

(7) 20140721 Defra's final comments on the survey draft

From: [Redacted] (Defra)

Sent: 21 July 2014 18:38

To: [Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted] (DEFRA); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Questions for the BHS Survey on ragwort with Defra changes draft

Thanks [Redacted]

We appreciate your speedy turn-round and helpful clarifications / amendments.

I have added in a couple of responses and minor suggestions:

- Q1 – I have queried 'professional use'
- Q2 – OK to leave in but do reflect on those points in the comment box (it is upto you if you amend or not)
- Q6 – yes, thank you, we should have added
- Q11 – upto you really, the question is about facts so 'leading' is not the issue. If you think we ought to know about whether people know the importance of good pasture management then include.
- Q21/22 – much clearer (I assume Q20 will be deleted)
- Q27 – about Acts – that's OK, leave in
- Q32 – I've added a comment in response on permissions

So basically agreeing with your amendments unless I've added a comment box and adding a comment where you have added one. So just a case of accepting changes (or rejecting them in the case of the table of Acts), checking a couple of formatting issues e.g. the signposting to follow-on questions, your decision on outstanding points and getting it going!

Copy with comments attached.

Thanks for all your hard work on this.

I shall be around almost any time from 9.30 if needed.

[Redacted]

From: [Redacted] [[Redacted]]

Sent: 21 July 2014 16:05

To: [Redacted] (Defra)

Cc: [Redacted] (DEFRA); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted] (Defra); [Redacted]; [Redacted]

Subject: FW: Questions for the BHS Survey on ragwort with Defra changes draft

We have been through the suggested changes and points you make in the survey

1. There are some amends we agree with but have not yet actioned e.g. making q 12 into a table. This will be actioned and is acknowledged in the document

2. We have deleted the comments box where we have agreed your suggested change and have also made this in the body of the survey
3. There are some small amends from us for you to agree
4. There are a couple of comments in the comments boxes from us, for you to comment back on!
5. We have split the question around pulling/safety measures as we believe this clarifies the situation and also takes on board your comments.

I hope this is clear.

If you would like to discuss further, please do call me on [Redacted]. I am around now for the rest of the day and will be free between 10.20 and 11.30 tomorrow. Otherwise I am out of the office in meetings. However, [Redacted] or [Redacted] may be available.

Thank you

[Redacted]

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Attachment from e-mail

Draft questions for the BHS' Survey on Ragwort

Thank you for taking part in the British Horse Society Ragwort Survey produced in association with DEFRA. The aim of this survey is to assess the level of awareness and understanding about ragwort. We are very grateful to you for finding time to complete the survey. The results of the survey will help us to protect horses.

The survey has been tested and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. All your answers will be kept completely confidential. Results will be reported later this year at the aggregate level and will not be used for any individual enforcement action.

The first set of questions (Questions 1-8) is about you and your interest in horses and equine management.

- 1) What best describes your involvement and interest in horses? (tick, most applicable but can be more than one)
- i) Recreational- I ride / drive horses but do not own them or manage their day to day care
 - ii) Horse owner - I own or manage day to day care of horses for own / family use
 - iii) I own, rent or manage land used for my horses
 - iv) I own, rent or manage land (including for equine fodder) used by others' horses
 - v) I own / work at a livery or riding school or other stables and manage land for horses
 - vi) Other: please state

- 2) Do you own or manage land that is adjacent to land used by horses?

- a) If yes, what is your land used for? (tick all that apply)
- i) Arable for equine fodder
 - ii) Other arable
 - iii) Livestock grazing
 - iv) Buildings/gardens
 - v) Unused
 - vi) Other – (please write in)

- 3) Are you a member or active supporter of any of the following organisations (tick all that apply)

The British Horse Society
British Riding Clubs
Blue Cross Animal Welfare Charity
Bransby Home of Rest for Horses
Donkey Sanctuary (The)
Equine Grass Sickness Fund
Horses4Heros
Horses and Ponies Protection Association (HAPPA)
Horse Trust (The)
HorseWorld

Comment [TP1]: OK to leave but just reflect on those comments below

Comment [TP2]: We don't think this question adds anything. Up to BHS to say if it is essential but given the length of questionnaire we would suggest removing.

If this question is included then you will need to link appropriately to Q1

(a) Do we need to distinguish between own horses and those owned by neighbours? Should we say 'your' or all (including neighbouring holdings)....

(b) Arable for fodder - Is this asking primarily about grassland for fodder i.e. hay / silage (rather than stubble turnips, mangolds, kale, maize silage). If so be more explicit perhaps. Land can be managed in rotation so one year may be other arable and other years may be fodder or grazed

(c) Used - Not sure what this category will capture – environmental land? woods? Unmanaged / uncropped? I'd be inclined to remove and let people put into other or call 'un-managed for livestock or crops' or something if it aims to pick up 'wasteground' which might have ragwort. To me the main uses are pasture for fodder, pasture for grazing, arable, not used for crops or grazing and gardens etc.

We would like to leave this question is because we believe we will capture data from people who own land used for more than one purpose.

Pony Club (The)
Rare Breeds Survival Trust (RBST)
Redwings Horse Sanctuary
Riding for the Disabled Association
RSPCA
Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies
Veteran Horse Welfare (The)
Working Horse Trust (The)
World Horse Welfare
British Carriagedriving
British Dressage
British Dressage Supporters Club
British Equestrian Federation
British Equestrian Trade Association (The)
British Equestrian Vaulting
British Equestrian Veterinary Association (The)
British Eventing
British Harness Racing Club (The)
British Horseball Association (The)
British Horse Driving Trials Association
British Horseracing Authority
British Paralympic Association
British Showjumping
British Show Pony Society
British Young Riders Dressage Scheme
Byeways and Bridleways Trust (The)
Countryside Alliance
Country Gentlemen's Association (The)
Country Land and Business Association (The)
Endurance GB
Horse Driving Trials Supporters Club
Horse Trials Support Group
Hurlingham Polo Association
JumpCross
Mounted Games Association of Great Britain (The)
National Farmers Union (The)
National Trainers Federation (The)
Open Spaces Society
Ponies Association (UK)
Pony Riders Association
Racehorse Owners' Association
Side Saddle Association (The)
Thoroughbred Breeders Association (The)
UK Polocrosse Association
Western Equestrian Society
Western Horsemen's Association of Great Britain
Other

- 4) Your postcode for the land you own/rent/manage for horses
- 5) Please tick the box that applies to you.
- a) Male
 - b) Female

6) What best describes your knowledge of equine management

☒ I have little or no knowledge

- a) ☐ I have a basic general knowledge
- b) ☐ I have a good grasp of most equine management issues
- c) ☐ I consider I have a very good knowledge of equine health and management
- d) ☐ I am an equine professional and/or have formal qualifications

Comment [TP3]: Yep – we meant to add!

7) Please tick the box that applies to you.

- a) ☐ Under 18
- b) ☐ 18 to 29 years
- c) ☐ 30 to 49 years
- d) ☐ 50 to 64 years
- e) ☐ 65 and over

The following batch of questions (Questions 9 – 13) concerns your general awareness of ragwort.

8) How confident are you that you would recognise ragwort if you saw it growing?

- a) ☐ Very confident
- b) ☐ Fairly confident
- c) ☐ Not very confident
- d) ☐ Not at all confident

9) Which, if any, of the following images contains ragwort? (tick any or all that you think contain ragwort)



- 10) Which of the following phrases most accurately reflects your understanding of the effects of ragwort on horses:
- a) I am fully aware of the effect that ragwort can have on horses
 - b) I am reasonably aware of the effect that ragwort can have on horses but without knowing all the details
 - c) I am aware that ragwort has some effect on horses but I am not certain of the details
 - d) I am vaguely aware that ragwort has some effect on horses but I have little detailed knowledge
 - e) I have no knowledge of the effect that ragwort can have on horses

11) Before you began taking part in this survey, to what extent were you aware of the following facts about ragwort?

| Facts about ragwort | I was fully aware of this fact | I was vaguely aware of this fact | I was not aware of this fact | I believed something that would contradict with this fact |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| Ragwort is extremely toxic to horses. | | | | |
| A horse can consume small amounts of ragwort over a long period of time with no apparent ill effects. | | | | |
| If enough ragwort is consumed, no matter over how long a period, ragwort will cause irreversible liver damage in horses that can lead to death. | | | | |
| Ragwort is controlled under the Weeds Act (1959) and Ragwort Control Act (2003). | | | | |
| Cattle, pigs and chickens are also highly sensitive to ragwort but not as susceptible as horses. | | | | |

Comment [jmd4]: I wonder whether there is another question in here about pasture management i.e. *ragwort will establish easier on an overgrazed pasture or pasture with bare /disturbed earth?*

We are not sure this can be tackled without being leading.

Comment [TP5]: But we are talking about facts so if ragwort establishes easier on disturbed ground e.g. with overgrazing then should be OK to include.

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| Dead and dying ragwort remains poisonous to livestock. | | | | |
| Ragwort can contaminate feedstuff (hay, silage). | | | | |
| There is a legal requirement for land owners/managers to control ragwort. | | | | |

Add a column for I believe this to be untrue

The following questions (Questions 13 to the end) focus on your personal experiences with managing ragwort on land you own, rent or manage

If participant answered yes to questions 1 or 2 (own , rent and manage land used by horses or adjacent to land used by horses):

12) To what extent are you aware of your legal responsibilities to remove ragwort from land that you own / rent / manage?

- a) I am fully aware of my legal responsibilities to remove ragwort.
- b) I am generally aware of my legal responsibilities to remove ragwort although not certain of the details.
- c) I am vaguely aware of my legal responsibilities to remove ragwort
- d) I am unaware of my legal responsibilities to remove ragwort
- e) I do not believe that I have any legal responsibility to remove ragwort

Make into a box (q12)

13) What do you understand your legal responsibilities regarding ragwort to be? (please write in) put this above q 13

14) Do you take any preventative measures to reduce the risk of ragwort on land that you own / rent / manage?

15) Which of the following preventative measures to reduce the risk of getting ragwort do you take? (tick as many as appropriate)

- a) Hand pulling ragwort on land adjacent to the land you own, manage or rent Making sure that there are no bare patches in pasture
- b) Removing droppings on a regular basis

Comment [TP6]: Ahh I see.... OK

- c) Making sure not to overstock or overgraze paddocks
- d) Topping/mowing
- e) Other preventative measures (please write in)
- f) No preventative measures taken

16) Have you ever had ragwort on land that you own / rent / manage?

17) Was this in the last 12 months?

18) What steps, if any, did you take to remove the ragwort from the land that you own / rent / manage?

- a) Pulling up the ragwort
- b) Mowing or cutting down the ragwort
- c) Chemical spraying of the ragwort
- d) Other steps (please write in)
- e) No steps taken

If participant answers e to question 19

19) Why did you not take action to remove the ragwort from the land that you own / rent / manage? (tick any that apply)

- a) Was not aware that ragwort was harmful to horses
- b) Was not aware that I had a legal obligation to remove ragwort
- c) The ragwort was in an area more than 50 metres away from any land used by horses
- d) Was unaware that the ragwort needed to be removed
- e) Did not feel that any effort to remove the ragwort would be successful
- f) Prefer to retain the ragwort for other reasons
- g) Could not afford to pay for the ragwort to be professionally removed
- h) Did not have the time to remove the ragwort myself
- i) Other (please write in)

(if the participant answered a to question 18)

20) What safety precautions did you take when pulling up ragwort from land that you own / rent / manage?

- a) Wearing thick safety gloves
- b) Wearing goggles
- c) Burning all removed ragwort plant material
- d) Other precautions (please write in)
- e) No safety precautions taken

21) Did you wear protective goggles and thick safety gloves (as recommended for personal safety) when pulling up ragwort?

22) What method did you use to dispose of ragwort?

- a) Burnt all removed ragwort plant material
- b) Added ragwort plant material to compost
- c) Left the ragwort plant material in the field

Comment [TP7]: It will depend on what method – if you are mowing in a tractor then you might not wear gloves but if you were spraying then I guess you would be wearing gloves and goggles (to follow HSE requirements) Please suggest some amends. The issue is not around spraying – and therefore needing to wear protective clothing due the chemicals, it is because it has been advised and is common practice to wear gloves and sometimes goggles when pulling ragwort

Comment [TP8]: What about combining into 'appropriate safety wear for the control method e.g. thick gloves, eye protection'

Comment [TP9]: Would suggest then that we only make the question applicable if people have indicated earlier in the survey that they have removed ragwort by pulling it up

Comment [TP10]: Yep – good idea – best to be specific as to what the question is wanting.

d) Other (please write in)

Comment [TP11]: Yep – much better. I assume Q20 will be deleted.

23) Have you sought advice about ragwort from any of the following organisations (tick all that apply)

- a) British Horse Society
- b) Your Local Authority
- c) Government department
- d) Natural England
- e) Other organisations (please write in)

Comment [TP12]: Was it worth breaking this down further – up to you....

If any of a – d ticked in question 22:

24) How helpful or unhelpful was that advice?

- a) Very helpful
- b) Fairly helpful
- c) Fairly unhelpful
- d) Very unhelpful

25) Please provide an estimate of how much time you have personally spent dealing with ragwort on land that you own / rent / manage over the last 12 months

26) Please provide an estimate of how much money you have spent on dealing with ragwort on land that you own / rent / manage over the last 12 months.

27) Please state what this comprised e.g. contractor, spray etc.

The following questions (Questions 28 – 37) are about your experience of ragwort on land owned or managed by other people.

28) At any point in the last 7 days have you seen ragwort on land that is used by horses?

29) At any point in the last 7 days have you seen ragwort on land that is adjacent to that used by horses?

If the participant answers yes to questions 28-31 – Q32 to follow each question above when answered positively)

30) How much ragwort was present on the land at its most prolific?

- a) A few isolated plants
- b) Covered around a quarter of the land
- c) Covered around a half of the land
- d) Covered around three quarters of the land
- e) Covered most of the land

If the participant answered yes to questions 28 or 30:

31) Where you have seen ragwort on land adjacent to that used by horses?

- a) Alongside railways
- b) Alongside main roads

- c) Alongside minor roadsPublically owned land e.g. parks
- d) Privately owned land e.g. fields
- e) Don't know...

If the participant answered yes to any of questions 27 – 31:

- 32) What steps have you taken when you have seen ragwort growing on land that you do not own?
(tick all that apply)
- a) Reported the presence of ragwort to the landowner
 - b) Removed the ragwort by pulling it out by hand (with permission from the owner)
 - c) Removed the ragwort by digging it out (with permission from the owner)Carried out chemical spraying on the area affected (with permission from the owner)
 - d) Reported the ragwort to a local council
 - e) Reported the ragwort to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs
 - f) Reported to the BHS or other charity
 - g) Reported to Natural England
 - h) Other action – (write in)
 - i) No action taken

Note from BHS, we are not sure that this is relevant (permissions) if people are pulling from some land e.g. hedgerows and verges.

Comment [TP13]: I think we were conscious of not wanting to encourage either trespass or inappropriate spraying. How about for pulling / digging if you say 'if private land, with permission' and chemical spraying 'with permission from the owner'

If the participant answered 'a' to question 33:

- 33) Where you have reported the presence of ragwort to a landowner how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the action that was taken as a result?
- a) Totally satisfied
 - b) Fairly satisfied
 - c) Fairly dissatisfied
 - d) Very dissatisfied

If the participant answered 'j' to question 33:

34) Were there any particular reasons why you did not take any action? (please write in)

35) To the best of your knowledge was the ragwort fully removed?

36)

The following questions (Questions) are about your experience of horse health problems directly caused by ragwort.

37) Has any horse owned or kept by you, family, friends, neighbours had health problems where ragwort poisoning was suspected?

If answer yes

49.

| | Horse I owned / kept | Horse owned / kept by neighbour, | In last 12 months? |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | | | |

Formatted Table

| | | family, friend | |
|---|--|----------------|--|
| Ragwort poisoning suspected | | | |
| Ragwort poisoning confirmed by vet with pathology report | | | |
| Horse death by ragwort poisoning suspected | | | |
| Horse death by ragwort poisoning confirmed by vet with pathology report | | | |

The following questions (Questions) are about the purchasing of forage.

38) Do you buy forage for any horses horse

If yes

39) Do you check the forage that you buy for the presence of ragwort?

(if the participant answered no to 47)

48) What reasons did you have for not checking forage for the presence of ragwort?
(please write in)

49) Have you ever purchased contaminated forage?

(If the participant answered yes to 49)

50. Did you report the contaminated forage that you found?

- a. Yes - to the supplier
- b. Yes – to another organisation (please write in)
- c. No

(If the participant answered a) or b) to 48)

51. Where you have reported the presence of ragwort in forage how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the action that was taken as a result?

- a. Totally satisfied
- b. Fairly satisfied
- c. Fairly dissatisfied
- d. Very dissatisfied

52. The following is a list of some of the different public policy responses that are used in relation to ragwort. To what extent do you think there should be more or less of the activity shown?

Comment [jmd14]: Fine with the table as suggested, however, this question is very much angled at the public sector. Conversely could we ask if there is anything more private sector and interested organisations can do?

| Statement | much more needed | more needed | about right | less needed | much less needed |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Enforcement of ragwort control regulations | | | | | |
| Ragwort control action by owners of all land | | | | | |
| Improving knowledge about risks of ragwort | | | | | |
| Improving knowledge about control of ragwort | | | | | |
| Improving knowledge about legal responsibilities | | | | | |
| Local councils monitoring ragwort | | | | | |

53. Do you have any other comments that you would like to make on this subject? (please write in)

Thank you very much for taking part in the survey. If you would like to receive an email with a link to the survey results when they are published please enter your email here: