



Media Release

Friday 2 August 2019

Rural organisations reiterate call for support for flooded Yorkshire Dales

Following the unprecedented flooding in the Yorkshire Dales, the NFU and other farming and rural organisations have met today to assess the extent of the damage and affirm their commitment to work in partnership to get farmers and rural communities back on their feet.

As the Richmondshire District Council co-ordinates recovery in the aftermath of the flood, rural organisations¹ working in collaboration with the Council reiterated their calls for support for farmers and rural communities from the Farm Recovery Fund.

NFU Regional Director Adam Bedford said: “This week part of the Yorkshire Dales experienced some of the most intensive rainfall ever, with some areas receiving up to 113mm of rain in just 3 hours.

“The storm’s unprecedented nature has led to widespread damage to farms, homes, businesses and wider rural infrastructure. On farms, livestock and many walls, hedges and fences have been destroyed which has associated impacts on farmland. Many farmers are also reporting the loss of silage and hay bales which were harvested and stored for winter feed.

“Our meeting today was unanimous in the need for immediate and significant central government support to aid the recovery of the farms and villages affected in the Yorkshire Dales.”

Outlining the recovery phase of the weather event, Richmondshire District Council Chief Executive Tony Clark said: “As the lead authority dealing with the aftermath of the flood, we are working in partnership with all agencies on the clean-up and restoration needed.

“The farming and rural communities are banding together, as are support organisations who have met today. We reiterate our call for support from government to help us at this unprecedented time.”

The NFU is also working in partnership with the Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority in order to assess the extent of the damage.²

Rural organisations are hosting an event³ on Wednesday 7 August to gather further data from those affected and to provide support. Farmers attending will be able to liaise with all agencies and organisations and register for support from farming and community charities.

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Notes:

1. Organisations working in collaboration with the Richmondshire District Council during the recovery phase are:
 - National Farmers’ Union (NFU)
 - Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority
 - Yorkshire Dales Farmer Network
 - York and North Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
 - Environment Agency
 - North Yorkshire County Council
 - Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution (RABI)
 - Farm Community Network (FCN)
2. All affected farmers are being urged to call the NFU’s CallFirst number on 0370 845 8458 and register their details.
3. The event will take place on 7 August 12-3pm at Leyburn Auction Market.