

# Rural Economy Growth Review

## Reducing Regulation on Farms – implementing findings from the Macdonald Review on Farming Regulation

### How are we reducing regulation on Farms?

The Farming Regulation Task Force, chaired by Richard Macdonald, presented Government in May 2011 with more than 200 ways to reduce unnecessary “red tape” for farmers and food producers. Defra published its interim response to this report in November 2011 and will announce its final response in 2012. The Growth Review provides an opportunity to take action sooner on a number of measures.

Government has decided to:

- Look at **reducing the regulatory burden of the Nitrates Directive**. A wider consultation on the Directive will include changes to reduce the burden of paperwork, to exempt certain organic farms from the Directive, and changes to closed spreading and general restricted spreading periods.
- **Accept recommendations on Earned Recognition** and commit to publishing in 2012 a shared implementation plan, with industry and key assurance providers, specifically Red Tractor and LEAF Marque.

### How will this help growth?

Regulation, and the red tape that comes with it, adds to time and cost for farming businesses. Removing it, or simplifying it, where appropriate, directly improves a business’s bottom line. In relation to the measures announced as part of the Growth review, additional benefits include:

- **Nitrate Directive** actions will reduce the time spent by farmers on paperwork
- On **Earned Recognition**, moving to a risk-based approach which recognises 3<sup>rd</sup> party assurance schemes, will reduce the inspection burden on farm businesses that understand legal requirements and are delivering desired outcomes in food safety, animal welfare and the environment.



### Further Information

- The Farming Regulation Taskforce report and Government’s interim response can be found on the [Defra website](#)