

From the Secretary of State
The Rt Hon Hilary Benn MP

Suspension of cross-compliance requirements relating to waterlogged soil

Paragraph 3(2) of the Schedule to the Common Agricultural Policy Single Payment and Support Schemes (Cross-compliance) (England) Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/3459) ("the Cross-compliance Regulations")

Paragraph 1(6) and (7) of the Schedule to the Cross-compliance Regulations

The Secretary of State has taken into consideration the economic impact of recent and current weather conditions. He has also taken into consideration the environmental effects of suspending the requirements relating to waterlogged soil set out in paragraph 3(1) of the Schedule to the Cross-compliance Regulations ("the waterlogged soil requirements").

The Secretary of State hereby suspends the waterlogged soil requirements, being of the opinion that:

- (a) the whole of England is affected by exceptional weather conditions; and
- (b) that these weather conditions justify the suspension of those requirements.

This suspension shall, unless renewed by the Secretary of State, end on 31 July 2007.

Direction to farmers

In accordance with paragraph 3(3) of the Cross-compliance Regulations, and for the reasons set out above, the Secretary of State therefore directs all farmers in England that they are exempt from the waterlogged soil requirements for the period up to and including 31 July 2007. Further directions will be issued if the Secretary of State considers that this period should be extended.

Guidance to farmers

In accordance with paragraph 1(6) and (7) of the Cross-compliance Regulations, the Secretary of State issues the following guidance to farmers about soil management in light of the suspension of the waterlogged soil requirements:

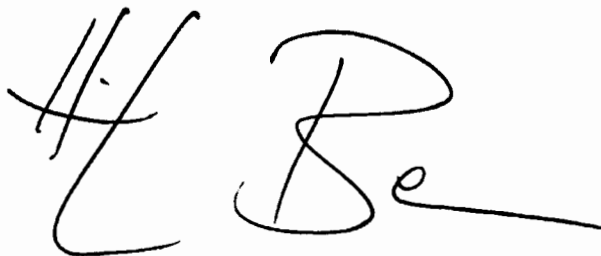
Farmers should:

- record in their Soil Protection Reviews as soon as is practicable:
 - any damage arising from the suspension of the waterlogged soil requirements to any part of their holdings the subject of such a Review; and
 - the action they intend to take to undo or, if appropriate, lessen that damage; and

- take such action as soon as is practicable and, in any event, before the next crop is sown.

If you have any queries as to what amendments you should make to your Soil Protection Review or as to when you should take remedial action, please contact the Cross Compliance Helpline on 0845 345 1302.

Signed by Secretary of State, on [11th] July 2007, at [1.15 p.m.].

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'H' followed by a large 'R' and a long horizontal line extending to the right.