice and information.	4 November 2013 2 December 2013 6 January 2014
Improve business competitiveness and meet cross compliance requirements Free workshops where Farming Advice Service (FAS) specialists will provide the latest information on; farm profitability forecasts and farm business analysis, the CAP reform and cross compliance, including key action points. Refreshments are provided. Two sessions available at each location - 10am-12.30pm or 1.30pm-4pm. To book contact the Farming Advice Service via email or call 0845 3451302.	13 November 2013 - The George Hotel, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire 20 November 2013 - Chetwode Arms, Market Drayton, Shropshire 21 November 2013 – Hawford YFC, Shires Farm, Hawford, Worcestershire
Nutrient Management and Soil Protection Workshop Free workshops for farmers inside an NVZ aiming to help you to prepare your nutrient management plan and complete your soil protection review to meet the requirements of an RPA cross compliance inspection. To book contact the Farming Advice Service via email or call 0845 3451302.	13 November 2013 - Bullcroft Memorial Hall, Doncaster - 10am-12.30pm. 19 November 2013 – Slate House Farm, Brigg, Lincolnshire - 10am-12.30pm.
Practical Manure Planning A free workshop giving practical advice on nutrient and manure management planning in the Lincolnshire Wolds. This event will include; NVZ revisions 2013, spreading rates and methods, whole farm and field limits, in field storage, precision spreading techniques, manure management and direct drilling. BASIS CPD points available. To book contact Barney Parker via email or call 01636 676107 / 07788 293348 or visit the website .	5 November 2013 - Scamblesby Farms, Lincolnshire - 10am-1pm.
Natural England ELS online webinars	28 October 2013

Free ELS online training sessions from the comfort of your farm office. Covering accessing the online software, producing, completing and submitting an ELS application and completing the Farm Environmental Record. To register for a session or for further information please email or call 0300 0601695.	25 November 2013 23 December 2013
LAMMA 2014 The UK's largest farm machinery, equipment and agricultural services show. LAMMA is free to attend and regularly attracts up to 40,000 farmers from around the country and overseas.	22 - 23 January 2014
AgriBuzz - Winter Issue Please email us with any content ideas, stories or photos.	January 2014

Useful websites

Environment Agency - Agriculture	Relevant information covering the whole sector.
Environment Agency – Publications catalogue	Download the current and previous issues of AgriBuzz as a PDF document. Search for 'AgriBuzz' as the publications title.
Environment Agency – What's in your back yard?	Use our interactive maps to find out more about the environment where you live. Including proposed NVZ designation, aquifer designation, groundwater source protection zones, flood maps and river quality.
Environment Agency – new agricultural waste exemption lookup guide	This new guide helps you look up which of the new exemptions you need to register for activities carried out on farms.
SSAFO (Silage, Slurry & Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations	Information and guidance for the design, construction and maintenance of new or substantially enlarged / reconstructed storage facilities.
Campaign for the Farmed Environment	An industry wide campaign that recognises the importance of managing the farmed environment voluntarily. Including how to take part and an online record and advice area
Get Pelletwise	Information, advice, news, Q&A's and useful calculators promoting and encouraging best practice with metaldehyde slug pellets.
The Voluntary Initiative	Information and advice promoting responsible pesticide use.
DEFRA – NVZ	NVZ guidance and information. Including access to the leaflets and publications, and the regional boundary maps.
DEFRA - Farm inspections	A guide to provide information about how and when government officials might inspect a farm in England. It will tell you about who may inspect your farm, what they are looking for, and why they might visit you.

Contact us

Please [email us](#) if you need any information or advice, or have any feedback or ideas for the next issue of the AgriBuzz. Alternatively call the customer service line: 03708 506 506 quoting 'AgriBuzz'.

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