



## AgriBuzz - land management news



**Issue 12 – winter 2014**

**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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Snow covered road

### Hot topics

#### Key Actions for Farmers Relating to Water Management

Introducing our new theme based, best practise approach to our work with the agricultural industry. We ask our staff, farm advisors and farmers to work together to:

- Manage your nutrients well
- Manage your soil sustainably
- Manage your water use effectively and plan for your longer term water needs

- Manage your livestock so they do not freely access watercourses
- Use pesticides efficiently and dispose of them carefully

We hope that this simple approach will help farmers understand the key things we'd like them to do, why this is and how it will benefit their businesses. We will use these themes in future newsletters to signpost the key objective of any advice and guidance. The themes are summarised in a short leaflet which we will be giving out at events for farmers and farm advisors. Electronic copies are available for use by advice delivery partners. Please [email us](#) if you would like a copy of the leaflet.



nutrients



pesticides



water



soils



livestock



nutrients

### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones update

In November 2013, the NVZ guidance document was updated to reflect the final outcomes of farmers' NVZ appeals since June 2013. It also clarifies sections of the guidance queried by stakeholders since June 2013 and corrects minor typographical errors.

In addition to the revised guidance, Defra has produced a file of user-friendly blank tables from the guidance. The file allows you to use the tables you need and, for some tables, avoids printing text surrounding them in the NVZ guidance. They can be printed after their completion onscreen or before for manual completion. See [GOV.UK](#) to view the updated guidance and tables.



Blended fertiliser



livestock

### Joint Government and Industry Slurry Storage and Management Project

In November 2013 Defra published a report that presented the findings and recommendations of an Industry Working Group set up to review the management of slurry in England. The Group included the key organisations representing farmers. Using the latest available evidence they examined current legislation, enforcement, advice available and capital issue before submitting their recommendations to Ministers for approval. As previously promised by Government, they paid particular attention to Closed Periods within NVZs and feasibility of introducing flexibility by tailoring dates to local conditions. They concluded that the current evidence does not support flexible closed periods at this stage but Defra will revisit this if the evidence base changes. The full report can be viewed on the [GOV.UK](#) website.



**Boom irrigator in operation**



### Water Abstraction

The reporting documents for all summer abstractors were sent out at the end of November and should have been returned to us by the end of December. Abstractors need to ensure they have completed their forms.

We will be following up non-returns during early 2014 because the information is needed to assess the effects of abstractions on the environment. Failure to provide the required information could result in enforcement action being taken, and where necessary, abstractors will be reported to the Rural Payments Agency (RPA)

Further information can be found on our [website](#) or by calling our Customer Contact Centre 03708 506506

In addition the Government are currently consulting on the future of abstraction licensing. You can view the press release and take part in this consultation on the [GOV.UK](#) website.

### East Coast Tidal Surge and Flooding

In December, a tidal surge along the East Coast saw around 1,400 properties flooded and resulted in record sea levels in a number of locations.

We currently estimate that 27 km<sup>2</sup> of farmland was flooded whilst 600 km<sup>2</sup> of agricultural land has been protected from flooding. A briefing note is available for NFU members on the [NFU website](#), which provides advice to farmers, landowners and tenants on recovery following the surge. It also gives an overview of the impact on agriculture that we are currently aware of. A similar briefing note is also available on our [website](#).



**Flooded farm land**

You can prepare your property for flooding. It's impossible to completely flood-proof a property but there are lots of things you can do to reduce flood damage. Check out what action you can take by looking at our [website](#)

### Events and diary dates

Event	Date(s)
<a href="#">Bakewell Market Drop in Centre</a> Come and see us on the first Monday of the month: 10am – 2pm, together with the Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer for advice and information.	3 February 2014 3 March 2014 31 March 2014
<a href="#">Green Futures</a> The events will cover Cross Compliance, the latest dos and don'ts, including NVZs, practical advice on soil and farm management to support profitability, avoiding water pollution and aiding compliance with the Water Framework Directive. The events are held in conjunction with the Farming Advice Service (FAS), the Country	<a href="#">East Midlands</a> 3 February 2014 – Elsham Golf Club, North Lincolnshire 4 February 2014 – Swan Rural Enterprise Centre, Towcester, Northamptonshire 6 February 2014 – Louth Golf Club, Lincolnshire 10 February 2014 – Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire

<p>Landowners Association (CLA), the Environment Agency (EA), Natural England, the National Farmers Union (NFU) and the Rural Hub Network (West Midlands). To book your place: -East Midlands, call 0845 3451302 -West Midlands, call 01432 870024.</p>	<p>11 February 2014 – Bluebell Inn, Tissington, Derbyshire 12 February 2014 – Conservation Club, Market Harborough, Leicestershire 24 February 2014 – Springfields Exhibition Centre, Spalding, Lincolnshire</p> <p><a href="#">West Midlands</a> 27 January 2014 - Great Bridgeford Village Hall, Great Bridgeford, Staffordshire 27 January 2014 - Rudyard Hotel, Rudyard, Staffordshire 24 February 2014 - New Cattle Market, Hereford 3 March 2014 - YFC Centre, Shires Farm, Hawford, Worcestershire 3 March 2014 - Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire</p>
<p><a href="#">Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE)</a> These joint farm walks with CFE, FAS and EA will provide an update on Cross Compliance, NVZs, the Soil Protection Review and resource protection. Places are limited. To book your place, call 01636 676107</p>	<p>27 January 2014 - Riseholme College, Lincoln 28 January 2014 - Blaco Hill Farm, Mattersey, Nottinghamshire 31 January 2014 – Normanton Lodge, Empingham, Leicestershire</p>
<p><a href="#">Natural England</a> <a href="#">Sustainable Intensification</a>: What does it mean for your farm's future? How should farmers respond? This conference hears from farmers, policy makers and industry representatives with ideas and innovation. To book your place, call 01433 639829</p>	<p>28 January 2014 – Newark Showground, Nottinghamshire</p>
<p><a href="#">LAMMA 2014</a> 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.</p>	<p>22 - 23 January 2014, Peterborough</p>
<p>AgriBuzz - spring Issue Please <a href="#">email us</a> with any content ideas, stories or photos.</p>	<p>April 2014</p>

## Useful websites

<a href="#">Environment Agency - Agriculture</a>	Relevant information covering the whole sector.
<a href="#">Environment Agency – Publications catalogue</a>	Download the current and previous issues of AgriBuzz as a PDF document. Search for 'AgriBuzz' as the publications title.
<a href="#">Environment Agency – What's in your back yard?</a>	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.
<a href="#">Environment Agency – new agricultural waste exemption lookup guide</a>	This new guide helps you look up which of the new exemptions you need to register for activities carried out on farms.
<a href="#">SSAFO (Silage, Slurry &amp; Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations</a>	Information and guidance for the design, construction and maintenance of new or substantially enlarged / reconstructed storage facilities.

<a href="#">Campaign for the Farmed Environment</a>	An industry wide campaign that recognises the importance of managing the farmed environment voluntarily.
<a href="#">Get Pelletwise</a>	Information, advice, news, Q&As and useful calculators promoting and encouraging best practice with metaldehyde slug pellets.
<a href="#">The Voluntary Initiative</a>	Information and advice promoting responsible pesticide use.
<a href="#">DEFRA – NVZ</a>	NVZ guidance and information. Including access to the leaflets and publications, and the regional boundary maps.
<a href="#">DEFRA - Farm inspections</a>	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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