



sound, practical, realistic & confidential advice

After the uncertainty of the last 8 months, unfortunately we have finally seen the milk price drop by 2.8p over the two deductions. Added to this the price of beef has dropped by 25%; cereal prices have dropped to the same price as when I was a student in 1980 and finally early potatoes have drifted between no one wanting them and a lower price just to move them, to bagging them in plain bags to disguise their Cornish beginnings!

Now, more than ever, knowing the real cost of all your inputs and whether that new piece of kit is essential is absolutely crucial. The number of farmers asking 'where do we go from here?' is increasing. In fact since we started in 2002 with John Forster the proportion of work dedicated to farmers needing assistance hasn't really changed. The geographic area has increased but the problems of income not keeping up with expenditure; excessive HP agreements and loans; bouncing along the bottom of the overdraft and issues surrounding inheritance and succession are all recurrent topics and unfortunately at present I can see no end in sight. If you would like some help with analysing your costs and discussing future plans then please give us a call.

The **Common Land** issue rumbles on in West Cornwall at a pace experienced like nowhere else in the country. There have been 15 applications to convert land in private ownership into so called common land, even though the word "common" does not mean it belongs to all, it still belongs to the farmer. Yet in the other 6 pioneer areas there have been only 2-3 applications to convert land to common status (UK Government Source). To this end a party of Farmers and a representative from the CLA met with Lord de Mauley to discuss the matter – he agreed to receive a written statement from ourselves over the criteria surrounding the 2006 Commons Act.



Gerald and Anne
Babcock, Hugh
Eddy and Ian
Flindall outside
DEFRA offices -
London

*What's the difference between a seagull and a
Cornish farmer?*



*A seagull can still make a deposit on a John
Deere!*

**Don't forget the
Market Nurses will
be at Truro Market on 15th
October in the Farm
Community Network and
Chaplaincy Cabin.**



FREE COMPUTER LESSONS

Starting 22nd October 2014 for
8 weeks

Basic Computing:
9:45 – 11:15am

Introduction to Spreadsheets
11:30 – 1pm

Small, informal groups.
Please call the office to
book your place.
Places are limited
and will be on a
first come first
served basis.



CAP Reform

From 2015 there can be no claims of less than 5 hectares. For those of you who might fall into this category you have basically five options:

1. Sell your entitlements and make no further claims
2. Combine your entitlements with another small farmer of similar size to take you over the 5 ha threshold. After that point one or other will be the main claimant.
3. Acquire sufficient acres to take you over the threshold through purchase or rental. If you do rent make sure there is a rental agreement between each party such as a grazing license.
4. Find a farmer who can add it to his claim, this is similar to 2. You will need to lease the entitlements to the farmer so as to maintain ownership, on payment of the claim in December the farmer will pay the sum back to the owner of land with less than five hectares, usually less a fee for their trouble. In this case and in 2 the claimant is now responsible for all cross compliance issues, so any negligent act upon the owner of the smaller block of land could have consequences for the whole.
5. Do nothing and you will lose the entitlements

Entitlement transfer can take place from now until the **21st of October 2014** under the current SFP Scheme or again in January to 02 April 2015 under the new BSP Scheme. Current trading for entitlements is about £120- £130/ha. However because of the 'less than 5ha farms' coming onto the market and corporate land owners in the "negative" list who cannot be classed as Active farmers there is a good supply of entitlements on the market.

We have arranged two dates at The Stithians Centre and Ludgvan Community Centre for those seeking advice on the new CAP, please see below for more details.

CONFUSED ABOUT THE NEW CAP REFORM LEGISLATION?

FarmCornwall is putting on two 'information sessions' to help you to understand the latest amendments to the CAP. The sessions will consist of a short presentation/talk followed by your opportunity to ask questions.

Venue: Ludgvan Community Centre
Date: Thursday, 23rd October 2014
Time: 10am – 2pm

Venue: The Stithians Centre
Date: Thursday, 30th October 2014
Time: 10am – 2pm

Refreshments and a pasty lunch will be provided. Please call the office on 01736 367589 to book a place.

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

Tel: 01736 367589
07775 667825
Email: edward@farmcornwall.co.uk
helena@farmcornwall.co.uk
Web: www.farmcornwall.co.uk



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND



Please note the
change of our
office telephone
number. The
new number is
01736 367589