



Landmark agreements
Page 3



Graduates celebrate
Page 4

BASISnews

Promoting Professional Standards

Summer 2011

Changes to higher education funding will impact on new graduate diploma

Anyone thinking of extending their BASIS qualifications to achieve the joint BASIS/Harper Adams University College Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management needs to get their skates on.

Unfortunately changes to the way universities and higher education establishments are to be funded will mean that there will no longer be Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) support for candidates working towards the graduate diploma.

Funding has been provided under the Employer Engagement Initiative, but this will cease next year. In practice, therefore, even though details of the first agronomists to achieve this high level qualification have just been announced (see page 4), candidates looking to follow

in their footsteps will need to make sure they earn the extra credits to convert the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy to the full honours degree level, before the end of July 2012. After this date candidates will still be able to achieve the qualification but they will have to fund themselves.

Effectively this funding has allowed BASIS to subsidise accreditation for candidates to the value of £2,300 per FTE (120 credits). This is almost £20 per credit. With the

BASIS Certificate at 30 credits and FACTS/BETA/Soil & Water at 15 credits, it is equivalent to £580 for the Certificate and £290 for the other courses.

Fortunately none of this will impact on the availability of the BASIS Diploma which will continue in its present form. "It's unfortunate, but cuts to education funding have affected us too," adds Rob. "However I feel confident that training and education will remain important for any government so, rest assured, we will be keeping an eye out for any future appropriate funding initiatives to support training in our sectors."

BASIS gets 'out and about!'

Meeting members of the BASIS Professional Registers whether in agriculture, professional pest control or the amenity sector as well as those interested in becoming members is a key activity for the BASIS team.








Events such as PestEx, the British Pest Control Association's flagship exhibition and, of course, the hugely popular Cereals event, which this year attracted almost 27,000 visitors, are regular fixtures on the BASIS exhibition calendar.

So too in November is PestTech, the annual gathering for pest controllers organised by the National Pest Technicians Association. This year's event will


be on 2 November at the National Motorcycle Museum in Birmingham.

Early in 2012 – 24 to 26 January to be precise – BASIS will have a presence at the BIGGA Turf Management Exhibition (BTME) in the Harrogate International Centre. The event is Europe's leading showcase for turf and grounds care professionals.

Inside this issue

-  Store inspection trends
New website live
-  Landmark agreements signed
-  FAQs urged to take on-line test
-  Awarding CPD points
-  Autumn seminar dates announced
-  Supermen graduate
-  New website live

 Follow BASIS on twitter
<http://twitter.com/basisregltd>

 Find us on facebook
www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Basis-Registration-Ltd/195137293871518



Left: Paul Singleton and Rob Simpson on the BASIS stand at Cereals 2011 in June. Above: Michele Williams, Jill Bailey and Amanda Capsey promoting PROMPT at the PestEx event in April.



News in brief

New website & also on twitter & facebook

BASIS launched its new website in April. With specific pages dedicated to each of the BASIS activities – Exams and Training, Professional Register, FACTS, Storage and Distribution, Amenity and Pest Control – it's now quicker and easier to navigate.

Contact details for the whole BASIS team are accessible from the home page, with Member and CPD Event Organiser login links on the specific activity pages. Access to the pay online page is also provided from the relevant activity sections.

You can now also find BASIS on twitter and facebook
<http://twitter.com/basisregltd> and
<http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Basis-Registration-Ltd/195137293871518>



Pesticide Forum annual report out now

The Pesticide Forum has issued its annual report for 2010. Among the key achievements highlighted is a report on pesticide container disposal, the work of the Metaldehyde Stewardship group and the Forum's involvement in Defra's Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative. To download the full report visit www.pesticides.gov.uk/pesticides_forum_home.asp

Leading farmer to chair Voluntary Initiative

Wiltshire farmer and a previous BASIS Board member Richard Butler has been appointed as chairman of The Voluntary Initiative (VI). He succeeds Professor Barry Dent who is retiring after successfully chairing the VI from its start ten years ago.

Institute of Biology offer

The Institute of Biology is offering a 25% discount on the first year of membership to anyone who is on the BASIS Professional Register. The Society provides a much needed single voice for life sciences. Membership also gives access to a wide network of biologists. Interested? Then email: jonkudlick@societyofbiology.org stating that you are on the BASIS register. Offer closes on 31 December 2011.

Top 10 store issues in 2010

The new PDA store reporting system which was introduced in 2010 can produce reports looking at national trends as well as reports for individual companies with multiple sites. "This means that we can now quickly identify the issues which are causing storekeepers most difficulty during store inspections," explains BASIS Logistics Manager, Lindsay Smith.

The national top ten issues are diverse. The renewal of five-yearly approval letters from the Fire Authority and Environment Agency is still proving problematic and 9.1% of stores had not reviewed their COSHH assessment.

Many of the issues seem relatively minor, for instance, the Health & Safety at Work poster being displayed correctly, but with the details on it not completed (4.8%), or Fire Risk Assessments being available but not reviewed annually (6.1%) and Emergency Contingency Plans being out-of-date or just not available (4.8%). However minor they might seem, such failures may well mean that businesses are not fulfilling their legal requirements.

"Paperwork that needs reviewing can easily get missed," says Lindsay. "That's why we actively encourage storekeepers to keep all such items together and to review them all annually during the

quieter months. The BASIS Storekeeper Checklist is a useful aide memoire as it identifies all the paperwork the BASIS assessor will check during the visit," she adds.

Many sites did not display or needed to replace first aid signs (8.4%) or the flammables sign BS 5499 (3.3%).

The remaining top ten issues were respirator filters and eyewash being out of date (6.1% & 3.3% respectively). These are easily avoided if storekeepers use the checklist prior to the visit.

Historically some of the main issues were related to PPE items not being in place or fire extinguishers not being serviced annually but instances of these are now much less common.

The new PDA system will allow BASIS to compare year on year trends and help us identify any areas where perhaps more education or information is needed.

FQAs urged to get trained & take the on-line test

The new training programme for FACTS Qualified Advisers (FQAs) is a compulsory requirement for all those wishing to retain their FQA status. Why then are so few taking the training modules?

"Perhaps they are nervous of the on-line test," suggests Rob Simpson, Managing Director at BASIS. "It is certainly clear from the figures that even those who have had the training are reluctant to take the test. Yet it is not difficult and, if someone fails, they can take it again, without penalty. No-one will know how many times you have had a go and so far those taking it have been 80% successful. I would urge those completing the training to take the on-line test as soon as possible, before they forget what they have learned!

"It looks like most people are leaving things to the last minute. But, be warned, FQAs who haven't passed the on-line test by 31st December 2014 will lose their FQA status.

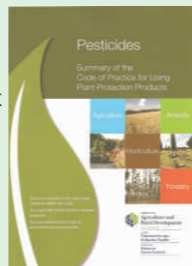
"Once lost, a more rigorous written exam and viva will have to be passed, so I would urge all FQAs to get on with the training and take the on-line test as soon as they can."

Don't forget, the NMP exam also counts as an advanced module for the BASIS and Harper Adams University College Diplomas.

New publications for N Ireland

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) has published its Code of Practice for Using Plant Protection Products. To help farmers and advisers familiarise themselves with the Code there is also a useful four page, A4 summary. Both items can be downloaded from www.dardni.gov.uk/ppp-code. Hard copies from Kim at BASIS on 01335 301207

DARDNI has also been involved in the publication of a new reminder card on water protection called 'Care in Agrichemical use near waterways'. Co-producers include the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Ulster Farmers Union and the Voluntary Initiative. To get a copy of the card email your name and postal address to: nieapollutionprevention@doeni.gov.uk



Landmark agreements signed

BASIS and the Environment Agency (EA) have signed a landmark Memorandum of Understanding, formally recognising more than 30 years in which the two organisations have worked together to raise standards in the pesticide supply and advice sector.

BASIS Managing Director Rob Simpson commented: "This agreement cements our longstanding informal relationship with the EA. It recognises the confidence the EA has in the annual BASIS inspection scheme. We anticipate that, for stores registered with BASIS, it will cut down on red tape and streamline the five yearly renewal process for EA approval, which requires an inspection from the agency."

The agreement was formally signed on 30 June 2011 at the EA's Millbank Tower head office in London.

A similar agreement was signed by BASIS and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland (DARDNI) in February this year.

Brian Irvine Head of Environmental Policy Branch at DARDNI said: "This agreement will help us work jointly along with other stakeholders to ensure best practice and safety in the pesticide industry."

RAMPS ready to go

Members of the PROMPT Register, who wish to continue using aluminium phosphide will be pleased to hear that the Register of Accredited Metallic Phosphide Schemes UK (RAMPS UK) has achieved Level 2 accreditation for its Safe Use of Aluminium Phosphides Award. Assessors and trainers are in the process of completing their training ready to begin operator training this autumn.

Under the Sustainable Use Directive, by 2015 all users wishing to purchase product will have to produce photo ID and evidence of training/ competence. Holding this new Award and being on the RAMPS UK register will satisfy this requirement. RAMPS will also hold a register of stockists. Registered stockists must be either members of BASIS or the BASIS Small Stores Scheme.

Interactive maps

PROMPT and FAS members, if you want your details to be included in the interactive maps which will be going live on the BASIS website in September then please make sure that you return your data protection disclaimer form to the BASIS office by 14th August 2011 latest.

David Jordan, Director of Operations at the Environment Agency (left) and Rob Simpson, BASIS Managing Director after signing the landmark agreement.



How CPD points are allocated

Each year BASIS Professional Register members must accrue Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points. The exact number needed varies between 20 and 50, depending on the category of activity. As an example, to attain the 40 CPD points required to stay on the Agriculture/Horticulture Register, a member could expect to undertake between 20 and 40 hours of approved training and/or other activities attracting CPD points.

So how does BASIS ensure that CPD activities are allocated the correct number and category of points? Last year BASIS processed over 6,500 such activities, ranging from simple technical notes to fully participative training. Each was assessed and awarded CPD points in a range of categories including Crop Protection, Environment, Plant Nutrition, Personal Development, Health and Safety and, for members of PROMPT, Pest Control," commented Professional Register Manager, Michele Williams.

The number and category of points awarded is based on information provided by activity/event organisers. This includes the event's objective, type of activity, participant numbers, length of day and content.

"Event objectives must be clearly defined, measurable and provide evidence of educational and development practice," explains Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager. "Inclusion of agendas and/or presentations with applications helps us assess the technical merit of the event and allocate the correct number and category of points," he adds.

A training day will normally be six hours, excluding lunch breaks; shorter training days will attract points on a *pro rata* basis. Events with fewer than 15 participants generally attract more CPD points per hour due to the increased amount of participation and better potential for knowledge transfer. Generally events with more than 15 participants will be classed as seminars or conferences and will attract fewer points.

"We are often asked: How can my event attract maximum points? The simple answer is to include specialist areas and to build in a level of recognition of the wider implications of pesticide applications," says Stephen. "For example, an event on a specific pesticide product should take into account legislation, application, varietal effects, environmental impact, operator safety, plant nutrition aspects and so on. Most important of all organisers must make sure they supply us with as detailed an agenda as possible," he advises.



Stephen Jacob, the new Business Development Manager, who joined BASIS from Sentry Limited early this year.

Further information is available on the website at www.basis-reg.com or contact Michele on 01335 340855.

Top prize for Amy



Amy Pearson of Frontier Agriculture has been named as the best student on the first Rothamsted Post Graduate Award in Crop Protection course. She is pictured above with Peter Taylor, Chair of the Rothamsted Research Association (RRA) who presented her Award Certificate during the Cereals event in June.

The new course has three residential modules: general scientific principles of agricultural research, plant pathology, entomology & nematology and weed science. Candidates must also complete a written project and the final assessment is based on this plus a presentation of the project to fellow students and examiners and an oral examination, all of which are overseen by BASIS.

She said: "The work was challenging and much more research based than any previous course work I'd done. Anything that helps knowledge transfer between scientists and agronomists is a good thing and the course encouraged that. I would definitely recommend it to other students."

Successful exam candidates also earn a BASIS Advanced Module Certificate. Funding for the course has come from the BBSRC supported by HGCA. The best student also receives a jointly funded travel bursary from BASF and RRA.

BASIS e-cards raise £57 for charity

A fantastic total of £57 was raised last Christmas when BASIS once again opted to send out e-Christmas cards. 50p was donated for every e-card opened.

Autumn seminar dates announced

BASIS has released the dates for its autumn round of special seminars for trainers and examiners. The half day sessions will highlight new BASIS courses and developments recently introduced to ensure consistency in training standards across the country.

"We are particularly keen to include in-house trainers and have written to companies asking them to pass on details of the seminar programme to their in-house staff," explains Sue Mason, BASIS Examinations & Training Manager. "Naturally we've also circulated details direct to our trainer and examiner list but if anyone reading this is interested in coming along to an event, or indeed, finding out more about how to become a BASIS trainer or examiner please email me on sue@basis-reg.co.uk"

Date	Location	Examiner Event	Trainer Event
13 October	York	10.00 to 13.00	14.00 to 17.00
18 October	Edinburgh	10.00 to 13.00	10.00 to 13.00
21 October	Farthingstone	14.00 to 17.00	10.00 to 13.00
25 October	Arundel	14.00 to 17.00	10.00 to 13.00
27 October	Cirencester	10.00 to 13.00	14.00 to 17.00

Supermen First agronomists in UK to achieve graduate diploma

The achievement of the first two students to complete a special graduate diploma in agronomy have been celebrated. Andrew Havergal and Richard Butler are the only two agronomists in the UK so far to have achieved the Harper Adams University College Graduate Diploma in Agronomy with Environmental Management.

The qualification is equivalent to the final year of an honours degree and leads on from the BASIS Diploma in Agronomy.

During a special lunch and presentation, they received certificates from Harper Adams Principal, Dr David Llewellyn.

BASIS worked closely with Harper Adams to develop the qualification as Managing Director Rob Simpson explains: "Whilst achieving 'your BASIS' has been the gold standard for those involved in plant protection for the past 29 years, it has only



Frontier's Andrew Havergal, left, and Richard Butler from Masstock Arable are the first agronomists in the UK to hold the Graduate Diploma in Agronomy and Environmental Management.

been recently that all the BASIS qualifications have been recognised outside the industry. This has been through a process of accreditation with each BASIS course being awarded a number of credits at levels 5 and 6. Once this process was complete we realised that anyone who had successfully achieved the BASIS Diploma would, with just one extra 15 credit module, be at an honours degree level. With Harper Adams we now have that final step in place."



PROFESSIONAL PEST
CONTROLLERS REGISTER

Follow BASIS on twitter at <http://twitter.com/basisregLtd>
Find us on facebook www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Basis-Registration-Ltd/195137293871518

BASISnews is published by BASIS (Registration) Limited, St Monica's House Business Centre, (37-39) Windmill Lane, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EY
Tel: 01335 343945 Email: newsletter@basis-reg.co.uk www.basis-reg.com

Edited and designed by Active Solutions Email: helen@activesolutions.uk.com Printed in England