

*On target :*  
**Specialist Crops**

***NFU Scotland – fighting for your interests***

● **Representation**

- NFU Scotland represents growers interests to Government and the European Commission.
- We are working to defend growers interests as the CAP undergoes further reform
- We liaise with the Horticultural Development Company (HDC) and the Potato Council (PC) on issues of concern to growers and ensure that levy money is used to best effect.
- We successfully campaigned for retention of current Levy Board VAT status.
- NFUS is represented on the Pesticides Forum, Assured Produce, the Seed Potato Consultative Panel and the Gangmaster Licensing Authority Board.

● **Farm Labour**

- We continue to argue for abolition of the Scottish Agriculture Wages Board.
- We secured extension of the lower wage band from 16 to 26 weeks.
- We achieved an increase in the allowable deduction for accommodation (other than houses) to bring it into line with minimum wage legislation.
- We achieved an increase in the number of places available under the Student Agricultural Workers Scheme and are campaigning for SAWS to be retained.
- We were successful in avoiding the use of House of Multiple Occupancy licenses for caravans in Angus

● **Water Framework Directive**

- Lobbying by NFUS resulted in changes to legislation on water abstraction and to charges. We won a cut-off excluding most members from registration and reduced charges.

● **Protecting the Industry from Cost**

- We continue to oppose introduction of a pesticides tax and support the Voluntary Initiative.
- We continue to oppose mandatory spray buffer zones and prior notification of spraying.
- NFU Scotland secured a 50 percent reduction for horticulture from the Climate Change Levy – the only sector to receive this blanket reduction.
- We successfully campaigned for sensible implementation of EU PCN legislation. Improvements in sampling rates have been achieved.
- We successfully pressed for reductions in potato farm-saved seed royalty rates being charged by some plant breeders. We are working towards a long-term agreement on farm saved seed potatoes. In Brussels we are working to ensure that legislation on seeds/seed potatoes and plant breeding do not disadvantage Scottish growers.

● **Protection against disease**

- We are protecting potato growers against Brown Rot and Ring Rot through NFUS promoted voluntary import ban and the BPC Safe Haven Certification Scheme.
- We are contributing to EU discussions on revisions to plant health legislation.

● **EU Support Measures**

- NFUS had a significant input in revising the UK draft ‘National Strategy’, which was holding up Producer Group applications for support.

Autumn 2011