



sound, practical, realistic & confidential advice

Finally at long last summer appears to have arrived; enabling some of the maize to actually grow this time and plenty of hay and silage to be made. Many of you will have used more silage than ever this year and this could be a chance to replenish your stocks, however in the rush to make silage remember how much each bale costs your business to make. At £23-25 a bale ask yourself if other options might be worth considering.

Health and Safety Check Ups

After the last newsletter Edward has carried out several Health and Safety checks on farm which we hope the farmers have found useful and in some cases life saving!!

Edward has lots of H&S experience and whilst we cannot guarantee that everything will be picked up it will give you a good idea of what systems should be in place and areas that could be improved upon.

If you would like Edward to come out to your farm to give you Health & Safety Check Up then please give the office a call on 01736 352012.

Health & Wellbeing Grants for Carers

Do you look after another person who is not able to look after themselves properly due to ill health, age, physical or mental illness? Perhaps you make them a meal, help them get up, do their shopping or simply remind them to take their medication. If so, you may be eligible to apply for a carers grant to help you in your role.

There are several grants available and we can offer lots of other advice and help too. For more information on how we might be able to help you please call us on 01872 243532 or email jane.morgan@cornwallrcc.org.uk

COMPUTER TUTOR

Are you able to teach a wide range of computer skills or do you know someone who can?



We are looking for a tutor to help us out with ad hoc computer training sessions and the odd workshop, subjects can range from word and excel to online VAT and web design.

If you are interested please call Helena on 01736 352012 or email: Helena@farmcornwall.co.uk

TB Information Days



In consultation with **Adrian Chandler** of **South West TB Advisory Service** we have arranged two information days:

1. Mr and Mrs I Rowe of Millvale Farm, Great Bosulow, Newbridge Penzance, 20 August 2013, 11 – 2pm
2. Mr K Rogers of Menerdue Farm, Carnmenellis, Redruth. Ken Rogers will be either the 15 August, 11-2pm

These two days will give farmers the opportunity to see what SWTBAS can offer in supporting farmers with TB. How farmers can mitigate the cow to badger contact in the buildings and out in the fields. I understand SWTBAS have run these days up country to great effect. The local Vet will also be on hand during the event.

There will be a pasty lunch and a chance to see Irwin and Dilys prize winning Aberdeen Angus Cattle and Ken Rogers recently installed a robotic milking machine and new NVZ compliant slurry store.

If you are interested in attending either of these days then please call Edward on 01736 352012.

If you require a large print copy of this edition or any other information please call the office on 01736 352012

Schmallenberg Virus Update and Vaccination

Last autumn we saw the first cases of Schmallenberg Virus in West Cornwall, and in the spring saw several deformed calves and lambs born. It appears from disease surveillance that nearly all the herds / flocks in West Cornwall have been exposed to the virus over the last year although many have seen no clinical signs. In herds or flocks that have been exposed to Schmallenberg Virus 20 – 40% of animals have not been infected by the virus so are still susceptible to production losses and abnormal calves / lambs if they become infected with the virus.

A vaccine for Schmallenberg virus is now available for cattle and sheep. It is manufactured by the pharmaceutical company MSD. It has been quickly developed and is only being sold under a provisional licence as not all the development work has finished. The vaccine is currently licensed for use in non pregnant female animals, and has no recommended intervals for vaccination after the primary course has been given as the research has not been completed. The initial course of the vaccine is one dose for sheep and two doses approximately four weeks apart for cattle. The initial course must be completed at least three weeks before the start of any mating period to allow the animals to develop full immunity. In cattle the vaccine will prevent the virus spreading in a herd, but in a sheep flock as only one dose is used there may still be a small amount of viral spread after the vaccination course is completed. The vaccine cost will be around £3 – 3.50 per dose.

Our view on Schmallenberg in the coming year is that we will still see difficult calvings, lambings and milk drops due to the virus, but there will be quite a lot less than last year. Vaccination will help to reduce these cases further. As the vaccine can only be used in non pregnant animals it will be difficult on many farms to develop a simple vaccination program. It is best to discuss with your vet how a vaccination program would work best on your farm and if it would be economically viable.

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Environmental Schemes

Environmental Stewardship is part of the existing Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) which began in 2007 and comes to an end at the end of 2013. The last start date for the submission for ELS agreements is December 2013; the latest date to submit complete applications is 1st of September 2013. If you have an application which finishes between September and December better to apply earlier than be late.

Natural England is still unsure what Agri-Environment schemes will look like under the new European Rural Development Programme but some of you may have heard the new scheme being referred to as the New Environmental Land Management Scheme (NELMS).

It is anticipated the new start date for new agreements will not be before 1st of January 2016. Natural England is awaiting confirmation as to whether any of its current schemes which expire in 2014 and 2015 such as Countryside Stewardship (CSS), Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) will be funded by what is referred to a transitional funding. If they do not fund these schemes during the period between the current Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) ending and the next one starting, then farmers in receipt of payments for ELS, ESA and CSS will have to wait until the new round starts again in 2016. For those farmers in CSS and ESA whose agreements end during those years and Natural England see as priority farmers perhaps for HLS agreements, Natural England will approach directly.



Winner of the last issue:
Don't try this without a suitable counterweight!

Gordon Jeffrey,
Tregurnow

CAPTION COMPETITION
Winner will have their caption printed in the next newsletter.
Please send entries to:
Helena@farmcornwall.co.uk or
by post (address below) or
text.
Good Luck!!

