



On target :

Legal and Technical

*NFU Scotland – fighting for
your interests*

- **Legal and Tax Advice**

- A free legal advice helpline service is provided by solicitors, Gillespie Macandrew WS, a law firm with long experience in assisting farmers, landowners and rural businesses - 0131 2718585.
- A free taxation advisory service is provided by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP - 0800 7318201.

- **Wages Board**

- Won significant changes that reduce the cost of employing seasonal workers.
- Secured a change in the 'starter' rate from only 16 weeks to up to 26 weeks of employment.
- Secured a permissible wage deduction for accommodation other than a house in line with what is permitted under the national minimum wage rules.
- Secured a new apprenticeship rate of pay.

- **Seasonal Workers Caravans**

- NFU Scotland has successfully challenged an assertion that a House in Multiple Occupation Licence would be required to cover caravan accommodation for agricultural workers.
- Secured a sensible valuation method for determining how a rateable value is determined for caravans occupied by seasonal workers.

- **Agricultural Holdings**

- Secure tenants now have a pre-emptive right to buy when their holding comes up for sale. Won new rules obliging compensation for improvements when tenants quit their farms and an end to writing-down agreements.
- Working with the Tenant Farming Forum on securing a number of changes to the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 in order to make more land available for rent.

- **Legal Cases**

- NFU Scotland took its long running campaign to seek justice for those penalised for unintentionally breaching a livestock support scheme rule to the Scottish Land Court. Although in the end the legal judgement found in favour of the Scottish Government it has helped influence the review into the whole appeals procedure.
- Provided assistance to a member who had been charged with culpable and reckless behaviour for moving cattle along a road. The result was that the case was dismissed when it came to Court.

- **Compulsory Purchase**

- NFU Scotland and the Scottish Agricultural Arbiters & Valuers Association are jointly pressing for a change in the current rules governing compensation.

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