

## **Wet Weather 2016 – Farmer Q & A**

### **Livestock**

**Scottish Upland Sheep Support Scheme (SUSSS) – Hogs have been lost but their exact ID numbers are not yet known, and won't be until after the 10 day notification period. Will this be extended? Will they be reduced without penalty or will it be force majeure?**

#### **Requirement –**

##### **Natural circumstance losses**

As long as the farmer informs RPID in writing within 10 working days of finding any reduction in the number of claimed animals as a result of natural circumstance losses (death of an animal as a result of disease, or following an accident), scheme penalties will not be applied. The regulation does not allow any extension to the 10 working day period.

##### **Force majeure**

As long as the farmer notifies RPID in writing with satisfactory evidence detailing the force majeure / exceptional circumstances event (severe natural disaster) within 15 working days of being in a position to do so then the farmer will have the opportunity to retain the right to the animal aid payment.

If possible the SUSSS claimant should provide the eartags of the SUSSS sheep with his application for force majeure, or as soon as they are in a position to do so.

In practical terms if the SUSSS claimant writes in saying he was able to confirm on the (enter the date) that he lost XX number of SUSSS claimed sheep due to flooding and he will provide the eartag numbers as soon as he is able to safely determine the eartag numbers then that would be acceptable, as long as the individual IDs are provided timeously.

**Sheep and goat ID and traceability - How do you record losses in the records? The exact ID numbers will not be known?**

#### **Requirement –**

Sheep and goat keepers have to record within 48 hours the date of the death event, the number of animals affected and the individual ID (if known). In the situation where sheep are lost, presumed dead due to the flooding, the farmer enters all the mandatory information into the register, other than the individual ID details and comments appropriately (e.g. 20 sheep lost to flooding). This is the same procedure that a farmer uses to record black loss.

**Cattle ID and traceability – Some cattle have been lost but the exact IDs will not be known until out with the time frame for notification... will this be penalised?**

**Requirement –**

When an animal is lost (presumed drowned in floods for example) the keeper has a requirement to return the passport to BCMS within seven days of becoming aware of that fact.

In practical terms the seven day notification period begins on the date that the keeper is in a position to confirm the official ID of the animal lost.

In the situation that the keeper knows that cattle have been lost, but is not able to confirm the identity, the keeper should confirm the identities of the lost animals as soon as possible.

In the case of flooding, this confirmation should take place as soon as it is safe to gather the remaining cattle (at which stage the keeper can confirm the ID of the missing animals).

As an additional step, the keeper could inform BCMS of the lost animal situation and BCMS will record the correspondence onto the keepers CTS account (termed a HEAT reference).

Remember that if a keeper returns a passport to BCMS for an animal lost, presumed drowned, but the animal subsequently is found to be alive, BCMS will reinstate the animal onto the CTS and re issue the passport.

It is important to emphasise that the keeper needs to rectify the problem of lost (assumed drowned) cattle as soon as possible after the event.

Force majeure / exceptional circumstances applies to Cross Compliance also, with the farmer having to notify RPID in writing within 15 working days.

**Records**

**Records / computer / passports have been destroyed. Will passports be replaced by BCMS without cost? Does RPID need to be informed?**

**Requirement –**

Cattle keepers have to maintain an up to date holding register, therefore in the event that the holding register is destroyed due to force majeure / exceptional circumstances, the keeper will have to reconstruct the holding register using information from any sources. This may include data already supplied to CTS, pocket diaries, milk records, invoicing etc. The keeper should enter a record of the flooding event and the date so that at a future inspection the reason for the recreated records is clear. There is no need to inform RPID in the case of recreated records.

Current BCMS policy is that they don't charge for replacement passports if the original is damaged and can be produced [even if damp] as they can quickly recreate

the history. If however the passport is completely lost/destroyed then that's much more work so BCMS charge.

BCMS would assume that insurance or flood emergency funding would cover the costs to a flooded farm (given its likely to be more than one passport in a situation like this). To note that they have not been asked despite all of the flooding over the last few months/years to replace passports for cattle.