



English Woodland Grant Scheme

Email Alert 10 February 2010

Get your 2009/2010 claims in!

Remember that you must complete your work and submit a claim form for 2009/2010 approved work by the 31st March 2010 at the latest in order to ensure payment. If you don't submit a claim by then, your right to grant is lost and payment would be at the FC's absolute discretion.

If you have approved 2009/2010 work, know it won't be carried out by the end of March but still wish to do it, you must submit an amendment to your local FC office by the 31st March. We should be able to accommodate all reasonable requests but it is subject to the FC England grant management policy (Operations Note 7, available in the EWGS document library) – the sooner you tell us you wish to defer work, the greater the chance we can accommodate your request.

If you expect to complete and claim some but not all of the work by the end of March, contact your local FC office on how best to handle your claim/amendment.

Submitting 2010/2011 claims early

If you have work approved for payment in 2010/2011 but will have completed the work early, please submit your claim as soon as the work is completed as it is likely we can approve your claim before April. By doing this, it releases money that is available for 2010/2011 and we can accept more applications.

EC Approval of new Farm Woodland (FW) rates

In the past 2 weeks we have received confirmation that the EC have approved the new FW payment rates, as proposed in previous email alerts. As well as new woodland creation applications being potentially eligible for both Farm Woodland Payments and Single Payment Scheme (SPS), some existing agreements can also receive both payments.

We will shortly be writing to approximately 400 affected contract holders shortly to explain the rule change. Most can continue to claim the same FW rate as well as SPS (if eligible); a small number will have to choose a slightly different FW rate if they want to claim SPS as well. For more information please see our webpage

www.forestry.gov.uk/england-fwsp

Woodland Management Grant (WMG) applications

If you are interested in submitting an application for WMG for a payment in autumn 2010, you must submit your application as soon as possible. This is because the contract must be approved by 15th May 2010 in order to receive 1st payment in 2010. For larger or more complex schemes, we cannot guarantee any WMG applications submitted now will be offered autumn 2010 payment.

After the end of February any applications received are unlikely to be approved before the 15th May 2010. Therefore they will have to start work on 1st January 2011 with first WMG payment in autumn 2011.

RLR Mapping Update

The RPA have just about completed their work to update the Rural Land Register (some land managers who requested edits are yet to receive maps confirming their changes). The RLR provide a common reference point for many of our regulatory checks and we working with RPA and Natural England to ensure our systems are brought in line with the updated RLR. From late spring 2010 we will start to re-align our EWGS, FWS and FWPS agreements to the updated RLR. This means, that for some agreements RLR parcel references and grant areas will change. We will be notifying land managers of changes when they are made.

From 8th February 2010 any maps requested for purposes of new EWGS applications will present the updated RLR information.

WIG Calculator Updated

The WIG Calculator has been updated, the new version has been added to the Forestry Commission web page. Please always use the version on the website as this will be the most up to date copy.