

# FARM CORNWALL NEWSLETTER

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ADVICE SUPPORT BUSINESS FAMILY INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT

One thing that has surprised me about Cornwall is that to some extent the cropping season doesn't end, one crop simply merges into the next with no time to stop and think. Cauliflowers are set for another season of spot prices, yet costs of production are 35p to 38p each and all but a few who have a contract price have any idea what they will get paid. Straw, cereals, and fertilizer have all seen marked price hikes. It is also obvious by the cattle numbers going through Truro that cattle are being sold before they are finished. It probably makes sense to sell those borderline cattle early before housing rather than incur the costs of bedding and extra concentrate feed but will this affect numbers later on in the season we will have to wait and see.

I had my eyes opened recently by a trip to one of London's largest fruit and vegetable markets. Whilst the pressures applied by the supermarkets can make it seem like they are the only market, clearly our trip to London proved that there is an alternative. Over 40% of the total fruit and vegetable market is still handled by the wholesale markets, catering and other forms of sale. However it might be prudent to note that the two items conspicuous by their absence from London's Western International Market were greens and potatoes of any description!

## Thinking about a wind turbine or solar panels? Finding it hard to gather comprehensive and unbiased information?

We have arranged an information day for those of you interested. The day will include a morning session with speakers followed by a site visit to a working, on farm wind turbine and your chance to ask your questions to the experts.

Date: 07 December 2010  
Time: Starts 10:30am  
Venue: Wheal Dream Golf Club, Nr Helston followed by a site visit to Carbone Farm.  
Cost: FREE



Speakers already confirmed are:  
Dan Nicholls: Cornwall Council Planning Officer.  
Kevin Hughes: Formerly from RDA to discuss the technology, FIT, siting, costs and maintenance,  
Matthew Smith: Foot Anstey to discuss legal and tax issues.



Refreshments and lunch will be provided. Please call Edward or Helena on **01736 352012** to book your place.

*This training event is organised/supported by the Duchy College Rural Business School through the RDPE Skills Programme, which is a SW RDA initiative, funded through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).*



**Would you be interested in a new waste disposal for your farm?** Kernow Plastics have developed a system that might be of interest to you. And if there are enough of you there could be potential for up to **90% grant funding**. Please call Edward for further information. 01736 352012.

If you require a large print copy of this edition or any other information contact the Office on 01736 352 012.

## Reminiscence Group

We have decided to organise a 'reminiscence group' to meet hopefully regularly for the older generation of farmers, wives and workers who no longer go to market or NFU or YFC and miss meeting up with old friends and colleagues. This is based on a similar model to one they run in Derbyshire which has proved hugely successful.

The first meeting will take place at Penlee House on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November at 10.30am until approximately 12.30pm. The gallery is currently exhibiting some old farming memorabilia so if you are interested bring along some old photographs or press cuttings. The event is free and Penlee House have kindly agreed to put on some refreshments. There is a cine film of the Zennor parish "Crying the Neck" I'm sure you will recognise someone in the film. Please see enclosed letter for more information or ring Edward or Helena on 01736 352012 to book a place.



### TUBERCULOSIS - YOUR TIME TO SPEAK UP!

It is estimated that for each confirmed TB incident in cattle it will cost £30,000, £20,000 of which is picked up by the Government and £10,000 by the farmer. In 2009 there were 25,000 cattle slaughtered under TB control measures and the total cost to the taxpayer £63 million. Over all the whole of England and Wales 6.4% of herds are under TB restrictions, in the South West this figure more than doubles to 14.3% of farms.

The aim of the cull is to effectively reduce numbers based upon the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT). Which demonstrated under controlled conditions over sufficient enough of an area the level of TB could be reduced by culling. Vaccination will be part of the proposed control measures but as yet there is insufficient data as to how effective it will be.

The plan involves farmers coming together over a minimum of 150 sq km area. Gaining agreement amongst those farmers, then applying for a license to cull badgers over a 4 yr period. The licence will be issued by Natural England (NE) who will also monitor the culls effectiveness, humaneness, and overall impact, a cull is a reduction in numbers not a wipe out. The farmer groups will be responsible for employing a suitable contractor, the disposing of the badger carcasses, and all record keeping. The cost of the proposed cull and vaccination programme will be borne by the farmer.

Questions being asked under the consultation are.

The consultation document is available at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk). To write responding to the consultation – TBBC Mailbox, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR.

If you are affected by the TB problem there is a new advisory service free of charge.

South West TB Advisory Service, 01392440706, [info@southwest-tbadvice.co.uk](mailto:info@southwest-tbadvice.co.uk). The NFU has arranged a meeting to discuss the proposal at Truro Market on the 25<sup>th</sup> November at 11am.

We have recently been awarded some funding to research the growing and marketing of new crops destined for the Asian and Afro Caribbean market. The research will take place over a number of farms to see if we can grow these crops, either in the field or under plastic. Some of these crops you will see in your local supermarket and some you will have never heard of. At this stage we do not know how they will fare or even if we can grow an acceptable crop, it is very early days.

For those cynics among you remember that maize was a crop that started life in Central America and potatoes in South America so don't laugh just yet.....



*'The farmer is the only man in our economy who buys everything at retail, sells everything at wholesale, and pays the freight both ways.'*

**John F Kennedy**

The Penwith Farm Business do their best to ensure that all information and advice given is up to date and accurate. However, the information and advice does not constitute legal or professional advice and Edward Richardson and the Penwith Farm Business Centre cannot accept any liability for actions arising from its use. You should seek your own professional or legal view as needed. Advice is based only on the facts and information provided.

