

Four years ago I attended the Bishop Bill lecture at Stoke Climsland, the speaker was Professor John Beddington (Government chief scientist at the time) about how the world population would rise to 9 billion by 2050; agricultural land stocks are diminishing as ever more land is tarmacked and concreted over; peoples' diet is changing to a more western diet as people become more affluent; there has been a lack of investment in new techniques, systems, varieties and genetics particularly in the UK; and finally climate change. For a while I believed it would all come good. However when I read a similar article recently it got me thinking that whilst I agree with all of the above it does not necessarily follow that farm commodity prices will rise alongside. In fact I would argue that farm commodity prices will flat line. They may go up and down within a range but to say that in 10 years time milk prices will be in excess of 40ppl would be incorrect. A more likely scenario is that it will be somewhere between 19ppl and 33ppl, in fact much where it is today. For the last 30 - 40 years that is what has happened, the price of milk in 1990 was 19ppl and in 1995 it was 26ppl. All through the 1980's and 1990's the price of cereals was around £90-100 per tonne – again much as it is today. However your costs will have risen dramatically in the meantime. Therefore it begs the question; is the current long term model of ever downward pressure on food prices sustainable and if so, what is the future for the countryside and it's social structure? If the price of farm produce is to be sold as a commodity then farmers need to see both sides of the coin and not be contractually excluded from the price when it rises. Maybe now is an opportune time to consider your future in the industry bearing in mind the likely future of commodity prices?

## GRANT FUNDING

### Local Action Group

Finally we have a start date for Cornwall Local Action Group Funding of 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2015. The scheme will accept applications from rural businesses and community organisations. For more information contact: Emma Kehyaian West Cornwall LEADER Project Co-ordinator Mobile: 07973 813803

### EAFRD Project funding

EAFRD funding has sent out a "call" for projects that add value to foods produced within Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. Minimum grant aid is £35,000 paid up to £1,000,000. On project area examples as

- Support to dairy farmers to manufacture or process dairy products
- The cleaning, grading and processing of flower bulbs
- Support to vegetable growers to add value to their product
- Support to livestock producers to add value after slaughter to their meat products

For more details contact David Rodda on  
**01872 324649**



### Catchment Sensitive Farming

The farmland surrounding the **Drift Reservoir** has been included in the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) programme for 2015 - 2020. If your farm falls within the area you will be eligible to receive grant aid. If you are interested in claiming a grant under the CSF programme, contact Joe Oliver, Natural England or Pete Warman/Jan Dinsdale from Cornwall Wildlife Trust on 01872 273939. The CSF grant is also in place for the Marazion Marsh Catchment and Cober Valley. Cornwall Wildlife Trust has also gained funding for smaller grant projects within those areas from what it refers to as 'Upstream Thinking' (also includes the Fal Estuary) for more information use the above contact.

If you would like a map to see if you are eligible, then please check our website or call the office for a copy 01736 367589.

## On the bright side.....



A couple of years ago we ran a project alongside The Prince's Trust, Kernow Training and Duchy College to take long term unemployed young people off unemployment benefit and train them in agriculture. They had no experience but they all got a pair of overalls and boots courtesy of Cornwall Farmers, a three day tractor driving course, one day in the machinery workshop, a day's fencing on the beach and three days working on a dairy farm. The other day I met up with Reuben Curnow, who had employed one of the participants following this taster period. James now works full time on the farm and has completed an apprenticeship with Duchy College, he drives the tractors, looks after the sterilisation of the current daffodil crop and is involved full time in all aspects of working on Reuben's farm at Cury. Although it has taken some time and patience, Reuben is pleased he took the chance.

### Have you got an orchard where you don't use some or all of the apples? Don't let them go to waste!

We will pick them and turn them into cider and give you back some as a thank you. We are a family who have discovered the joy and challenge of making cider. We are firm believers in reducing food miles, buying locally and reducing waste. Hence we make our cider using apples only from Cornwall and apples that would otherwise go to waste.

Give us call on 01726 71879,  
email [mark@wastedapple.co.uk](mailto:mark@wastedapple.co.uk)  
or cider or Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/wastedappleco](http://www.facebook.com/wastedappleco)



## FUNDING FOR FARMCORNWALL

As some of you may already be aware unfortunately our recent funding applications have been unsuccessful and whilst we are still applying to other funders the current situation is that we will run out of funding by the end of this year. British Farming is in the midst of an unprecedented crisis with all aspects of the industry under increasing amounts of pressure. We feel strongly, and we hope that you will agree, that in the current climate the need for our services has never been greater and this has prompted us to take the step of becoming a registered charity. We are hoping that this opens up further channels of funding to keep the project going and to help us maintain the work we do particularly with the farms in crisis situations. The Charities Commission has stated that some of the work we do cannot be funded by the charity, so unfortunately for the first time we will have to start charging for some of this work. Most of this will centre around work which you might currently pay for e.g. BPS applications, Stewardship applications and tenders for tenanted farms etc. We will continue to offer FREE advice and support to farms and rural businesses who find themselves in times of crisis and ongoing farm business advice and support.

We know that many local organisations and individuals support local charities with fundraising activities, sponsorship and donations. If you, your business, organisation or someone you know would like to support us and the work we do then please contact Edward, Debbie or Helena on 01736 367589.

A man had a ticket for the Rugby World Cup Final but was seated in the upper, nosebleed seats. As the match begins, he notices an empty seat down near the pitch on the midfield line. Taking a chance, he makes his way down to the empty seat and asks the man next to it if anyone is sitting there.

"No", says the seated man, "That seat is empty."

"This is incredible," says the other man. "Who in their right mind would have a seat like this for the World Cup Final, the biggest sporting event in the world, and not use it?"

The seated man says "Well, actually, the seat belongs to me. I was supposed to come with my wife, but she passed away. This is the first Rugby Final we haven't been to together since we got married in 1987". "Oh ... I'm sorry to hear that. That's terrible. But couldn't you find someone else - a friend or relative, or even a neighbour to take the seat?"

The seated man shakes his head. "No. They're all at the funeral."



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