



sound, practical, realistic & confidential advice

It seems that along with the milk price, the cereal price and the potato price that the beef price now seems to be heading in reverse. In my opinion **the milk price** is moving into a position of more volatility where it will be more susceptible to what is happening elsewhere in the world as opposed to what the supermarkets might like to think! Likewise **the beef price** seems to be under pressure from all sides; people are simply not prepared to buy expensive cuts and therefore more and more is being processed to a lower value product, it faces competition from European imports and on top of that it looks likely that more beef could be on its way from the Americas, with the recent signing of a trade deal with the Mercosur Countries (South America). As to **potatoes**, the late spring has created an unusual scenario of potatoes being ready in other parts of the UK ahead of local Cornish, added to large quantities still in store from last year. Obviously transport costs for other areas are cheaper and so Cornish earlies are being left in the ground, controversially, I also rather think the early has lost its identity somewhat. Knowing what it costs to produce a ton of potatoes, a litre of milk or a beef animal or ton of grain is crucial to the success of your business, if you need help in identifying those costs please don't hesitate to get in contact.

## SPREADER - NVZ SOFTWARE

FarmCornwall's own software for recording field records

Following various attempts to train farmers to use the Government's PLANET software for recording field operations, most, if not all farmers have ditched the system as over complicated and unworkable. A few farmers have been inspected by the RPA, using paper records and found them to be deficient in failing to calculate the residual nitrogen using the four stage process as follows;

1. Previous crop
2. Soil type
3. Rainfall
4. Manure applied.

Some of these farmers have been fined by the RPA. To this end we have developed our own software – "Spreader" which has been designed with the help of farmers and is currently undergoing trials to discover any snagging or design issues. Once ready, we will present it to farmers at a combined NVZ update day in July (date to be confirmed). The programme will also be demonstrated to DEFRA to gain RPA approval.

## ASULAM - authorised for bracken control

An emergency authorisation (EA) has been issued by the Chemicals Regulation Department (CRD) which confirms that ASULAM will be available to control bracken during the 2014 season, starting on 1 July. Subject to label conditions, the 2014 EA gives approval for the application of ASULAM by tractor/vehicle mounted spray booms and boomless sprayers, or knapsack sprayers/hand lances for spot or overall application. The use of weed wipers and drift sprayers (e.g. the Micron ULVA) and spot applicators is **not** authorised. A full briefing can be found on the Bracken Control Group's website at [http://bit.ly/swnfu\\_bracken](http://bit.ly/swnfu_bracken)

## No time to go to the Doctor?

On the **20<sup>th</sup> August** a registered nurse will be available to you at **Truro Market** in the **Farm Crisis Cabin**. FarmCornwall is working with Cornwall NHS to trial this service which has been very successful elsewhere in the Country. Appointments will be on a first come first served basis and you will be able to talk in confidence to the nurse about any of your medical worries.

## Market Nurses

## Animal Reporting and Movement Service (ARAMS) – from 1st April 2014 within England

On the 1st April 2014 a new electronic movement reporting system was launched by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

The new Animal Reporting & Movement Service (ARAMS) is provided by SouthWestern from their Milton Keynes office. The ARAMS system takes over the processing of sheep/goat/deer movements from each Local Authority in England.

The website contains information for the various industry stakeholders as to how they can interact with the new ARAMS system. Information documents are available for farmers, markets, abattoirs, shows, collection centres and assembly centres.

### Movement Documents

Please note that hardcopy ARAMS-1 movement documents are available from your local market. They are also stocked in Local Authority offices and some abattoirs and larger showgrounds. If you wish to use this online movement form, it is in Editable PDF version which will allow you to type in the movement details and print off the number of copies you require.

<http://www.arams.co.uk>

Sally was enjoying a drink at The Fountain at Newbridge last Saturday night, when this really ugly guy walked into the bar. She told me later: "The weirdo came over to the bar and pinched my bum. Then he had the nerve to demand, 'Give me your number, sexy.'" She replied, "Have you got a pen?" He smiled and said, "Yes." To which she replied, "Well you better get back to it, before the farmer notices you're missing."



# SILAGE COSTS

There has been a shift in Silage making techniques which have seen the launch into the UK market of Forage wagons. Although not a new system, it has been widely used on the Continent for many years. The large forage wagons provide an alternative system which fits somewhere between the self-propelled harvester and the round baler. For this comparison we have not included trailed foragers or big square balers. Julian Ellis, owns a forage wagon and had this to say: 'having your own forage wagon gives you the flexibility you had from your own trailed harvester but without the need for trailers'

	ROUND BALE	FORAGE WAGON	SELF PROPELLED
<b>Area harvested per day</b>	20-40 acres	20-60 acres	90-150 acres
<b>Chop length</b>	No chop -250mm	50-150 mm	15- 30mm
<b>Clamp silage</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>Distance from farm</b>	No restriction	2 miles or thereabouts	Up to 4 miles - dependant upon trailers/tractors/men
<b>Manpower requirement (minimum)</b>	One man If you own all the equipment - minimum one man	Two Men Dependant upon size of machine but smaller machines can be one man on clamp one on wagon	Six Men Due to the speed of the operation all parts are being carried out at once
<b>Average Tipping time at clamp</b> <i>Based upon work in Germany in 2003</i>	n/a	2.21 minutes	51 seconds
<b>Transport capacity</b> Comparing a 44m <sup>3</sup> Forage wagon v 2 x 19m <sup>3</sup> trailers servicing a Claas 860 forage harvester- <i>Germany 2003</i>	n/a	At 0.5km 80t/hour At 1km 65t/hour At 2km 50t/hour At 4km 35t/hour At 6km 28t/hour	At 0.5km 92t/hour At 1km 75t/hour At 2km 50t/hour At 4km 30t/hour At 6km 20t/hour - based on 2 trailers, more added as distance increased
<b>Cost per acre</b>	Mower £11/acre Tedder £7/acre Rake £7/acre Baler £2.50/bale Wrap & Stack £4/bale	Wagon £28/acre Clamp tractor £31/hour Mower £11/acre Rake £7/acre	SP forager £28/acre Clamp Tractor £31/hour Mower £11/acre Rake £7/acre 3 Tractors & trailer £11/acre
<b>Cost for 100 acres or 560 ton of material</b>	Mower £1100 Tedder £700 Rake £700 Baler £2500 Wrap & stack £4000 Plastic £2000 <b>Total £11000</b>	Wagon £2800 Clamp Tractor £885 Mower £1100 Rake £700 Plastic £165 <b>Total £5650</b>	SP Forager £2800 Clamp Tractor £341 Mower £1100 Rake £700 3 tractor & Trailer £1023 Plastic £165 <b>Total £6129</b>
<b>Advantages</b>	Easy to do small fields and small areas, very flexible, not too much specialist machinery or infrastructure	Cheaper capital costs than a Self-propelled forager, requires a smaller team of staff, longer chop cut. Can be used for zero grazing. No height issues when tipping load at clamp. Farmer can be more involved in the process	Speedy process, able to cover large area in a day, chop length small for easy compaction and moving – same machine can cut maize and whole crop.
<b>Disadvantages</b>	Quality can vary per bale, high cost of wrap, high cost per bale, rodent and bird damage	Distance from fields to clamp is restrictive, the sheer size of the machine on the road. Feels like a stop start process Long chop can cause difficulty in getting air out of the clamp – leading to storage problems and wastage in the clamp. These may need more rolling.	A capital expensive operation, difficulty in sourcing sufficient men to drive all the equipment, high fuel bills. May need to add an additional tractor to the clamp as the speed of clamping makes consolidation difficult. Speed of process makes farmer involvement less likely.

**Contact Us:** FarmCornwall CIC,  
Unit 7, Penwith Business Centre,  
Long Rock,  
Penzance,  
TR20 8HL

Tel: 01736 352012  
Mobile: 07775 667825  
Email: [edward@farmcornwall.co.uk](mailto:edward@farmcornwall.co.uk)

[www.farmcornwall.co.uk](http://www.farmcornwall.co.uk)



The  
Trusthouse  
Charitable  
Foundation