



**Issue 13 – spring 2014**

**Midlands edition**

### **Welcome to AgriBuzz**

Welcome to AgriBuzz, our quarterly e-newsletter for farmers and land managers in the Midlands, keeping you up to date with information relevant to your agricultural business.

### **In this issue**

#### **Hot topics**

[Changes to Environment Agency Structure](#)

[Nitrate Vulnerable Zones \(NVZ\) and slurry storage](#)

[Nitrate Vulnerable Zones \(NVZ\) and manure heaps](#)

[Water Abstraction Returns](#)

#### **Events and diary dates**

#### **Useful websites**

#### **Contact us**



**Cowslips in spring**

### **Hot topics**

#### **Changes to Environment Agency Structure**

The structure of the Environment Agency has changed. To increase the efficiency of our operation and ensure that the quality of the service we provide to our customers remains high we now provide all of our services at either a local or national level. This means that from April 1st 2014 we do not have a regional tier within our organisation and the former 'regions' such as EA Midlands, EA Anglian and so on no longer exist. The structures of our Operational Areas have not changed and remain exactly the same other than a change in name to reflect removal of the regional tier.

The new Area names are:

- Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire (formerly Midlands East)

- Staffordshire, Warwickshire and West Midlands (formerly Midlands Central)
- Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire (formerly Midlands West)
- Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire (formerly Anglian North)

Our national Customer Service Centre remains the same and the telephone number is 03708 506506



livestock

### NVZ and slurry storage

If you farm in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and you produce slurry on your farm, this is a reminder that you are legally required to have at least 6 months storage for pig slurry or 5 months storage for cattle slurry. Please make sure that you have completed, and retained copies of your slurry production and storage calculations. It's also worth remembering that you need to record the number of livestock kept on your farm in the previous calendar year and the amount of nitrogen they produced.

If you need help or advice on NVZs and slurry storage, please contact us on 03708 506 506, or see defra guidance at [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).



Temporary manure heap



nutrients

### NVZ and manure heaps

From the 16th May 2014 a new rule on manure field heap construction comes into force under NVZ requirements. In addition to existing rules about the location of heaps, they must now also be as compact as reasonably possible. This will reduce the amount of rainwater that heaps absorb, and therefore reduce the risk of nitrogen-rich fluid leaching from them. Manure heaps situated on steep slopes will also need to be more than 30 metres from watercourses. The latest guidance is available at [GOV.UK](http://GOV.UK).



Boom irrigator in operation



water

### Water abstraction returns

Farmers who hold abstraction licences are required to record the amount of water they abstract and submit the information to the Environment Agency. These records are normally known as 'returns'. Depending on licence conditions and the quantity of water that they are allowed to abstract, most farmers will need to keep weekly or monthly records of the actual amount of water they take and submit annual returns. This is a reminder that winter/all-year abstractors need to submit returns by 30 April each year.

Abstractions for spray irrigation fall under Cross Compliance Good Agricultural Environmental Condition (GAEC) 18 – Water Abstraction. The Environment Agency can use the returns you submit to report compliance issues to the RPA.

If you have any enquiries regarding your water abstraction licence, please contact us on 03708 506 506

## Events and diary dates

Event	Date(s)
<a href="#">Pig and Poultry Fair 2014</a> Held biennially at Stoneleigh Park, the two day British Pig & Poultry Fair attracts over 10,000 visitors and is the only dedicated pig and poultry industry event in the UK. With over 300 exhibitors showcasing their latest products and services, it is an essential source of information to help	13-14 May 2014 Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire

producers improve and develop their businesses.	
<p><a href="#">Grassland &amp; Muck 2014</a></p> <p>Held triennially at Stoneleigh Park, Grassland &amp; Muck boasts more than 190 acres of machinery demonstrations, sown grass plots, trade stands and technical forums. Attracting around 15,000 visitors from across the UK and Europe, it is the premier grass, forage and muck event, with more than 240 exhibitors showcasing their products and services.</p>	<p>21-22 May 2014 Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire</p>
<p><a href="#">Open Farm Sunday</a></p> <p>Organised by Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF). An annual event that gives everyone the chance to meet farmers who grow their food and care for the countryside. The website also tells you how you can open your farm.</p>	<p>8 June 2014</p>
<p><a href="#">Cereals 2014</a></p> <p>Cereals is the leading technical event for the UK arable industry with over 64ha of stands and live demonstrations including Crop Plots, Working Cultivations, Sprays and Sprayers, Post-Harvest Technology, Business Area, Potatoes and Renewables.</p>	<p>11-12 June 2014 Chrishall Grange, Duxford, Cambridgeshire</p>
<p><a href="#">National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) National Agronomy Centre Open Day 2014</a></p> <p>The NAC initiative promotes best practice for profitable, sustainable and efficient arable crop production with open access to research and practical information. The NAC open days are free to attend and are a mix of indoor exhibits, seminars and field based demonstrations, providing impartial information on a range of policy and agronomy issues, including variety and fungicides and weed management. For booking form and venue information, please see event flyer <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>19 June 2014 Morley, Norfolk</p> <p>25 June 2014 Sutton Scotney, Hampshire</p> <p>3 July 2014 Caythorpe, Lincolnshire</p>
<p><a href="#">UK AD &amp; Biogas 2014</a></p> <p>Organised by the Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Association (ADBA), this free to attend show is the UK's only trade show dedicated exclusively to anaerobic digestion (AD) and biogas and attracts a directly interested audience.</p>	<p>2-3 July 2014 NEC, Birmingham</p>
<p><a href="#">Livestock 2014</a></p> <p>Organised by RABDF Events Ltd is the leading event for the UK livestock sector. It presents a unique opportunity for all dairy, beef, sheep, goat, pig and poultry farmers as well as farm managers, stockman, consultants, processors and retailers to see the best livestock, equipment, products and services available in the UK market.</p>	<p>2-3 July 2014 NEC, Birmingham</p>
<p><a href="#">CLA Game Fair</a></p> <p>The world's largest game fair and leading country sport event.</p>	<p>18-20 July 2014 Woodstock, Oxfordshire</p>
<p>AgriBuzz - spring issue Please <a href="#">email us</a> with any content ideas, stories or photos.</p>	<p>July 2014</p>

## Useful websites

<a href="#">Environment Agency - Agriculture</a>	Relevant information covering the whole sector.
<a href="#">Environment Agency – Publications catalogue</a>	Download the current and previous issues of AgriBuzz as a PDF document. Search for 'AgriBuzz' as the publications title.
<a href="#">Environment Agency – What's in your back yard?</a>	Use our interactive maps to find out more about the environment where you live. Including NVZ designation, aquifer designation, groundwater source protection zones, flood maps and river quality.
<a href="#">Environment Agency – new agricultural waste exemption lookup guide</a>	This new guide helps you look up which of the new exemptions you need to register for activities carried out on farms.
<a href="#">SSAFO (Silage, Slurry &amp; Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations</a>	Information and guidance for the design, construction and maintenance of new or substantially enlarged / reconstructed storage facilities.
<a href="#">Catchment Sensitive Farming</a>	Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers and land managers to take voluntary action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture to protect water bodies and the environment.
<a href="#">Campaign for the Farmed Environment</a>	An industry wide campaign that recognises the importance of managing the farmed environment voluntarily.
<a href="#">Get Pelletwise</a>	Information, advice, news, Q&As and useful calculators promoting and encouraging best practice with metaldehyde slug pellets.
<a href="#">The Voluntary Initiative</a>	Information and advice promoting responsible pesticide use.
<a href="#">DEFRA – NVZ</a>	NVZ guidance and information. Including access to the leaflets and publications, and the regional boundary maps.
<a href="#">DEFRA - Farm inspections</a>	A guide to provide information about how and when government officials might inspect a farm in England. It will tell you about who may inspect your farm, what they are looking for, and why they might visit you.

## Contact us

Please [email us](#) if you need any information or advice, or have any feedback or ideas for the next issue of the AgriBuzz. Alternatively call the customer service line: 03708 506 506 quoting 'AgriBuzz'.

Please feel free to circulate this information to anyone who you think may benefit.  
To subscribe to, or unsubscribe from this newsletter please click the buttons below:

[subscribe](#)

[unsubscribe](#)

**Customer service line: 03708 506 506**

**Incident hotline: 0800 80 70 60**

[agriculture.midseast@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:agriculture.midseast@environment-agency.gov.uk)