



sound, practical, realistic & confidential advice

Recently the issue of 'common land' has been causing a bit of an uproar due to large tracts of land, owned for generations by farming families, has been put forward for common land status. Anyone who finds themselves in this situation will know that it is extremely difficult to contest. The Commons Act of 2006 refers to land defined as "waste land of Manor" being unenclosed and uncultivated, like much of the Penwith Moors, however all land once belonged to a manor- hence the difficulty in disproving the fact. But you must object, and you need to prove either it's enclosed or it has been cultivated, consult county historic records, aerial photos, perhaps individuals who remember land ploughed in WWII under the War Ag. Then write to your MP to protest at the injustice of this loop in in the law and inform him that common land status will enable others to stop fencing going up and as such make it very difficult to manage HLS agreements, which are essential in improving access, wildlife, farm incomes and tourism. The weather has cooled a little to slow the cauliflower growth up and the contract price kicks in at 46p from 26p.

For anyone with sheep please make sure you update DEFRA census with your numbers at the beginning of December. And for those of you in the NVZ area remember that this year the no spreading of slurry and nitrogen fertiliser period is extended to the end of January 2014.

RPA has stepped up inspections and I understand 100 extra inspections have taken place in Cornwall this year so far. Of particular interest and causing the highest fail rate are cattle movement problems particularly failure to record deaths and normal cattle movements which amount to 34% of 1947 failures, no NVZ records 10.5%, Spreading FYM without a risk map 4.3% of failures and finally no Soil Protection Review 8.6% of failures. No Soil Protection Review is a 3% deduction off your SFP. Total deductions off SFP are £1.4 million. Please contact us if you require help in dealing with any these issues.

COMPUTER LESSONS

We will be starting our weekly computer sessions again after Christmas, for an initial 6 week period starting on **Wednesday, 15th January 2014, 10am – 12pm**. Classes will be small and tailored to your own needs where possible e.g. spreadsheets, VAT online. If you are interested in attending all or any of the sessions then please call **01736 352012** or email **helena@farmcornwall.co.uk**. Although FarmCornwall is able to subsidise these sessions there will be a small charge of £5 per session or £25 if you book up front for all 6 sessions.



Cornwall Council and British Gas have joined in partnership to create a new local scheme called Glow Cornwall, aiming to help people throughout Cornwall save energy and save money on their energy bills. The scheme aims to help people improve the quality and comfort of their homes, helping to make them more affordable. It is open to British Gas customers and non-British Gas customers alike.

The government's 'Energy Company Obligation' (ECO) initiative mean that, subject to qualifying criteria, applicants to the scheme may be eligible for full or part funded energy efficient measures in their home. Among some of the measures that can be installed are boiler replacements, cavity wall insulation, hard to treat cavity wall insulation, external wall insulation and loft insulation. Alongside ECO funding, Glow Cornwall is also able to offer the 'Green Deal'. This government backed initiative helps the occupier meet the up front costs of making energy saving improvements to their home.

If you would like to find out more about the scheme, please contact the Glow Cornwall team on **0800 316 4425** or visit their website: www.glowcornwall.co.uk

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

We are delighted to inform you that we are now funded by The Prince's Countryside Fund and The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation.



As some of you may already be aware we were also successful in a separate application to the fund (working with LandRover) to get Edward a new landrover for a year so if you see him swanning around in it – don't worry he hasn't been given a pay rise!!

Five years of recession means we are all feeling the pinch—but not everyone is getting the services and help they are entitled to. The Get F+I team started in July and is working with rurally isolated people to:

- Improve their financial security,
- Reduce fuel costs
- Get them more IT savvy.



There are dedicated CAB outreach workers who can visit people at home and help them access all the benefits and services they could get, and also, where necessary provide specialist debt advice.

For a CABx Get FIT home visit, please call Sue McDermott on 01872 243552 or Jane Morgan on 01872 243532. Although we are mainly funded to work with people over 60, we will also work with anyone who is over 55 who has a long-term health condition, or finds it difficult to get into a CAB office.

Please note that the FarmCornwall office will be closed from **Monday, 23 December 2013 – Monday, 6th 2014.** Merry Christmas!

BRAINTEASER

Three students need to buy a new television so their friend tells them of a bloke he knows selling one for £30. The students each duly hand over £10. On turning up to pick up the TV the vendor explains that as the TV is slightly damaged he will take £25 for it. The friend hands over £25 leaving him £5 change. Being a good friend he decides to give the students back £1 each and keep £2 for himself. So the three students have paid £9 each for the TV and the friend has kept £2 for his trouble, the question is, where is the other £1?



Winner of the last issue:

Have you got a bolt to fit this?

Andrew Hichens

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The Trusthouse
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Grandfather Spray Rights

If you were born before 1964, we are planning to put a training course on in the Spring in conjunction with Kernow Training. More details will follow but if you are interested then please call Edward and put your name forward.

Soil Protection Review –

What you will be required to do in 2014

As you may be aware, the current Soil Protection Review (SPR) 2010 was designed for use only between 2010 and 2013. The SPR is being reviewed and new arrangements will be implemented from 2015. Therefore, the current requirements will apply in 2014. Given that there will be no space to complete an annual review for 2014 in the current booklet, DEFRA will be issuing a continuation sheet to extend the life of the current SPR booklet for 2014. Users of the SPR online system may continue with their annual review online as before.

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING GRANTS

CSF grants are available again this year for works designed at reducing pollution, soil erosion and run off. These may cover such items as new buildings for covering open concrete yards, farm track renewal, silt traps, fencing, concreting etc (for a full list see the handbook). All applications have to be completed by the end of February 2014. The grant is set per item, square metre or length so the application does follow a logical process. Due to restricted funding for 2014 grants will **only** be available in priority catchment areas. Marazion Marsh, Cober Valley and Loe Pool, Fal and Caerhays Catchment and Lower Par near St Blazey. Last year the areas between the Cober Valley and St Blazey and up to the A30 were also available this is no longer the case.

If you think you are in the respective areas consult "MAGIC Map" online. Details of the scheme can be down loaded or speak to the Catchment Sensitive Farming officer for West Cornwall – Becky Hughes 07775113757.