

Cumbria Flood Bulletin

Farming edition 3

Information for flood affected farms in Cumbria - Friday 26 March
Brought to you by all public sector organisations in Cumbria

Farming recovery update

- ✓ DEFRA has offered an additional £250,000 to help restore Rights of Way in the Lake District National Park from April 2010. This is in addition to the £250,000 already guaranteed for Rights of Way restoration work now underway in the National Park.
- ✓ A total of £330,000 has been awarded to 4 Local Authorities in Cumbria (Allerdale, Eden, Carlisle and South Lakeland) under round two of the Property Level Flood grant scheme. The money will be used to protect homes against flooding.
- ✓ 84 farmers made successful applications for grants totalling more than £338,000 to remove debris and gravel from their land before the closing date for applications (extended to 26 February 2010).
- ✓ Proposals to provide additional support over and above the £6,800 for gravel and debris removal are being explored. Subject to approval, additional support is likely to include 3-5 days of qualified farm advice, and access to other grants under existing funding measures such as improvement of access to farm land.
- ✓ Plans are in hand to appoint a Farms Co-ordinator on a temporary basis to help the worst affected farms work through the support and advice available to them.
- ✓ A handful of farmers with small parcels of former agricultural land that cannot be restored to farming use, or included in an agri-environment (Higher Level Stewardship) agreement, will receive letters soon, inviting them to consider selling the land, so that it can be managed for wider public benefit.

Important debris recovery fund claiming information

The deadline for claiming against expenditure incurred for works performed under any debris recovery grant funding agreement is the 30th June 2010.

Rural Payments Agency information

The mapping basis underpinning any agri-environment agreements with Natural England is known as the Rural Land Register. The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has recently revised this and many farmers will have agreed the new maps before the flooding.

Fences and walls may have been destroyed by flooding and severe erosion may have changed the path of watercourses or the line of the coast.

If you intend to restore the boundaries to how they appear on the agreed Rural Land Register maps, there is no need to submit a mapping change request. However, if boundaries cannot be restored, and in particular this includes changes in watercourses or the coast, you will need to submit an RPA form RLE1 to enable the new topography to be mapped. This will ensure you are paid on the correct areas for any Natural England or RPA area based grants, and any linear or capital items that need to be re-positioned can be located.

Contact the RPA Helpdesk, on 0845 603 7777 and have to hand your RPA Single Business Identifier when you call. Also notify Natural England so your agreement can be amended to reflect the change.

As Single Payment Scheme (SPS) application time approaches again, RPA is urging Cumbrian farmers affected by the flooding this winter to make sure they don't lose out on payments for the 2010 Scheme.

It's vital that anyone whose land has been affected by adverse weather in the last 12 months makes sure this is reflected on their 2010 SPS application form, especially if there are any areas of their farm that are no longer eligible under the SPS rules.

Help for coping with stress



Everyone from time to time experiences too much stress; we can have symptoms but not realise what is wrong.

“I’ve got a constant headache, and stomach problems. I feel irritable and snappy with those around me. I feel low and can’t sleep. I keep expecting something else to go wrong. I’m at the end of my tether”

If you recognise any of these feelings, and are overwhelmed and struggling to cope, you may be suffering too much stress. It is not surprising that many people will be feeling this way given the recent floods and the devastation it caused. It is important to look after yourself especially at this time; things which you may find helpful include:

- **Talking to those around you, keeping in touch with your friends and family.**
- **Exercise regularly - walking is good.**
- **Paying attention to what’s going on around you - get involved.**
- **Relax and do something you enjoy.**
- **Eat a balanced diet and notice how much you’re drinking.**

If you have tried these and are continuing to struggle you may find it helpful to contact First Step.

We will listen to your experience to try to understand how you have been feeling. We will work with you to decide what sort of help might be most useful to you. This may be by guiding you through self-help materials or by using talking therapies.

We can see you in your GP practice or health centre. You can access First Step through being referred by your GP, or if you live in Allerdale you can now refer yourself to First Step by contacting us on 0300 123 9122. We will then contact your GP and if they are happy with us seeing you, we will offer you an appointment.

Useful information may be found on the following website

www.cumbriapartnership.nhs.uk/Help/PrimaryMentalHealthServices/SelfHelpResources.aspx



You can also register for additional support

Cumbria’s public services and charities are committed to providing ongoing support for flood affected people and families through a register maintained by Cumbria County Council contact centre on 01228 606060. Callers will be asked a number of questions about their current living arrangements, how their properties and lives have been affected by the floods, and what support they’ve had or still need.

Those registering will be eligible for support from a range of community groups and public services, including support offered from the Cumbria Community Foundation and goods and supplies which have been donated by companies and individuals.

The registration can also be completed at www.cumbriaobservatory.org.uk/floods2009questionnaire.asp

Key contacts and helpful telephone numbers

Cumbria Flood Helpline

0300 060 4523 & 0977

Natural England

0300 060 6000

Environment Agency

0870 8506506

Lake District National Park

01539 724555

Cumbria County Council

01228 606060

Allerdale Borough Council

01900 702702

South Lakeland District Council

0845 0504434

Cumbria Highways

0845 609 6609

Trading Standards

01539 713137

NFU Cockermouth

01900 823 066

Rural Payments Agency

0845 603 7777

Local Action Group:

Cumbria Fells & Dales 01768 869533

Solway, Border & Eden 01697 349212