

The recent fall in the **milk price** is clearly causing some concern amongst dairy farmers who have seen almost a third of a reduction in their milk price which is more than sufficient to cripple some of them. The income normally received is vastly different from this time last year and is returning to prices paid in the 1990s. How long farmers can continue at this price is difficult to predict. I recently attended a meeting by the prospective parliamentary Conservative MP for West Cornwall at Helston Cattle Market and Liz Truss MP, the Environment Minister, she was certainly given the message that a prolonged low milk price will undoubtedly lead to dairy farmers leaving the industry. When talking to farmers who are facing debt I do feel it is vital to be honest with yourself and others around you. If you do find yourself in financial difficulties here are my key suggestions:

1. Where possible put your suppliers onto monthly payments, better to pay out something than nothing at all and up that level when circumstances allow.
2. When you need sundry items – make a list
3. Construct a monthly cashflow budget and compare it monthly to actual expenditure.
4. Talk to your bank, suppliers, landlord keep them informed

If you do need help with budgets for the bank or some help and reassurance with the business or are worried about your debts then please do not hesitate to contact us **01736 367589, FCN (0845 3679990), RABI (01749 838652)** and together we can all work together to build a better future for you, your business and your family.

THE NEW BASIC PAYMENT SCHEME

The new Basic Payment Scheme has replaced the old Single Farm Payment. The new scheme is entirely done online with **no paper application whatsoever**. You will receive an invitation to register through the post and although it is not fully functional you will be able to register yourself and view your old applications and maps. Previous advice was that all farmers would have to confirm their identity through the online Gov.uk Verify system, we have now been advised that this is no longer the case and that all farmers must register themselves over the phone on 03000 200 301, you will then be given a 10 digit registration number and emailed a 6 digit number with which to begin the online process at www.gov.uk/ruralpayments. They will also ask you to answer a number of personal questions, such as memorable date, first car, colour of first car etc to be used as identity questions in the future.

- **If you are online** at home and have an email address then you should get all the information you require to complete the process but if you are unsure then please give us a call and we can provide you with a step by step guide to the process.
- **If you do not have access to the internet or an email** then you will need to set up an email address to register yourself for this scheme. We are able to help you set this up free of charge and assist you with the registration process should you require it so please call the office on **01736 367589** to book an appointment.

Once you have registered you have the choice to either do the application yourself or appoint an agent. **It is for you to appoint an agent**, using FarmCornwall facilities to log on does not mean that you are obliged to use our services for future BPS applications. If you do intend to use an agent then you will need their unique number to register them to your application.

LAG - Grant Funding

LAG (Local Action Group) funding will open up this spring across the whole of Cornwall with 40% funding on projects for single businesses and 75% funding for businesses where 3 or more farmers have come together. As yet the criteria for applications isn't quite certain but funding from LAG is worth considering and worth working on prior to the scheme's start in the spring.



OUR FREE COMPUTER LESSONS ARE CONTINUING

Starting Wednesday, 04 February 2015 for 8 weeks

Basic Computing: 9:45 – 11:15am

Introduction to Spreadsheets: 11:30 – 1pm

Introduction to Using the Internet;
Thursday, 5th March 2015 & Thursday 12th March 2015, 10am – 12pm.

Learn how to use the internet for basic tasks such as searching for information, shopping and setting up an email account.

Small, informal groups. Please call the office to book your place. Places are limited and will be on a first come first served basis. 01736 367589.

BADGERS & FARM BUILDINGS

The continuing battle against TB can only be fought if the Government continues with and rolls out further culls. Increased TB cattle movement controls on their own are insufficient. As the cold weather has now arrived, The SW TB Advisory Service is advising you to keep an eye out for evidence of badger activity in and around farm buildings. If you are concerned about badger activity on your farm contact The South West TB Farm Advisory Service which can provide free, confidential and independent advice to any livestock farmer in the region, who may be struggling with issues relating to TB or is at risk from TB. This includes badger surveys and on-farm visits, with cameras available to monitor badger activity in and around farm buildings. 01392 440706 or

email info@southwest-tbadvice.co.uk

Please also find enclosed with this newsletter a flow chart that shows the regulations for cattle movements.



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THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

