



On target :

Beef Cattle

NFU Scotland – fighting for your Interests

- **Penalties for missing eartags**

NFUS secured a significant change to the way in which SEERAD apply penalties when they find animals with eartags missing during an inspection. Instead of applying penalties straight away, producers now have 28 days to rectify tagging errors before SEERAD take any action.

- **Cattle Clipping**

NFUS has, and continues to, acquire evidence to support our claim that cattle clipping pre-mortem is a hazard to human health. Continued pressure and investigation into post-mortem cattle clipping identified a suitable system for use in Scottish abattoirs that met with plant hygiene requirements and therefore FSA approval. The system was first introduced in a Scottish abattoir in the autumn of 2009. NFUS intends to keep up pressure on others to follow suit.

- **DNA Passport Appeals**

NFUS has consistently argued that despite a passport application being late where a DNA link between dam and calf can be shown a full passport should be issued. It is now possible, following on from that lobbying, to apply to BCMS for a full passport where a DNA link between dam and calf can be shown. There are some 2,500 cattle in Scotland without a full passport. This new appeal route will enable many of them to be issued with a full passport and so be used in the human food chain.

- **Tallow Ban**

NFUS campaigned for a common sense approach to animal by-product legislation, in particular the issue of burning tallow. As a result of that pressure new European animal by-product regulations have been introduced adopting a more flexible approach. All categories of animal by-products, including tallow, may now be used as fuel for combustion with or without prior processing. Additional flexibility has also been introduced to permit on-farm storage and containment of animal by-products in approved containment systems.

- **MHS charges**

NFUS succeeded in persuading the MHS not to implement their planned rise in charges for 2009. MHS had proposed to increase charges for their services by 8%, alongside proposals to restructure the way they calculated charges. The restructure of the charging regime went ahead, assurances to minimise the impacts on small and low throughput plants, but the planned increase was not implemented. NFUS will continue to push for further streamlining and cost reductions in the operation of MHS and its services before any further transfer of cost to the industry can be accepted.

- **Cattle EID**

NFUS has been at the forefront of talks over plans to introduce EID in cattle. NFUS has secured preliminary agreement that any system of EID in cattle must be implemented on a voluntary basis, driven by benefits to the industry through its uptake. Benefits should include moving towards a paperless system of recording and the possible removal of the need for passports in their current form. With cost sharing on the horizon it is likely that industry may be forced to pay for passports in the future so removal of the need for passports stands to be a positive move.

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