

**Brexit, CAP Pillar 1 and 2 (including Less Favoured Areas) – Jonnie Hall**

[jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk](mailto:jonathan.hall@nfus.org.uk) and 0131 472 4002

- Brexit – Engaging with members (regional boards and commodity committees), stakeholders, and media to influence thinking. Co-ordinating strategy within NFU Scotland and with key stakeholders. On-going meetings with UK Government and Scottish Government to press forward Scottish agricultural interests, with the focus being the importance of agriculture to the Scottish and UK economies, the environment and rural communities.
- Future agricultural policy – Developing NFU Scotland’s principles and objectives for a future agricultural policy settlement for Scotland and the need for smooth transition from the CAP.
- Outstanding 2015 payments – Working to ensure all 2015 direct support payments are finally completed and all balance payments under the National LFASS Scheme 2015 are made as soon as possible (1,706 claims worth £12.57 million are unpaid).
- BPS and Greening 2016 – Some 9,903 farms and crofts have now been paid their interim BPS and Greening 2016 payments. The first payment is at 90 percent of their value. At the time of writing, the Scottish Government has stated that it aims to begin making balance payments week commencing 12 June.
- Scottish Suckler Beef Calf Scheme (SSBSS) – Payments worth around £38 million started in the week beginning 29 May. Payments should be with 7,000 eligible producers by 30 June 2017. The 2016 payment rates are £92.05 (€108.00) for calves on the mainland and £140.71 (€165.10) for calves on the islands.
- Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme (SUSSS) - Despite stating that ewe hogg payments would start in May, at the time of writing, the Scottish Government has not started these vital payments for those on the most disadvantaged land.
- Less Favoured Areas Support Scheme (LFASS) Loans 2016 – Some 11,057 LFASS 2016 loans have been offered to the value of £55.5 million. Of these,

8,043 loans have been processed to the value of £48.7 million. A total of 1,068 LFASS 2016 claimants have yet to be made an offer.

- Future LFASS/Areas of Natural Constraint Scheme – Following the announcement of an LFASS ‘parachute’ payments approach from 2018, working with Scottish Government on the most effective and accessible use of the ‘balance’ of 20 per cent of the LFASS budget. Now working on the possible deferral of the LFASS parachute option to 2019 (paid in 2020) – i.e. put back by a further year.