



sound, practical, realistic & confidential advice

This winter has been harder than normal, particularly for bulb and cauliflower growers and some are looking at reducing their acreage or whether cauliflowers are worth continuing with at all. Some time last year I wrote to the CEO of a leading Supermarket and he believes: that there is sufficient vegetable crops already in Cornwall and the drift east of the cauliflower crop was natural as the field size was greater and there was less of a problem with club root and that the skill base for growing vegetables in the far west had disappeared. Then 'bang' comes a hard winter and farmers are looking to grow cauliflower West of Penzance again! The losses to cauliflower within the County have been quoted at £3 million, from an average 25% field loss, So why when the crop is in short supply has the price not risen? Supermarkets will have suppressed demand by increasing the price, and consumers will switch to alternatives like broccoli, curly kale, leeks, or cabbage. Packers are now talking of a contract for next year of 43p or 45p but the question is: is this enough to ensure supply? See my costings below to see if yours stack up.

With the milk price still low, dairy farmers seem particularly down at the moment, hopefully the pressure will shortly be eased by cows going out and the need to buy straw relaxing. Unfortunately this will only be short lived as the cost of fertilizer (£340 for nitrogen) and high feed prices give no respite, this will also be compounded if you are in an NVZ. The final completion date for NVZ compliance is April 2012, all work done for an NVZ is dead money, there is no return on capital it's just being compliant and being able to continue.

For those of you who are really feeling the pressure for whatever reason, I would urge you to give me a call. I regularly work with the banks and landlords in trying to seek business and personal solutions to problems you are facing. In my experience it is far easier to sort out a problem the earlier you start however daunting that might seem to you we are here to help and remember all advice is free of charge, confidential and unlimited.

We have had some interest in training for a computerised recording system for complying with NVZ regulations. The system is called 'Planet' and if you are interested more information can be found at

www.planet4farmers.co.uk .

If there is sufficient interest then this training will be arranged at a suitable time and venue and could be subsidised in some way.

Please contact: Edward 01736 352 012.

ITEM	COST PER ACRE or 10,000 SEEDS	
	HIGH	LOW
SEEDS	£250.00	£220.00
MODULES INCLUDING DELIVERY	£150.00	£150.00
FERTILISER	£280.00	£160.00
CHEMICAL AND APPLICATION	£85.00	£20.00
PLOUGH	£22.00	£20.00
LIME	£105.00	£0.00
HOEING	£20.00	£20.00
PLANTING	£80.00	£80.00
RIP/SUBSOIL	£20.00	£20.00
POWER HARROW* 2	£44.00	£44.00
LAND RENT	£160.00	£120.00
NETTING INC DEPRECIATION (INCS BAMBOO AND NETTING AND PUTTING AWAY AFTER USE)	£50.00	£50.00
RIG COST	£120.00	£120.00
LABOUR CUTTING COST	£350.00	£350.00
DELIVERY TO PACKHOUSE	£100.00	£100.00
MAINTENANCE OF CROP	£100.00	£100.00
MICE BAIT	£10.00	£0.00
TOTAL	£1,946.00	£1,574.00
PER HEAD COST	38p	31p
FACTOR IN 25% LOSSES * 1.25	48p	38p



If you get a moment please have a look at our new website:
www.farmcornwall.co.uk

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

Reminiscence Group

At the recent meeting of the group at The Smugglers Inn at St Erth Praze we were shown a slide show of photos taken by Harry Penhaul in the 1950s all taken in and around the West Cornwall area. As few of the pictures actually had any names or places attached we all had great fun trying to put names to faces and places and tractors! Many memories and stories emerged of times gone by and I think everyone who attended enjoyed the evening. Below is one of the photos that has raised the most interest. Do you recognise the children in the photo? Most of you have recognised the old St Erbyn's and St Clare's uniforms and it was even suggested that the lamb might be a family pet called Brandy!!

Due to the success of the first meeting we are hoping to run the event again at 7:30pm, 3rd May 2011 at The Smugglers Inn, St Erth in Praze and again on the 8th June 2011, at 2pm in the Conference Room at Penwith Business Centre. Please call Edward or Helena if you would like to come along, all welcome!



FIRE SAFETY

Crews from Penzance Community Fire station are currently visiting farms and rural areas within Penwith offering Home Fire Safety Checks and updating operational farm risk assessments.



The aims of the visits are:

- To visit and speak to as many households as possible offering fire safety advice and **free smoke detectors** to those that don't currently have them.
- Update operational risk assessments; containing information on any hazards e.g. silos, slurry pits, chemicals, machinery etc at farm which may be a risk to fire fighters were they to attend an incident, information about access to the farm (directions and width limitations) and water supplies that might be used for any incident.
- Familiarise fire crews with farming systems of work and local rural areas.
- Meet and liaise with farmers and people living in rural communities.

It is important to stress that these visits are **not an inspection** and hold **no legal obligation** to either the farm or Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service. They are an informal visit where everyone can gain valuable information that may aid fire crews should an unfortunate incident ever occur. If it is ever needed the information may make a massive difference and possibly save lives. Penzance Fire Station intends to cover its area, however with limited resources this may take sometime. If you wish to arrange an earlier visit because you require smoke detectors or fire safety advice then please ring

Penzance Community Fire Station on 01736 362 918.



Do you recognise any of the children above? Answers on a postcard please.....

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