

AGRICULTURAL WASTE STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Since 15th May 2006 agricultural waste has been a controlled waste. Waste management controls are being implemented progressively over the first year of implementation.
- 1.2 Previously the Agricultural Waste Stakeholders' Forum (the Forum) focused its attention on the development of the regulations that would apply waste controls to farming. During this period the Forum was chaired by Defra.
- 1.3 However, the Forum has now entered a new phase of work where it will focus on the implementation of the regulations. In this new phase it will be chaired by the Environment Agency (the secretariat will also remain with the Environment Agency).

2.0 Proposed Terms of Reference

- 2.1 The Forum will have the following key objectives:-

A] Inform Government and the Environment Agency on issues arising from the implementation of these waste management controls and other agricultural waste related matters that impact on the farming community;

B] Inform "*Waste Strategy 2000*" (and Welsh equivalent) in respect of agricultural waste;

C] Assist the agricultural sector to develop sustainably by recommending practical strategies for managing agricultural waste, including Codes of Practice for farm waste management (based on the best practical environmental option);

D] Recommend detailed, timed action plans on practical and effective measures to assist farmers to comply with the legislation;

E] Advise on and help implement new initiatives to assist the farming community to comply with agricultural waste legislation - including environmental management standards on farms;

F] Advise on the development of a comprehensive communications strategy to assist in raising awareness, informing and educating the farming community on the legislation and best practice;

G] Identify and encourage opportunities to reduce the production of agricultural waste and increase the recovery of that which is produced; and

H] Advise on research and development needs with the aim of ensuring that policy and practice are based on sound science and information.

In order to achieve these objectives the Forum will need to:-

I] Identify mechanisms to monitor progress and measure the success of the Forum;

J] Identify key performance indicators for agricultural waste management and environmental protection and make recommendations to Government;

K] Co-ordinate activities between members to provide an integrated approach to problem solving;

L] Assist stakeholder members in developing and delivering integrated communications to regional and local stakeholders; and

M] Develop a shared vision of sustainable agricultural waste management and a practical strategy giving effect to that vision.

3.0 Membership and meetings

3.1 It is proposed that the following organisations are full members of the Forum:-

1) Environment Agency (Chair & Secretariat);

In alphabetical order

- 2) Agricultural Industries Confederation;
- 3) British Veterinary Association;
- 4) Chartered Institution of Wastes' Management;
- 5) Country Land and Business Association;
- 6) Crop Protection Association;
- 7) Defra;
- 8) Environmental Services Association;
- 9) Federation of Small Business;
- 10) Friends of the Earth;
- 11) Local Government Association;
- 12) National Farmers Union;
- 13) Pesticide Action Network;
- 14) Plastic and Industrial Films Association; and
- 15) Welsh Assembly Government.

3.2 In addition it is proposed that the following will be corresponding members of the Forum:-

In alphabetical order

- 1) Agricultural Engineers Association

- 2) Department for Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland
- 3) Department for Environment, Northern Ireland
- 4) Farming Union of Wales
- 5) Milk Development Council
- 6) National Farmers Union Scotland
- 7) National Office of Animal Health
- 8) Natural England
- 9) Northern Ireland Environment and Heritage Service
- 10) Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
- 11) Scottish Executive
- 12) Soil Association;
- 13) Tenant Farmers' Association
- 14) The Small and Family Farms Alliance;
- 15) Ulster; and,
- 16) United Kingdom Register of Organic Food Standards

- 3.3 The Forum may invite other organisations/individuals to attend when appropriate.
- 3.4 It is proposed that the Forum will meet on a quarterly basis, unless circumstances determine otherwise.
- 3.5 It is envisaged that the Forum will continue its work until:-
 - i) its terms of reference are satisfied; or
 - ii) a majority of the full members determine that it should be disbanded.