

Ruminants newsletter

Spring 2022



Spring has sprung

Joe Bailey, Head of Farming

Lighter days, thriving nature and new life. But in the current gloom of world events and challenges beyond our control, some days can feel overwhelming. Spring is perhaps a reminder to focus on what is important, our families, friends and those we care for at work.

In March, we welcomed Mike (Michael) Baker as the new interim chief executive of RSPCA Assured. He has 25 years of leadership experience in animal welfare - including farm animals - having previously been chief executive of [The Brooke](#), [World Animal Protection](#) and [The Donkey Sanctuary](#), and a former President of [Eurogroup for Animals](#).

Mike will be leading RSPCA Assured through an exciting period of transformation whilst helping the organisation find a new long-term chief executive to lead the charity into the future.

I hope you find joy, peace, and hope in this season of change.

Update from RSPCA Farm Animals Department

Sophie Prater, Scientific Officer (Small ruminants, transport and slaughter)

Whilst lambing can be an exciting and rewarding time for sheep farmers, there are times when the welfare of lambs can be compromised and, in certain situations, lambs may need to be humanely euthanised to prevent further suffering.

Click [read more](#) to learn which methods are allowed under the RSPCA Assured scheme following the recent amendments to the [RSPCA welfare standards for sheep](#).

[Read more](#)

Certification body changes

Neil Scott, Head of Certification

We are delighted to have signed a contract for [Supply Chain In-sites \(SCI\)](#) to be our certification partner for the next three years. And we are currently in discussions to agree on a start date.

Whilst being a newcomer to the industry, the SCI team has many years of experience in farm assurance and certification to ISO17065. Their future plans are very much in line with how we would like to develop RSPCA Assured and we are looking forward to working with them.

We are extremely grateful for all of the hard work, support and engagement we've had from those at NSF who have partnered with us over recent years.

It's very much business as usual whilst we transition to SCI and members do not need to do anything different. We will keep you updated as the transition progresses.

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THE
FUTURE**



PUT DOWN ROOTS
with Woodland Creation

www.gov.uk/woodland-creation

Join our woodland creation webinar on woods & water

Rebecca Tempest, Forestry Commission

Trees have far-reaching benefits for land, the environment, and water. Even planting small woods in the right place can help reduce flooding and the effects of drought, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and help to keep rivers and aquatic life cool.

On Tuesday 14 June at 9:30, we are hosting a free [webinar on woods & water](#). The online event will cover:

- Where you could consider planting woodland on your farm or landholding
- How planting trees can help mitigate flooding, improve water quality and support biodiversity
- Share woodland creation examples that support a better water environment
- The incentives and grants available to farmers and landowners, and the potential additional income trees can provide
- The help available from the Forestry Commission and partner organisations including The Environment Agency and The Rivers Trust.

With watercourses under increasing pressure now is a great time to see how you could help, so please join us. The format will be a one-hour presentation, with 30 minutes for your questions at the end.

For further information on the benefits of woodland creation and the grants and support available, including the Forestry Commission's flagship England Woodland Creation Offer, [visit our website](#) or [contact your local Woodland Creation Officer](#).

[Get your free ticket](#)



[Guide to planting trees on your farm](#)

Jeremy Costello, Marketing Executive

Have you seen our guide for planting trees on your farm? It includes practical advice, and is backed up by research from the [Woodland Trust](#) and [Forestry Commission](#).

The guide covers a range of topics including:

- What are the benefits of planting trees on your farm?
- Why is tree planting so important?
Which trees should you plant on your farm?
- What should you check before planting trees on your farm?
- What support is available to help you plant trees on your farm?

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