

# waste – you can handle it

## New rules on agricultural waste

### What should I be doing now?

You should understand that burning any waste that causes black smoke or pollution is illegal. You will be looking at different ways to manage your waste, for example by:

- Reducing the amount of waste you produce by working with your suppliers to prevent unusable material coming on to the farm
- Looking for ways to reuse or recycle materials – use a copy of Defra’s guide *‘Opportunities for saving money by reducing waste on your farm’...*
- Separating and storing waste in a secure place
- Identifying contractors and sites where your waste can be sent for disposal or recovery. The Recycling Directory can help you find these ([www.wasterecycling.org.uk](http://www.wasterecycling.org.uk))
- Deciding what exemptions or waste management licences you need or would like to benefit from. Contact us on **0845 603 3113** for help

## Registering exemptions – the story so far

As we expected, the most common activities being registered are for waste plant matter: chipping, shredding and cutting, burning or disposing of it. Other common activities are disposal of ditch dredgings and reusing or recovering waste such as tyres on silage clamps.

We also asked some farmers to record how long it takes to register. On average it took them 1.5 to 2 hours and they found our helpline staff just that – helpful.

**Lots of farmers have registered but we know that there are lots more that haven’t. Just as a reminder you have until 15 May 2007 to register – but don’t leave it too late and get caught in the rush.**

## Want to register? – ring us to order a pack

You need to get a pack to register. Just phone us on our dedicated phone line: **0845 603 3113**

You can simply leave your address details and we will send you your pack, or if you wish, you can talk to one of our advisors if you have any queries.

Alternatively you can register on-line using Defra’s Whole Farm Approach. For further information call Defra on **08459 335577**, or e-mail [wholefarmhelp@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wholefarmhelp@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

If you have requested a pack and it hasn’t arrived within 10 working days, phone us (**0845 603 3113**) and let us know. We want to make sure you get what you need.

## What’s in the pack and how do you use it?

The pack contains a form, which you will need to send back to us and some guidance which explains each exemption in more detail. It also has a list of Frequently Asked Questions which will help if you get stuck.

When filling in the form we only want information on those exemptions you need, and this is as simple as ticking a box. You must read the guidance before completing the form as you need to know what the exemption allows and what you are signing up to.

For some activities, such as using your own construction waste for improving a farm track, or if you are in or near any specially protected habitats or environmental sites, you will need to complete some extra questions. If you need help filling it in then ring our helpline.

During the year we will also be supporting NFU, ADAS and other organisations at agricultural shows or at regional workshops, so keep your eye out for these.