



THE PRINCE'S  
COUNTRYSIDE  
FUND

# Farm Cornwall

SOUND, PRACTICAL, REALISTIC & CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

JANUARY 2020

## Straw Availability



Autumn 2019 will go down as one of the wettest periods in recent history, similar to the Autumn of 2012. According to the NFU only 40% of the UK's winter cereal crop has been sown. If soils remain wet through January, then the chances of planting winter cereals fades rapidly and those areas will need to be replaced with spring cereals (assuming the seed is there to replace that acreage). If seed isn't available then other alternatives will need to be looked at. such as legumes,

## RDPE Grant application

£5 million of EU money is available through the RDPE grant fund. It is available to projects that include Food Processing, farm diversification, Tourism infrastructure, improving productivity. The minimum grant aid available to each farm business will be £20,000 at 40- 50% inclusion. Therefore a project cost of £50000 on a 40% grant inclusion would receive £20000. For each £30000 of grant monies received it should create 1 FTE (Full Time Equivalent = 1 person working 30hrs per week).

All applications should be sent as an expression of

spring oilseed rape. Alternatively the land could not be planted at all and used as fallow for the Environmental Focus Area (EFA).

Without doubt this will have an adverse effect upon straw availability. Perhaps, therefore, it would be prudent to look at securing an early supply of your own. Plant some of your own spring cereals—assuming you can get hold of supplies of seed. If you can't, then saving some of last year's seed and having the seed cleaned and dressed could well be worth doing. Remember that saving your own seed might not have a comparable germination rate to purchased seed and adjust the seed rate up if not sure.

interest (EOI) by the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. For information please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rdpe-growth-programme>  
<https://www.ciosgrowthhub.com>

Contact for Growth Hub is 01209708660

If you need help with applications, we have plenty of experience of dealing with EU/Defra grant claims. In the up and coming UK Agriculture bill currently passing through parliament there is no mention of grant aid farms.

## Benchmarking

We are in the process of establishing a benchmarking group for beef. Our first meeting will take place on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at M.A. Griggs from 11.00am to 2.30pm.

This is an initial training day with AHDB where you be shown how to set up your own figures onto the AHDB Farm Bench programme on your own computer.

We can only accept 8 farmers at a time so places are limited. This hopefully will be the first of many sessions, but as we are only able to train 8 farmers each session it will take some time to work through all those who are interested.

ADHB Farm Bench is free to upload however there will be a £20 charge for the room hire and lunch.

If you are interested in attending, please email [Edward@farmcornwall.co.uk](mailto:Edward@farmcornwall.co.uk). We will then let you know if you have been allocated a place on the training.

### Edward's Joke Corner

Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect!

Benny Hill



## Topics covered this month:

- STRAW AVAILABILITY
- RDPE GRANT APPLICATION
- BENCHMARKING
- VAT APRIL 2020
- WINDOWS 7
- FARM WOMEN'S NETWORK
- SOUTH WEST FARM RESILIENCE ALUMNI GROUP
- PENWITH LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP
- NEW AGRICULTURE BILL

## VAT April 2020

VAT registered businesses with taxable turnover below the VAT threshold of £85,000 need to start maintaining digital records or de-register for VAT.

If you are not already using HMRC approved accounting software then you should consult your accountant to discuss the best way forward for your business.

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Registered in England  
Charity No. 1162845  
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## Prince's Countryside Fund Alumni Visit

In December farmers who had attended the Prince's Countryside Fund Resilience programmes in Cornwall, Devon and Somerset visited the Rothamsted Research Station at North Wyke, near Okehampton.

Farmers were able to see research that is being undertaken into carbon sequestration in grazing systems; every input into the field can be measured and monitored and every output monitored (be

that lamb or beef produced, silage or hay grown, methane or urine expelled).

They are now also looking into what happens when grazing systems are ploughed up to grow crops for human consumption, these crops will be grown without the use of farm yard manures and only grown using artificial fertilisers. Like the grazing systems, all inputs and outputs will be measured over the coming years.



### Register to fly a drone or model aircraft

From 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 it is illegal to fly without registering and passing a theory test. For details see

<https://register-drones.caa.co.uk>

## Windows 7

When Windows 7 reaches end of support on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020, your computer will still function, but Microsoft will no longer provide the following:

- Technical support for any issues
- Software updates
- Security updates or fixes

While you could continue to use your PC

running Windows 7, without continued software and security updates, it will be at greater risk for viruses and malware. Going forward, the best way for you to stay secure is on Windows 10. And the best way to experience Windows 10 is on a new PC. While it is possible to install Windows 10 on your older device, it is not recommended by Microsoft.

## Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP) Demonstration Farms (A Heritage Lottery Funded Project)

Two livestock demonstration farms have been established (one dairy and one beef) to look at managing grass leys more efficiently by reducing fertiliser use and the use of herbal leys. The two demonstration farms are being overseen by James Daniels of Precision Grazing.

LEAF – Linking Environment and Farming has been contracted to deliver an horticultural equivalent to the livestock demonstration farms. If you are in the PLP area (Lands End to St Ives to Marazion) and are interested in

being involved with the horticultural monitor farm programme or for more information on the livestock monitor farms. contact Phil Pengelly 07976731376 at the Penwith Landscape Partnership Office. There will be a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January between 1pm and 4pm at St Buryan Farm Shop (lunch is included) to discuss the horticultural monitor farm programme. To see programme progress see <https://www.penwithlandscape.com/projects/economy-farming-and-wildlife/farming-futures>.

## Farm Cornwall Women's Network

The Women's Network was established in the Autumn of 2019. We have had two meetings so far at Callestick Ice Cream and St Buryan Farm Shop. Many thanks to Angela Parker and Morwenna Bone respectively for such interesting 'behind the scenes' tours at both businesses (and delicious refreshments on both occasions!). Both meetings were well attended but we are still looking to recruit more members throughout the county. Our next meeting is a visit to Duchy Canine

Hydrotherapy which is a farm diversification at Penbugle Organic Farm near Liskeard. The farm which also operates Wigwam Holidays was awarded Gold at the Cornwall Tourism Awards 2019 so there will be lots to learn at this family run business. The meeting will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February starting at 7.00pm. To book your place or for more details of this and future meetings please contact [debbie@farmcornwall.co.uk](mailto:debbie@farmcornwall.co.uk) or 07525 411774.

## New Staff Member

We are delighted to welcome Ann Westcott to our Team as part-time administrator. Ann has many years' office experience and moved to Cornwall three years ago. She will usually be in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays. Debbie and Helena will also continue to support (ie organise!) Edward.

## New Agriculture Bill

It has been announced that it will be presented to Parliament next month, with what has already been muted coming to fruition.

Basic Payment scheme will be phased out over the next seven years, then will in part be replaced by Environmental Land Management (ELM). The government are currently working this scheme up into a workable system. In terms of rewarding farmers or supporting farmers the scheme will reward farmers to actively manage clean water, flooding, the environment or species protection. More to follow I am sure. Watch this space!



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If you have any information which you think might be useful to other farmers, please feel free to email us on [mail@farmcornwall.co.uk](mailto:mail@farmcornwall.co.uk)