



On target :

Beef Cattle

NFU Scotland – fighting for your Interests

- **Penalties : ear tags and passports**

NFUS secured a significant change to the way SGRPID apply penalties when they find animals with ear tags missing during an inspection. Instead of applying penalties straight away, producers now have 28 days to rectify tagging errors. Prior to this change missing ear tags were the most common reason for penalties being applied. NFUS has also persuaded BCMS and Scottish Government to enable keepers to electronically notify cattle deaths and remove the penalties attached for failing to return passports for notified animals, failure to return passports was another very common cross compliance penalty.

- **BVD**

NFUS was key in persuading Scottish Government to undertake an eradication scheme for BVD. NFUS secured funding from Scottish Government to help with some of the initial screening costs for herds and will continue to work with Scottish Government on developing a scheme that delivers on the goal of eradication whilst offering herds flexible options to move towards eradication.

- **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. As a result it is now possible to apply to BCMS for a full passport where a DNA link between dam and calf can be shown. This route enables many cattle to be issued with a full passport and so be used in the human food chain.

- **Cattle clipping**

NFUS continues to press for online clipping to be introduced in Scottish slaughterhouses. We secured a change in attitude from FSA to allow online clipping and persuaded one plant in Scotland to look at online clipping. We continue to press for them to introduce the service commercially.

- **MHS charges**

NFUS has been pushing for a more cost effective meat hygiene inspection service for Scotland. In response Scottish Government has set up a review to look at the future delivery of the food standards service in Scotland, including alternative delivery options for meat hygiene inspection. NFUS will continue to press for an effective and cost efficient delivery mechanism.

- **Cattle EID**

NFUS has been at the forefront of talks over plans to introduce EID in cattle. NFUS has secured 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 passports and their related cross compliance problems. 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.

- **CAP**

NFUS recognises the definition of permanent pasture stands to be critical with the proposed 5 year rule being unworkable. NFUS is pressing Scottish Government and European officials to change this definition to take account of our rotational grass systems. NFUS also recognises that a straight area based payment system has the potential to devastate Scotland's beef industry. We are committed to securing flexibility within the rules to recognise the importance of the beef industry within any payment scheme.

- **Bleeding calf syndrome**

NFUS has been investigating the possibility of a legal case to compensate affected farmers and has been advising members on reporting cases and what records they should be keeping. We continue to reassess the situation in light of new information and will continue to advise members accordingly.

Autumn 2011