

On target :
Specialist Crops

NFU Scotland – fighting for your interests

● **Representation**

- NFU Scotland represents growers interests to Government and the European Commission.
- 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.
- NFUS is represented on the Pesticides Forum and Assured Produce.
- We are represented at regular Processed Vegetable Growers Association/NFU of England and Wales Field Vegetables meetings.
- NFU Scotland has board level representation in the Gangmaster Licensing Authority to represent the interests of Scottish growers.
- We successfully campaigned for retention of current Levy Board VAT status.

● **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 are representing Members interests in development of the Points Based Immigration Scheme and have highlighted problems with the Workers Registration Scheme.
- We are working with Councils on accommodation standards. We were successful in avoiding the use of House of Multiple Occupancy licenses on 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 are working with the Scottish Government for sensible implementation of EU PCN legislation. Improvements in sampling rates have been achieved.

● **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 have pressed Brussels for strengthened controls against plant diseases.

● **EU Support Measures**

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

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