

# North East Flood Special

01/08/2019

## **Future Flooding**

With recent flooding events in North Yorkshire, and more rain forecast over the next week, it is important that you stay vigilant to weather conditions. More advice, including weather warnings, three-day forecasts and river level information can be found the NFU weather and flooding toolbox [click](#) here. You can also find out further details by tuning into your local BBC radio station.

## **Register with NFU CallFirst if you have been impacted by flooding**

To help us support all affected farmers, **both members and non-members** are being urged to call the NFU's national CallFirst number – 0370 845 8458 – and register. The dedicated CallFirst team will get all the information required in one call and registering will mean farmers can be kept up to date with all the latest developments

## **Sign up for Flood Warnings**

The Flood Warnings system contacts you when your area is at risk of flooding. The service is free. You can get warnings by phone, email or text message. You'll need to provide the address you're registering, a phone number you can be contacted on day or night and an email address. Register via the Floodline: 0345 988 1188 (24-hour service) or [Register Online](#) for Flood Warnings.

## **Help is available for all farmers in the area**

Environment Agency Floodline: 0345 988 1188 (24 hour service)

NFU CallFirst: 0370 845 8458 (8am - 6pm: Monday to Friday)

NFU North East Regional Office: 01904 451550 (9am - 5pm Monday to Friday)

Key organisations that may be able to offer assistance, alongside financial support include:

- Farm Community Network 03000 111 999 or <http://fcn.org.uk/>
- RABI 0808 281 9490 or <http://rabi.org.uk/>
- Addington Fund 01926 620135 or <http://www.addingtonfund.org.uk/> (particularly regarding transport of livestock or haulage)

## **Emergency Road Closures**

We are aware that many emergency road/bridge closures are in place for safety reason, to keep up to date on the closure of highways, please [click here](#).

## **Impact of flooding on BPS / Greening / Cross Compliance requirements**

The RPA guidance states that flooded land is still eligible for BPS if the flooding is temporary and the land would otherwise still be available for agricultural activity. RPA expect the land to be returned to agricultural use as soon as practically possible. More information can be found on this [dedicated Gov.uk website page](#) as well as other land eligibility issues such as the impact of utility works being carried out or compliance with greening requirements. The advice is to try to comply with the rules in place, keep a diary, keep records up to date and take photos of events: these may be invaluable going forward should RPA or others question members' actions. It is also important to reflect on the rules in place, in particular cross compliance, and understand there are some actions where members may be exempt from the rules, but in other situations where a request for a derogation needs to be sought. Equally members need to consider contacting the RPA if they believe they fall into Force Majeure and need to do this within 15 working days of being in a position to do so.

## **Agri-environment Scheme Force Majeure Provisions**

Whilst compliance with agreements will not be top priority for those affected, it is important to be aware of the time limitations in place under the rules for Force Majeure, especially where agri-environment options, for example, have been destroyed or not able to be established. Please refer to the agreement manuals, as the time limit varies depending on which scheme you're signed up with.

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The voice of British farming

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## **Electricity Issues**

Northern Powergrid is urging anyone who spots any damage to underground cables, overhead power lines or other equipment not to approach the area, but to report it immediately by calling 105, the free electrical emergency and power cut number. Whilst water levels are unlikely to have reached the height that would affect Northern Powergrid's equipment within homes or businesses, the company is advising anyone whose meter position may have been underwater and has any concerns to contact Northern Powergrid on 105 to arrange a safety visit.

## **Utility Bill Assistance**

Yorkshire Water can suspend water and wastewater bills for customers who have been forced from their homes and businesses after 30 July storm. If you've had to move out of your property, or close your businesses due to flooding, they won't charge for any water or wastewater services at that address until your return. If you're on a meter, they can also make an allowance for extra water used while cleaning up. All you need to do is contact them to let them know how you've been affected. Domestic customers only– 0845 1 242424, and we are working with Yorkshire Water for the same service for Business customers.

## **Fallen Stock**

For any fallen stock as a result of this weather event, current guidelines state that a 'business as usual' approach should be applied, and local fallen stock disposal companies must be contacted to organise clearance. If someone else's animals have washed up on your land, disposal is their responsibility and you should endeavour to identify them by contacting trading standards or the APHA on 03000 200 301 with animal details. If you are unable to establish ownership, then unfortunately you will need to dispose of these carcasses as per law, although please do contact the farming charities above, as they may be able to help with covering the cost of this. If any of your sheep are lost or dead as a result of this extreme weather event, you do not need to contact ARAM directly, but to put a note in your holding register of numbers. For any cattle losses, please contact BCMS directly.

Please refer to the following links below for more advice on this:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/keeping-farm-animals-and-horses-in-extreme-weather#dealing-with-floods>

<http://www.nfsc.co.uk/Fallen-Stock-Guidelines-in-the-event-of-severe-weather-and-natural-disasters.html>

National Fallen Stock Company: 01335 320014

## **Yorkshire Dales National Park**

We are working with the Yorkshire Dales National Park as their conservation team are making themselves available to help with any paperwork regarding agri-environment schemes or retaining derogation orders.

After significant loss of bridges and paths, the park will also be out assessing the public rights of way network in the area. Farmers can report damage caused by the flooding to footpaths and bridleways by contacting Matt Neale at

[matt.neale@yorkshiredales.org.uk](mailto:matt.neale@yorkshiredales.org.uk) or on 01969 666225

Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy neither the NFU nor the author can accept any liability for errors or omission.

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