

Grants and Regulations National Email Alert

2 October 2014

Closure of the English Woodland Grant Scheme (EWGS)

The English Woodland Grant Scheme closed to new applications on 30 September 2014. This is to make sure that we can progress applications received, to contract, prior to 31 December 2014, which is the end of the current Rural Development Programme for England.

New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS)

NELMS will be an integrated scheme combining Natural England's Environmental Stewardship scheme and the Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grant scheme. The intention is to have the full NELMS offer available later in 2015.

To prevent any lengthy gap in support from our priority forestry grants the Forestry Commission will provide a preliminary NELMS offer. This is likely to include Woodland Creation and other capital items and be available from early 2015.

As soon as details are finalised these will be announced by email alert.

English Woodland Grant Scheme Claims

- All claims must be submitted on time as per the claim year in your contract.
- We will not pay late claims.
- We will not be reminding customers to make claims.
- Woodland Creation has a claim deadline of 30 September 2015 to allow associated Farm Woodland Payments to be made.
- Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant also has a claim deadline of 30 September 2015.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform

All information about CAP reform and the new schemes can be found on the Gov.uk/cap-reform webpage. This includes a link to the leaflets which are being issued to customers, by email and post, with updates, guidance and information on the schemes and how to apply.

The most recent one [CAP Reform: August 2014 update](#) includes information on NELMS.

Regulations News - Larch Felling Moratorium

As in previous years, we will be introducing a moratorium on the processing of felling licence applications that include larch received on or after 1 October 2014. This only affects those owners with woodland in Zone 1 where they are proposing to fell larch. We will continue to process management plans and approve felling that is associated with the plan during this period, as we do with Forest Enterprise Design Plans.

For those owners affected by this moratorium, we will be recording all cases, and will ensure that these sites are a priority for early spring aerial surveillance, allowing us to issue a licence as soon as possible. An email alert will be issued when further details become available, along with information on [our web site](#).