



Dear Welfare Officer

I hope you are well and that you aren't too inundated with welfare concerns.

I'm sure that most of you will remember that last year we ran the first BHS Ragwort Awareness Week (RAW) Survey. It was a great success and I have put a précis of the main results at the bottom of this email.

This year RAW is running July 11 – 17 (the same week as last year) and we are repeating the survey. This is really important as we need to garner as much data as possible to hopefully effect better enforcement or a change in the law. I'm sure most of you will agree that ragwort seems to be on the increase (it is what we get the most calls about during the summer months) but we don't have any hard evidence to support what we see. With cost cutting going on all over the place we really are going to have to fight to get ragwort control enforced and, if it isn't, even more horses will suffer a painful death.

All we are asking is that people report any ragwort they see to us (via the survey) during RAW.

So, once again I am asking (pretty please!) for your help both to respond to the survey and to encourage others to do so. The survey only takes a couple of minutes and can be done online via our website (preferably) or can be posted to us for those who prefer. I have attached a copy of the postable paper form to this email which you can print out, or if you would like more to distribute etc then please email [welfare@bhs.org.uk](mailto:welfare@bhs.org.uk) or call 02476 840517 and we will get them out to you post haste (I will hardly be in the office over the next week or so, so probably best not simply to reply to this email). The survey itself won't go live on the website until the day before as the point is to do a snapshot in the week of July 11-17 and I don't want to encourage people to report things outside of these dates. It will be accessible from the front page of the BHS website though when it does go live.

All respondents will be entered in a draw to win Mark Todd merchandise.

Anything you could do to help us increase the number of responses to the survey would be hugely appreciated. I realise how busy you all are and am very reluctant to add to things but it hopefully won't be too onerous and it is something we can proactively do in the battle against ragwort. Many thanks in advance for anything that you may be able to do to assist.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch if there is anything we can do to help or if you have any questions.

Thank you once again for your ongoing help and support

Best wishes

Lee

*Lee Hackett*

*Senior Executive, Welfare*

*Please note that my telephone number has changed to 02476 840575*



### **Key Results of 2010 Survey**

77.3% involved land that animals were grazing on or near  
35.8% of cases, ragwort covered at least half of the land  
10000+ horses grazing on ragwort infested pasture  
Approx 20,000 cattle or sheep grazing on ragwort infested pasture

### **Full list of counties/ Local Authority areas in order of number of ragwort reports.**

1. Hampshire	20=Warwickshire	45=Northumberland
2. Surrey	20=Clwyd	45=Merseyside
3. Cheshire	25 Devon	45=Outer London
3 = Lincolnshire	26 Norfolk	48=Humberside
3 = Cambridgeshire	27=Lancashire	48=Gwynedd
6. Leicestershire	27=West Yorkshire	48=Dyfed
7. Nottinghamshire	29=Strathclyde	48=Gwent
8. North Yorkshire	29=Essex	52=Central Scotland
8 = Hereford and Worcester	29=Berkshire	52=Fife
8 = Kent	29=Somerset	52=Lothian
11 Greater Manchester	33 Derbyshire	52=Tyne and Wear
12 Staffordshire	34=South Yorkshire	56=Highlands
13 Hertfordshire	34=Wiltshire	56=Mid Glamorgan
14 Bedfordshire	36 East Sussex	58 West Glamorgan
14=Oxfordshire	37 Buckinghamshire	59 Borders
16=Sussex	38 Avon	60=Grampian
16=Dorset	39 Dunfries and Galloway	60=Inner London
16=West Sussex	40=County Durham	62=Orkney
19=Gloucestershire	40=Cornwall	62=Islands
20=Shropshire	42 Tayside	62=Down
20=West Midlands	43 Cumbria	62=Powys
20=Northamptonshire	44 Isle of Wight	

No reports were received for areas not listed.