

# NFU South East Update

18/03/16

## Latest news from NFU south east region

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### Member benefit of the week:

BPS problem? NFU CallFirst can help you. Details here <http://www.nfuonline.com/membership/farmer-grower/member-services/bps-problem-nfu-callfirst-can-help-you/>

**NFU Update will take a break for Easter, returning in a smart new format on 1 April.**

### Bird scarers – be a good neighbour:

Yes, it's that time of year again, and the calls from the public have started! We have managed to avoid having these banned so far despite increasing pressure, by producing the NFU Code of Practise. Please follow the guidelines <http://www.nfuonline.com/assets/4662>

### EU referendum meetings:

The NFU is consulting members up and down the country prior to the NFU Council meeting in April and we are holding meetings to debate the pros and cons of EU membership in advance of that to gather views. NFU Deputy Director General, Martin Haworth, will present the findings of a study commissioned by the NFU on various scenarios. Full details were in last week's Update or can be found here <http://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/our-offices/south-east/landing-page-items/farming-and-rural-events-in-the-south-east/> Demand is high so please book your place as soon as possible at [south.east@nfu.org.uk](mailto:south.east@nfu.org.uk) or on 01730 711950.

### NFU member survey:

This is just to let you know that you may be contacted by NFU staff as we will be running a survey about the EU referendum.

### BPS 2016 application:

The first element of the online BPS 2016 claim process was launched this week. Release 1 will allow checking of business data and changing of land data or transfer entitlements land. The second release expected shortly, will allow an online claim to be processed. **CHECK, CHECK AND TREBLE CHECK** the information, particularly the land information, because many members have told us that this is incorrect! The RPA will issue paper forms and guidance to c23,500 farmers who did a paper application form in 2014. NFU Vice President, Guy Smith, is meeting the RPA again tomorrow. We are very pleased to say that there will be staff present from the RPA at our BPS 2016 application meetings. Details were in last week's Update or can be found on line: <http://www.nfuonline.com/about-us/our-offices/south-east/landing-page-items/farming-and->

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[rural-events-in-the-south-east/](#) Please book your place as soon as possible at [south.east@nfu.org.uk](mailto:south.east@nfu.org.uk) or on 01730 711950.

## **Bovine TB important updates:**

There have been a number of new TB rule changes recently announced by Defra. From 6 April 2016, new legislation will require farmers in the Low Risk Area of England to post movement test cattle bought from the High Risk or Edge Area (anywhere that is one year testing). This is being brought in to deal with the large amount of TB found in the Low Risk Area which has come from cattle movements. This will also help move towards gaining officially TB free status for the Low Risk Area. Three additional measures will be introduced at the same time. All herds in the High Risk Area of England affected by a new TB breakdown will need to pass two strict tests before movement restrictions are lifted. This will increase the chances of finding all infected animals in those herds, helping to reduce recurrent breakdowns and to protect other herds. For the South East, this will only affect the small areas of HRA we have, in East Sussex and West Oxfordshire. Free pre-sale TB tests will be available to many herd owners in the Low Risk Area selling twenty or more cattle in a single purchase. This will enable sellers to provide additional assurance for buyers and mitigate the low risk of undetected TB spreading to new herds. The Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) will start offering the option of private Interferon Gamma blood tests to diagnose TB under certain conditions and subject to prior approval from APHA.

## **TB advisory service:**

At the NFU Conference, Liz Truss announced funding in the region of £1 million (over three years) for a TB Advisory Service which will provide high quality advice on improving resilience to TB to farmers in the High Risk and Edge Areas of England. The service will be procured through open competition later this year and should be operational by the end of this year.

## **TB biosecurity training materials, and on-farm demonstration events:**

Defra will be tendering for delivery of TB biosecurity teaching and training materials, and for a programme of on-farm demonstration events to showcase biosecurity. The teaching and training materials will, when finalised, be freely available from Defra. We will provide more details once contracts are awarded.

## **Badger roadkill survey:**

Finally, Defra is currently tendering for a Badger Roadkill survey for the Edge areas. This will be a concerted effort to pick up and analyse samples of roadkill badgers for TB and will cover a lot of our region. We will pass on further details once this has been finalised.

## **Poultry Industry Outlook survey:**

We are also conducting research to better understand what those involved in the poultry industry see as the greatest challenges and opportunities for poultry meat and egg producers. Please could you assist us by taking five minutes to respond to a few questions [here](#)

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## Grocery Suppliers Code of Practice - training for members:

The NFU is organising training for members who sell produce directly to supermarkets. It is proposed to supply the training for approx. £150 per person (normally £500 per person). Training will cover key topics such as:

- Variation of supply agreements without notice;
- Payment terms;
- Limits on seeking payments for shrinkage/ wastage;
- Compensation for suppliers for forecasting errors;
- Not making suppliers fund promotions;

The course will be run at NFU headquarters in Stoneleigh on 21 April. To register your interest please contact Christine McDowell on 07876 832863 / [Christine.McDowell@nfu.org.uk](mailto:Christine.McDowell@nfu.org.uk)

## NFU seeks Assistant County Adviser:

Do you have a passion for agriculture and an in-depth knowledge of current farming issues? The NFU is looking for a talented individual to work on the ground, supporting NFU members and managing NFU activity within the South East area. Further details are <http://www.nfonline.com/jobs/nfu-careers/assistant-county-adviser-south-east/> We are also seeking a County Adviser for Kent – please see the Kent section.

## Soil health indicators survey for the University of Reading:

As you will know, the University of Reading does some sterling work, and we work with them on a number of projects. We have been asked if we could please encourage members to assist them with this survey. It is for farmers and land managers interested in using simple, low cost, on-farm indicators to measure changes in the 'health' of soils over time. Repeated measurements of these indicators will enable farmers to determine whether their soil management practices are resulting in an improvement, deterioration, or having no impact on the 'health' of their soils. At this initial stage, they want to find out the type of measurements farmers would find most useful. They want to capture your views and opinions, but do NOT need any measurement data. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete - <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SZ2QQFC>

## Southern and Scottish Energy survey:

SSE has launched a new online survey looking for views on plans and commitments which are designed to improve their service to connections customers. There is a prize on offer – a GoPro Hero Camera and a Fitbit Surge watch! The survey is available at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GTXNGH9>

## French student seeks farm placement:

French farm work placement organiser, Odysée Agri, has an 18-year-old woman, Manon Loingeville, who is seeking a placement on a farm or with a farm retail business from the end of June until the end of July 2016.



# NFU South East Update

18/03/16

Manon is studying for a management degree and originally hails from an arable farm so she is used to driving tractors and operating a loader. She speaks reasonable English and conversational Spanish and her previous work experience has been in retail, in a restaurant and also a nursery school. There are no fees associated with Odyssee Agri – for more details see [www.odyssee-agri.com](http://www.odyssee-agri.com) and click on the Union flag to read in English.

## Carl Boyde:

We are very sad to report that Carl Boyde passed away this week. We do not yet know about funeral arrangements. He continued working until very recently, and the list of organisations that he is credited with starting and supporting seems endless.

## FFA London march:

Farmers for Action (FFA) is planning a protest march in central London on Wednesday March 23. The route will be Hyde Park, Trafalgar Square and Whitehall before a petition is presented to 10 Downing Street. Details [here](#)

## Berks, Bucks & Oxon - County Adviser – [tom.cackett@nfu.org.uk](mailto:tom.cackett@nfu.org.uk)

### NFU Reading Branch:

All members are warmly invited to the branch AGM on Tuesday 22 March at 7.00pm upstairs at The Bull pub in Theale (food will be provided). To confirm attendance please text: 07967 69850, or call the branch: 01189 30591, or email: [reading@nfumutual.co.uk](mailto:reading@nfumutual.co.uk)

## Hampshire and Surrey – County Adviser [sandra.nichols@nfu.org.uk](mailto:sandra.nichols@nfu.org.uk) - [twitter](#)

### A Rural Statement for Surrey:

Surrey County Council's, Surrey Countryside and Rural Economy Forum (SCREF) launched their 'Rural Statement' at a conference last week: view it here - [http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0012/82110/SCREF-Surrey-Rural-Statement-final.pdf](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0012/82110/SCREF-Surrey-Rural-Statement-final.pdf)

### NFU Alton and Petersfield Branch:

The branch meeting this week was held at the Council Offices at Penns Place. Farmland covers 80% of the EHDC area so it is very important for the area and members put their views across to both Councillors and Council Officers who make decisions affecting us and our businesses.

### Hare coursers convicted – Whitchurch:

Three males appeared at Aldershot Magistrates Court charged with an offence under the the Game Act 1831 relating to hare coursing near Micheldever Road, Whitchurch in September. The three were later summoned to appear at court where they were found guilty of Daytime Poaching and ordered to pay fines and compensation totalling £3000.

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## IMPORTANT - Hampshire police meetings:

We have all pushed very hard for rural issues to remain a priority during the last few years of stringent budget cuts, and Hants Police has done an excellent job in responding to this given the constraints they have faced. We have said that it is vital that local members know their local police 'on the ground' and have the opportunity to meet them and highlight local issues. As a result, Hants Police has organised this series of meetings. Unfortunately, at the first of these last night, only four people attended (yes just four!), which makes it very difficult for us when we say that our members are concerned about rural policing issues. Please do make every attempt to attend your local meeting. Please book in with one of the named contacts.

- Winchester district – 21/3/16 – 19:00 – 21:00 - Perins School, Pound Hill, Alresford, SO24 9BS - contact PS Andy Fisher 01962 734594 or 01962 743594 or 07901 102413 email [andy.fisher@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andy.fisher@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) - Contact for Winchester Greater(Bishops Waltham)- PS Stuart Gilmour 07775 544636 Email [stuart.gilmour@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:stuart.gilmour@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)
- Hart district – 24/3/16 – 19:00 – 21:00 - Hartley Witney Village Hall, West Green Road, Hartley Witney, Hook, RG27 8RE – contact CI Reeves 07733 308228 - [matt.reeves@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:matt.reeves@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) or Sgt Chris Thompson 07799860575 or [christopher.thompson@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:christopher.thompson@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)
- New Forest - 6 April 19:00 hours at Bisterne Estate – contact Simon Tribe Chief Inspector 2932, New Forest District Commander, 07795 474807 or [simon.tribe@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:simon.tribe@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)
- Test valley – 12 April – 18:00 - Stockbridge Town Hall, High Street, Stockbridge, SO20 6HE – contact Chief Inspector Kory Thorne 07880 995502 [kory.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kory.thorne@hampshire.pnn.police.uk), Inspector Paul Markham 01256 405134 [paul.markham@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:paul.markham@hampshire.pnn.police.uk) Management Assistant: Helen McEwen Tel: 101 extension 4761 291 [helen.mcewan@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:helen.mcewan@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)
- East Hants – 4 May time and venue tbc – Alton – contact PCSO Jess Hornsby 07554 775556 [jessica.hornsby@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:jessica.hornsby@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)
- East Hants – 18 May - Buster Sector - East Meon Village Hall, Work House Lane, GU32 1PF – contact PCSO Tria Gibbs 077554 775521 [patricia.gibbs@hampshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:patricia.gibbs@hampshire.pnn.police.uk)

## Kent

### County Adviser vacancy for Kent:

We will be appointing a new NFU County Adviser for Kent and if you know of anyone suitable, you can show them the details [here](#) Until a new Adviser is appointed, any issues that can't be dealt with either by your Group Secretary or NFU CallFirst on 0370 845 8458, will continue to be covered by us in the regional office on 01730 711950.

### NFU Edenbridge branch:

All members are welcome to the next branch meeting on 22 March at the George & Dragon, Ightham at 7.00pm. Peter Rolington, the co-ordinator of Country Eye has kindly agreed to come and talk about the

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Country Eye initiative which is supported by Kent Police, NFU & CLA. Please book with [andrew\\_siggs@nfumutual.co.uk](mailto:andrew_siggs@nfumutual.co.uk)

**Sussex and Isle of Wight** – County Adviser [james.osman@nfu.org.uk](mailto:james.osman@nfu.org.uk)

## **Wealden mobile phone and internet access survey:**

Share your experiences of mobile phone and internet communications in Wealden. As one of the most rural districts in the South East, Wealden District Council is asking residents and businesses about their day-to-day experience of mobile phone connections and broadband services. Click on [www.wealden.gov.uk/mobileandinternetsurvey](http://www.wealden.gov.uk/mobileandinternetsurvey) to take part in the survey. The Council hopes to use the information provided to campaign for better connectivity across Wealden. Printed copies of the survey are also available on request by contacting Wealden District Council on 01323 443322. The survey will close on 18 April 2016.

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