

£20m opportunities for collectors for O48 month testing scheme

Have you signed-up to be a DEFRA sampling site for O48 month old animals yet? If not then you're losing out on the potential for significant added revenue as a result of the new EU rules. To register you have to immediately contact your local Animal Health Office to start the process. For details of your local office log onto

www.defra.gov.uk/animalhealth/about-us/contact-us/search/

Under the new scheme DEFRA will pay for the sampling, while farmers pay for the collection and disposal - helped in the first year by a £2m grant which NFSCo will administer. NFSCo is starting the collection and disposal tender process (see page 2), but if you're also interested in sampling you need to contact your local animal health office as soon as possible. Samplers will be paid £5 per animal for sampling, and it is estimated that there will be in excess of £20m worth of collection business during the course of the year.

'Collectors who are also samplers are more likely to get the pick of the business,' says Michael Seals, Chairman of NFSCO, 'as farmers are more likely to use them.'

Move to 'user pays' billing

NFSCo has announced plans to scrap its annual membership fee and to move to monthly 'user pays' billing. From December 1 the £18.00 NFSCo annual membership fee will cease, to be replaced by a £1.75 monthly administration fee that will be levied on the monthly statement, but only if a member uses the services in the month and has their invoice posted. Any member who opts for email invoicing will save 30%, and pay £1.25. It is NFSCo's intention that the fee will be reduced over time through greater business efficiencies and an increase in membership numbers. 'I hope this will save

farmers money in the short-term, and that it will attract more farmers to dispose of their fallen stock through NFSCo in the future, which will make us more efficient and allow further cost reductions,' said Mr Seals. The move to a monthly user fee basis will coincide with the ending of the Government grant to NFSCo.

'The objective of NFSCo is to be a lean organisation that provides farmers with the best, most efficient fallen stock collection service at the lowest cost,' added Mr Seals. 'Introducing a user-pays scheme is a logical step forward in meeting the organisation's better service, lower cost objectives,' he adds.



Open invitation to visit offices

NFSCo's offices at Stanton, near Ashbourne in Derbyshire aren't exactly on the beaten track . . . but any collector who wishes to visit will be very welcome. All we ask is that you ring in advance and make an appointment so we can make sure all of the staff you need to meet are in. We look forward to seeing some of you soon.

Contact NFSCo

Need to get in touch? Then contact us on the following numbers and addresses:

Helpline number: **0845 055 9993**

Email: collector@nfscO.co.uk

Fax: **01335 324584**

Address:

NFSCo,
Sallyfield Lane,
Stanton,
Ashbourne,
Derbyshire, DE6 2DA

'Do not miss the chance to be a DEFRA 048 month sampler'

Tenders invited for O48 month scheme

NFSCo will shortly invite tenders for the new O48 month collection and disposal scheme, which will start on 12th January 2009.

The Government has provided a £2m grant to NFSCo to support farmers in the transition from state to sector funding for 2009, and this will be used to subsidise the cost of O48 month collection and disposal. The NFSCo Board has decided that the £2m will be allocated on a sliding scale through the year starting at 20% in January and

February, reducing to 5% in October, November and December.

'Determining the level of monthly subsidy is not an exact science because we don't know how many farmers will take-up the scheme, and we don't know how many animals will die on farms,' says Michael Seals, Chairman. 'But we think this is the best way to do it, and we will review during the year.' NFSCo urges collectors to register with their local Animal Health office immediately to ensure they are an approved sampling site ahead of the January start date.

Regional meetings



Next Spring we are planning to hold five regional "Meet and Greet" meetings around the country, when we will invite collectors to meet NFSCo's chairman and key Board members, and also Ian Potter (above) and members of NFSCo's administration team.

We will be hosting meetings in the South, Midlands, North, Scotland and Northern Ireland, and all of you will be invited to come and discuss issues that are affecting your business - be they practical, political, or financial. We will write to you nearer the time.

In the Autumn we are also planning a conference, where we will invite key individuals involved in the sector in the UK, in allied industries, in Government, and across the EU. We will have presentations and discussions on best practice, and how other EU countries deal with fallen stock.



Get your tenders in NOW for the new 048 months scheme !

Faster dial-up

Some of you have witnessed dial-up problems into the NFSCo offices, especially when submitting individual collections for invoicing and payments.

Those problems will soon be a thing of the past, however, as we are in the process of installing a new larger capacity internet pipe in readiness for NFSCo dealing with the O24 and O48 month schemes.

We are also continuing to fine tune the Transaction Processing System, following feedback from collectors. If you have any other suggestions for simplifying data input, or for better communication between your business and NFSCo then please let us know.

Don't miss the deadline!



All collections made on or before midnight on Sunday November 30 must be entered onto the NFSCo website as completed jobs by 6pm on 1st December 2008. Any collections not entered by this time will mean that members will NOT qualify for the current 10% Government contribution.

Please ensure you have a plan in place to ensure ALL collections are entered.

Input facility



If you're a small collector remember that NFSCo staff can input your data for you at the end of the month for a small charge of 50p per collection.

If you're interested in this then please contact Joanne Sowter at the offices.