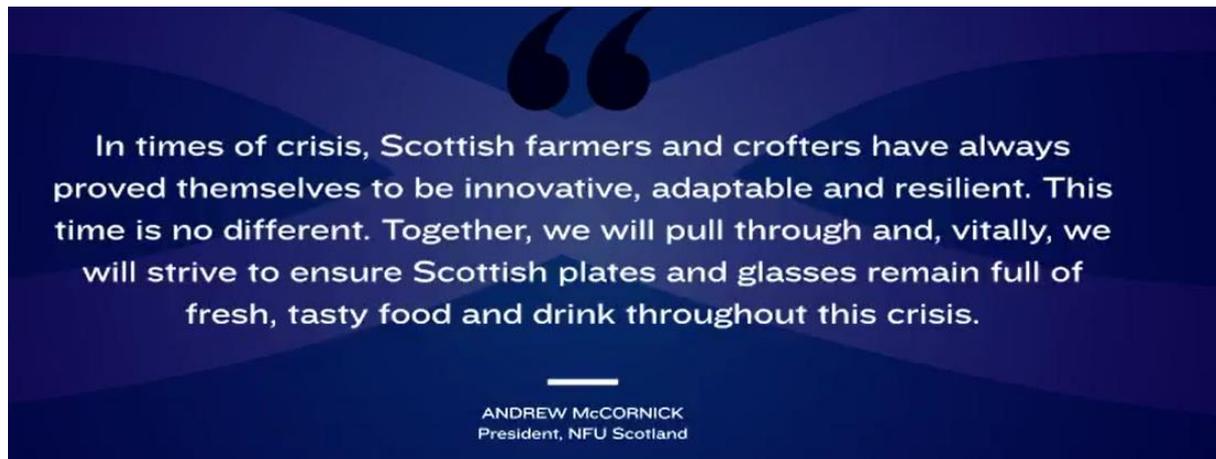




Coronavirus update – 1 May 2020

Stay clean – stay apart – stay safe



Here to help To speak to someone at head office call 0131 472 4000 or email:

info@nfus.org.uk As well as following NFU Scotland on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, we urge you to download the NFU Scotland phone app from your app store.

In these troubling times it is comforting to know that we also have a service like **RSABI** available to those who are struggling. If you, or someone you know, is struggling then give them a call on **0300 111 4166** today.

For the most up-to-date news visit the NFUS COVID-19 website NFU Scotland has a dedicated channel on our website on coronavirus. If you want to know how the virus and lockdown may affect your business, this is the place to go. <https://www.nfus.org.uk/coronavirus.aspx>

Updates this week include:

- New information added regarding mouth covering and testing in the 'General Info' section of FAQ, and a new section dedicated to COVID-19 testing created.
- New updates regarding financial support for businesses for business managing COVID information and an update regarding the Self-Employment Income Support Scheme.
- Updated guidance for employers regarding the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

Martin's Message hits 100,000 **Martin's message** Despite the work being done by farmers and crofters during this Covid-19 crisis, there is still a loud minority who are still criticising the

industry and spreading false information. Vice President Martin Kennedy took to social



media this week with a video to address these false claims and debunk some misinformation.

The video has gone down well with members as well as the public, being seen over 100,000 times across Facebook and Twitter. You can watch the video at

<https://vimeo.com/413115126>

Combinable Crops update In interviews this week Combinable Crops Chairman Willie Thomson continued to map out the many impacts and foreseen consequences that Covid-19 was having on the sector – see front page of Today’s Scottish Farmer. With a significant proportion of our barley and wheat destined for premium markets of distilling and brewing, reduced capacity and closures in breweries and distilleries at this time will have longer-term impacts on markets, haulage and planting decisions.

Breeding sales start again – new mart guidance issued The latest guidance on how livestock marts can continue to operate during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has been published. Developed by the Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland (IAAS) and the Scottish Government, the guidance sets out ways in which vulnerable people, farmers delivering livestock, hauliers and buyers can safely attend and run livestock auctions. Guidance is available on the [IAAS website](#)

Beef campaign to aid carcass balance A major £1.2 million national consumer campaign encouraging consumers to “Make It” with beef has been launched by Quality Meat Scotland (QMS), AHDB and Hybu Cig Cymru (HCC). Running for 12 weeks with TV, video on demand, radio and social media, it aims to inspire consumers to create restaurant-style meals in the comfort of their own home, using a variety of hindquarter cuts. The campaign will be supported with ‘how to’ videos and cooking tips, and influencer-driven content. It builds on a social media push launched earlier in April by the three levy boards. It aims to reach 85 per cent of UK households and deliver a three-to-one return on investment, well above the industry average. The move is a joint response to carcass balance challenges faced by the beef supply chain in the wake of Covid-19, which has seen a surge in demand for beef mince in supermarkets. Meanwhile some more expensive cuts, more commonly favoured in restaurants, have seen demand plummet as the lockdown has taken hold.

Social distancing guidance issued for horticulture While NFU Scotland remains fully committed to ensuring Scotland secures the workforce needed to ensure all of Scotland’s

wonderful soft fruit, veg and plants make it to market, the safety of those picking, planting and planting is paramount. Writing on the Union's website blog, Horticultural Committee chairman James Porter, who grows soft fruit in Angus said: "Regardless of whether our workforce is recruited domestically or from overseas, NFU Scotland remains in close dialogue with our governments to ensure all efforts are carried out in adherence to the best safety and medical advice.

"We welcome the publication of new guidance from Scottish Government which comprehensively addresses key concerns regarding the use of transport and accommodation for workers, as well as a range of other essential tasks on horticultural units to ensure safety and hygiene. We urge members to access this guidance here:

<https://www.sasa.gov.uk/covid-19-guidance>.

Read the full blog at: <https://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/horticultural-committee-chairman-james-porters-blog-1-may-2020>

Worker Absences due to Coronavirus Please let us know if your staff have been impacted by Coronavirus. Whether your staff have fallen ill with Coronavirus (suspected & confirmed cases), or they have been required to self-isolate or shield in line with government guidance, we would like to know. This information will help us in our ongoing conversations with the Scottish Government. You can tell us how you have been impacted by completing the Coronavirus Impact Survey, available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7KNNGXZ>

Agritourism impact highlighted on BBC Two of our members who run busy agritourism ventures alongside their farming enterprises featured on the national BBC news throughout Sunday (26 April). The BBC recorded with the Lennox family and the Scott-Park family on Loch Lomond-side to highlight the impact that lockdown has had on their busy agritourism ventures. The piece ran twice on the national news, on the BBC Scotland news and throughout the day on the BBC news channel.

Other media this week Very busy week of interviews on TV and radio this week – lots of topics covered including industry response to Covid-19; furloughed workers and labour on Scottish fruit and veg farms; milk price and the beef sector. Look out for Landward covering dairy next week and Countryfile covering the fly-tipping problem in a programme as well.

Coronavirus question and answer page To keep members as up to date as possible during these uncertain times, NFU Scotland set up a Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) page on our website which is updated regularly by our hard-working policy team.

<https://www.nfus.org.uk/coronavirus/coronavirusqa.aspx>. Now in its fifth week, the FAQs

has become a proven resource for farmers, crofters and growers alike and is even the first point of call for many professional services.

Do you have an issue on farm or croft related to Covid-19? Fill out our survey and let us know

NFU Scotland's survey on the key issues Scottish farmers and crofters are experiencing from the ongoing Coronavirus situation is still live. NFUS has been able to highlight issues relating to fly tipping publicly and issue access guidance and continue to update our dedicated COVID19 webpages. We have now updated the survey to include questions related to labour and staff absence for illness. Respond here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7KNNGXZ>

Testing regime A new network of Covid testing facilities has been established for key workers. The drive-through testing facilities are for key workers who are self-isolating because they are symptomatic, or household members over 5 years of age who are symptomatic. The First Minister has been clear that food production is part of critical national infrastructure and that key workers in food can access the new covid testing facilities. Tests are booked online.

Union Access posters during COVID-19 – Have you got yours?



Since launch two weeks ago, the Union's posters on access have been popping up all over the country and they have been shared and downloaded hundreds of times.

The poster urges care to be taken by those accessing the countryside during this exceptional period. The Scottish countryside remains open for people to access and enjoy but care and respect for those living and working in rural areas is requested. Since lockdown, NFU Scotland's regions have been logging calls taken from a substantial number of members reporting problems with public access. These have included dogs off leads; people wandering through farmyards and sheds; mountain bikers, littering, gates left open and more. Download the poster from:

<https://www.nfus.org.uk/.../NFU%20Scotland%20COVID%2019%20Pub...>

and don't forget to send your pics of the signs to media@nfus.org.uk – many thanks to this one from Karen Inkster, who has been spreading the good word aided by Monty!

Fly-tipping Blight continues Fly-tipping remains to be a top priority for policy and regional staff. There has been a peak in fly-tipping instances being reported during 'lockdown' by members and our partners across the Scottish Partnership Against Rural Crime (SPARC)

group. Unfortunately, fly-tipping has been a longstanding issue and a dual approach is required to tackle the systemic problem alongside the peak in instances over the last few weeks. If you have been impacted by fly-tipping please report it through the online [Dumb Dumpers](#) website or report it directly to your local authority.

Please also take pictures of the waste and let us know about your situation by contacting with your regional manager, or Zoe Meldrum (Zoe.Meldrum@nfus.org.uk), to log the problem. Evidence is key to and we are continuing to gather case studies to support our lobbying.

- NFU Scotland backed South Scotland MSP Emma Harper who questioned the Scottish Government's Environment Secretary over a reported increase of illegal fly-tipping across communities the length and breadth of Scotland. The question, which followed a motion laid before the Parliament by Ms Harper to raise concerns over this issue, asked the Government what action it is taking to work with local authorities to support people who are looking to dispose of additional waste, and to tackle the illegal dumping of waste.

Covid-19 impacts on agriculture highlighted in parliament Since the introduction of lockdown measures, NFU Scotland has issued regular briefings to MPs and MSPs on the key impacts arising for agricultural businesses. This week we have submitted a paper to the influential House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee outlining the various commodity impacts of the virus. Read the submission in the members area of NFUS online at: <https://www.nfus.org.uk/userfiles/images/Parliamentary/0420%20-%20EFRA%20COVID19%20and%20Food%20Supply%20Chain%20Inquiry%20-%20NFUS%20Response%20.pdf>

In other news....

What does Covid-19 mean for the Brexit negotiations? Political Affairs Manager Clare Slipper has looked at what the global pandemic means for the UK leaving the EU on 31 December, in her recent blog. The answer, according to the lead negotiators from the EU and the UK, is very little.

To read Clare's full blog go to <https://www.nfus.org.uk/news/blog/political-affairs-managers-blog-23-april-2020>

Online Seminars for EU citizens A series of free on-line seminars on EU citizens' rights is being organised by the Citizens Rights Project, which works with EU citizens across Scotland. The webinars will focus mainly on the 'Settled Status' scheme under which EU

citizens currently in the UK can get a permanent right to stay in the country. Each webinar will run for an hour, with time for Q & A. Places for the webinars should be booked [here](#).

The dates and speakers are as follows:

- 6 May 2020, 1600. Settled Status and pre-settled status: Kenneth Campbell QC
- 12 May 2020, 1600. Specific issues in applying for settled status: Janey Armstrong, Partner, Drummond Miller solicitors.
- 14 May 2020, 1600 The experience of applicants for settled status: Dorota Peszkowska, Project Officer, FENIKS EU Settlement Scheme Support project
- Date TBC. The 'suitability test' – the consequences of criminal convictions: Alan Caskie, Advocate

Don't delay, complete your SAF form today! Defra may have extended the SAF deadline in England and Wales to 15 June, but we are cracking on with 15 May in Scotland. NFU Scotland is in continuous dialogue with Scottish Government and other key stakeholders regarding the 15 May SAF deadline. Considering the high number of submitted applications, NFUS will not be requesting a similar extension to the deadline at this time. We understand that SAF submissions in Scotland are currently significantly ahead of previous years, both in terms of the number already completed and the number that have been started. There is the potential implication of any extension to SAF deadline disrupting processes or delaying the payment schedule, meaning that any extension may not be of benefit to Scottish agriculture. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and continue to urge anyone who hasn't already done so to prioritise their SAF application as we approach the 15 May deadline. Remember, it is one of the most important day's work in any farmer's year.

In Business Guides this week (all available on the member's section of the website when you login and go to: <https://www.nfus.org.uk/nfuscontent/business-guides>)

- Due to the unprecedented demand on the National Health Service (NHS), the Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) have temporarily withdrawn the requirement to complete a medical examination report (D4) to renew a lorry or bus licence for licence holders who are aged 45-years and over.
- We also have impact of coronavirus on sporting rate appeals.

Nematodirus warning Recent cold nights and warm days have led to SCOPS forecasting for moderate to high risk of Nematodirus hatch in some parts of Scotland. Check your status now at: www.scops.org.uk/forecasts/nematodirus-forecast

High risk - hatching will have started and infective larvae will be present on pasture

Moderate risk - hatching expected to occur in the next 7-24 days

Suggested advice from SRUC is as follows:

Work out the risk for individual groups of lambs:

- Are they old enough to be grazing significant amounts (usually 6 weeks plus)?
- Are they grazing fields that were grazed by lambs last spring?
- South facing fields will hatch earlier.

Take action:

- Move at risk lambs to pasture not grazed by lambs last spring.
- Do not rely on worm egg counts to diagnose – intestinal damage and lamb deaths can occur before the infection becomes patent.
- Resistance to benzimidazoles has been reported so check efficacy with faecal egg counts 7 to 10 days post treatment.
- Do not assume all scouring lambs/deaths at this time of year are due to nematodirus – investigate for concurrent disease such as coccidiosis.

Consultations currently open

Closing next week - Consultation on Crofting Law Reform: Call for Views Members views are urgently sought regarding the current consultation on crofting law. If you are unable to provide written evidence, please contact Zoe Meldrum on 07554 657 621 to share your feedback. If you would like to arrange a specific time or for me to call you, please drop me an email: Zoe.Meldrum@nfus.org.

The consultation is available here:

https://www.nfus.org.uk/consultation.aspx?consult_id=17223

Just Transition Commission - Call for Evidence NFU Scotland members are being asked for their views on the work of the Just Transition Commission. The Just Transition Commission was established by Scottish Ministers to advise on how principles of fairness can be applied to climate change action in Scotland. The Commission is seeking views to inform the development of its final recommendations. Consultation is available here:

<https://www.nfus.org.uk/nfuscontent/consultations/17222/just-transition-commission-call-for-evidence> Responses needed by Friday 15 May 2020

Keep up with the Next Generation Find out what the Next Generation have been up to in the Spring newsletter at <https://mailchi.mp/41b8b4bffce1/nfu-scotland-next-generation-newsletter-spring-3893553>

Sell Direct: Adapting your farm business during the pandemic - Thursday 7 May, 7–

8.30pm Online discussion Are you producing food and selling it locally? Would you like to be? Join an online discussion with farmers and growers who sell direct, to help you adapt your business during the current crisis. With:

- Denise Walton of Peelham Farm (Scottish Borders), who has an onsite butchery and sells organic meat online.
- Reuben Chesters of Locavore (Glasgow), who runs an organic supermarket, a veg box scheme, market garden and provides wholesale organic groceries to other UK shops through Locavore Trading.
- Lucie Wardle, supply chain officer at Soil Association Scotland.

FREE and open to all. [Book online](#)

Online Showtime Tomorrow! Hundreds of agricultural shows up and down the country have been forced to cancel but 'The Greatest Agricultural show' will go online tomorrow (2 May) from 9am to 5pm at www.OnlineAgShow.co.uk and on social media.

The show has chosen five rural welfare charities to support, including RSABI.

The show will feature all the favourites of livestock competitions, food and craft tents as well as a beer tent with live chat and entertainment. The main show ring will play host to displays including the RAF Red Arrows, The JCB Dancing Diggers and the now retired Vulcan Bomber, all streamed to the audience.

The show is free to attend, and the weather is guaranteed to be perfect!"

Art Attack – new painting competition from NFU Scotland



We're on the search of budding artists. We've launched a lockdown art competition that is open to school aged children. Kids are being invited to draw or paint something they see on their farm that reflects something positive happening or makes them feel happy during their

time at home during the coronavirus lockdown. There are three age categories open – 8 years and under, 9-11 years, and 12-17 years – with a Siku limited-edition Gold JCB 8250 Tractor with Driver toy for the winner of each age group. Full details of age categories and entry requirements can be found on page 20 of the May issue Scottish Farming Leader.

When you have completed your drawing/painting please email a photo of it to editor@nfus.org.uk by the closing date of Friday 15 May 2020. You must include in your email your name, age, short explanation of what you have chosen to draw/paint and the membership number of the lead farmer.

A selection of drawings will appear in print in the July issue of Scottish Farming Leader and others on the NFUS Facebook pages.

Loving the Lambathon! Next Stop – Virtual Farm Tours The lambathon which ran for 2 weeks on the GoRural Scotland Facebook page has had 100,000 whole video views of a half hour farm tour with 1666 families watching it live.

It has been so successful that Visit Scotland has given some support to run a live tour from around Scotland's farms for the next 12 weeks. Those in agritourism i.e direct selling, farm shop and cafe, accommodation, tours etc. Under banner "welcome to my farm". It has launched today and more details are available at: www.facebook.com/gorural Please get involved by taking part if you have an agritourism business. Also, you can support farmers in your community when they are on by inviting your own contacts to join their live tour and follow Go Rural Scotland on Facebook.

Pet Post Frenzy! No fewer than 83 pet lamb pics posted up on our Facebook page

Jamie had a little lamb, he sent its picture to NFUS Scotland and started a bit of a craze. Pigs



Committee chairman sent in a pic of his pet lamb, dressed up and named Nobby by the nigh lamber at the farm. It's appearance on our Facebook page sparked more than 80 pictures and videos arriving at the media@nfus.org.uk inbox. Always room for more! Who doesn't love a pet lamb? Too

many to share here but if you visit our Facebook page there are lots to like and love.