

# Cross Compliance Advice Programme

## What is the Cross Compliance Advice Programme ?

Over the next few years, farmers will face significant changes in the criteria for receiving direct payments under the Single Payment Scheme (SPS). From 1 January 2005 farmers will not only have to manage livestock and crops, but also demonstrate compliance with existing EU legislation (the Statutory Management Requirements) and will have to keep land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC).

The purpose of this programme is to provide clear and targeted guidance to farmers and their advisers and agricultural contractors on what the Statutory Management Requirements (SMR) and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) requirements are and what they mean in terms of required farm management. The work carried out seeks to ensure that these requirements are met by:

- Helping farmers and their advisers to understand the SMR and GAEC requirements
- Helping them to acknowledge that change is needed where it has been identified
- Providing clear, simple and explicit advice on how to meet SMR and GAEC requirements
- Evaluating the effectiveness of the advice delivery and modifying approaches accordingly to improve impact.

The uptake of the Single Payment Scheme (SPS) and associated SMR and GAEC requirements will vary across the country depending on type of agriculture, topography, rainfall etc. Programmes will be specifically developed to take account of this variation and to meet local/regional needs and targets. This programme will complement, and not duplicate, the activities provided through Defra's demonstration farm programme and farm advice programmes on environment sensitive farming (best practice to protect soil and minimise pollution of air and water) and conservation management.

Between 1 April 2007 and 30 September 2007, farmers in England will have opportunities to attend a range of seminars, farm walks and on-farm workshops. Throughout this period additional support will be available through a helpline and website. The proposed activities aim to support farmers and other land managers to achieve sustainable development objectives through the targeted delivery of guidance on cross compliance requirements.

Access to these events will be free of charge (subject to the eligibility criteria set below). The scheme will be made available to all rural businesses, (i.e. farmers and other land managers), not just agricultural businesses. Aid to Agricultural businesses will be made in accordance with Article 15 of Regulation 1857/2006. Aid to agricultural processing and marketing businesses and non-agricultural businesses will be paid with regard to Commission Regulation 1998/2006 on de minimis aid.

### **What support will Defra provide ?**

This programme has been packaged to reflect regional farming characteristics and will address issues pertinent to the particular region and sector within which they are being delivered.

All of the regions will hold SPS seminars and on-farm workshops, where attendees will learn about the changes to the subsidy support system introduced in 2005, enabling you to assess how these changes have impacted upon your own specific farming situation.

The specific regional campaign comprises a mix of events taking place in the eight English Government Office regions (excluding London). Defra will provide information in the following ways:

- SPS seminars to include formal presentations and question and answer sessions
- On-farm workshops
- Farm walks on demonstration farms
- Cross compliance telephone helpline (0845 3451302) and website. ([www.crosscompliance.org.uk](http://www.crosscompliance.org.uk))

A detailed programme of events in each region is being produced by Defra's contractor's Momenta. This programme of events will be published and made available for farmers via the Internet at:

[www.crosscompliance.org.uk](http://www.crosscompliance.org.uk)

## What do I have to do to take part ?

First of all you must meet the following eligibility conditions:

1. You must be a farmer in England
2. Your farm must have a CPH number. CPH stands for County Parish Holding number, which all farm businesses in England have. The CPH number of a farm business can be obtained from the relevant regional Defra office in which the farm lies
3. You must be involved in the core farming business either as a landowner, a keeper of farm animals or a grower of crops
4. You may be a farm owner, tenant or manager
5. The farm business must be classified as a small or medium sized enterprise (SME) in line with Annex 1 of Commission Regulation 70/2001. In summary, a SME
  - has fewer than 250 employees and
  - has either an annual turnover not exceeding €40 million, or a balance sheet equity not exceeding €27 million, and
  - is not owned at a rate of more than 25% by other companies

If you meet the conditions outlined above, and you wish to participate in regional events you need to contact the web site at [www.crosscompliance.org.uk](http://www.crosscompliance.org.uk) or the national helpline number: 0845 3451302. Lines are open between 9.00am and 5.00pm Monday to Friday from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007. You should have to hand information which shows that you meet the eligibility criteria set out above. Helpline staff will help you with this information if you need it. There is no need to complete an application form.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, the helpline will put you in touch with those organising the event. There is no selection process, however, if the event is oversubscribed, places will be allocated on a strictly first come first served basis and a reserve list maintained should anyone drop out. If the events prove popular, more may be offered at a later date.

Attendance at each event will have a nominal value of £50 per event attended.

The last date for applications to the event is 15 November 2007.