



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

Farm Cornwall

SOUND, PRACTICAL, REALISTIC & CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

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Grazing Advice

Clear skies and dry weather are clearly making farmers think about where the next blade of grass is coming from. Along with James Daniels from Precision Grazing and Phil Pengelly from Penwith Landscape Partnership, we have put together a short presentation online:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2XWWI884zE&feature=youtu.be>

The basics of what we discuss are: which animals need access to the best grass, (milking cows, ewes and lambs, fattening beef cattle), then which animals could be "stretched" in terms of grazing poorer grass, or ranging wider areas. Also, the options for dealing with not much grass.

1. Split out grazing animals by priority for feed, those being milked, those feeding young, finishing animals should have the best grass. Store animals and youngstock could go to secondary grazing areas.
 2. Make sure dry stock are separated from milking animals and graze separately.
 3. Release some of the land tied up for second cut silage.
 4. Take those hay crops now whilst the weather is good, in order to get back into production sooner.
 5. Feed 1st cut silage back to milking cows.
 6. Potentially dry off autumn calving dairy herds and suckler herds.
 7. Housing Dry cattle and feeding straw.
 8. Don't over-graze areas as these fields will take longer to recover, as the growing point will have been grazed off.
 9. Whole crop, cereal crops.
 10. Make sure animals have enough water, potentially splitting groups so that animals have enough trough space, or water supplies have more time to catch up.
- DON'T PANIC**, the soils will be warm and it will rain before long and grass will grow again.

Water Requirements

Youngstock

6 months old—15-25 litres per day (6-5 gallons)
6-12 months—25-35 litres per day (5-8 gallons)
12-18 months—35-50 litres per day (8-11 gallons)

Dairy Cows

Dairy Cow requires 60-80 litres per day (13-17 gallons).

Sheep

Sheep - 2.4- 4.5 litres per day (0.5-1 gallon).

Pigs

Sow and litter—18-23 litres per day (4-5 gallons)
Growers—4-5 litres per day (0.9-1.1 gallons) e ground
Pigs also need a wallow (wet hole in the ground) to stop getting sun burnt.

Edward's Joke: (courtesy of Colin Jasper so we can't be held responsible for the quality)

What do you do if you are out walking and find a sick rabbit?

Call the Hare Ambulance.

Keeping Safe

It is important to keep safe as lockdown shifts from isolation to more freedom of movement—those essential rules of social distancing still apply. For farm visits by

others, minimise those visits to essential only and keep them outdoors. Try where possible not to share vehicles with non-family members; this particularly refers to tractors when harvesting, as tractors or handlers get left behind in the field some

distance away, and need retrieving to unload the bales. Many of you will be shielding elderly members of family, **keep protecting those closest to us.**

Prince's Countryside Fund Resilience Programme

We still have three workshops left to deliver for the group that operates from the County Showground and we have planned that (subject to C-19 restrictions) our next meeting, on succession, will take place on Wednesday 7th October, with Heather Wildman from Saviour Associates

being the guest speaker. Planning for your future has never been more important or timely as none of us know what is round the corner or what the future holds but this is no excuse for putting off sorting your business and finances and making plans for the future.

This workshop addresses the issues that many people and families put off and

avoid in a fun, engaging and interactive way, providing ideas and solutions to what can often seem daunting and too hard.

Saviour Associates
vision • collaboration • communication

Continued on next page.....

Prince's Countryside Fund Resilience Programme—Recruitment arrangements for 5th Group

We have been asked to run a 5th group as from next year, so anyone who has so far missed out please let me now as we are currently recruiting for this group:

<https://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/how-we-help-the-princes-farm-resilience-programme/the-princes-farm-resilience-programme>



Fodder Supplies

Barley – we understand that supplies should be sufficient given the lack of beer drunk during lock down and the acreage of spring barley sown is some 70% greater than in normal terms. However, since all that barley was sown, we have seen little or no rain—according to the Met Office, England only received 10mm of rain which made 2020 the driest May for 124 yrs. We can only assess quantities when the combines start to move.

Silage -Most farms seemed to have come out of the winter with some degree of

spare silage. First cut yields seem slightly down on other years; early second cut fields may need to be grazed. Looking at river levels across the county the Environment Agency is recording them as low or extremely low.

Hay. This year should be the year to make some very good hay crops - if it continues to be dry those grass fields cut after hay will take a long time to recover.

Straw This is bound to be in short supply, as only 50% of the normal winter wheat and barley crops got planted across the country due to flooding/high rainfall and germination is sporadic across those fields

not re-drilled. Although there was a considerably higher area of spring barley planted than normal, most went in early enough to get a good start but will now suffer due to lack of moisture. Typically, on a nationwide scale, spring cereal straw will yield 40% less than winter grown crops. I know many you will say my spring barley straw is about the same winter barley, but nationally this is not the case.

All I would simply say is book ahead, order some in reserve, make alternative arrangements and plan for the future.



Farming Community Network

Cornwall FCN Coordinator Sue Gillbard 077 696 53 009

SW Regional Director Stephen Dennis 079 714 12 898

National Helpline 03000 111999 open 7am until 11pm

To our Cornish farming and rural families. I hope you are keeping safe and well in these unusual times. Although at present we are not visiting farms we are still here for you. Regardless of age, if you are feeling down or have family issues you just want to talk over with someone outside of your family then please give us a call. A problem shared is a problem halved. Every-

thing is confidential. We are all in this together so let us work our way out of it and use whatever support is around us. Never, since World War 2 have the public needed the NHS and the farming industry as they do now. Keep up the good work - I know a lot of extra hours are being put in so keep safe and talk. **Sue G, Cornwall FCN Coordinator**



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Bounce Back Loan Scheme

Up to £50,000 can be borrowed from your bank using this 100% Government funded scheme. Payback period is 6

years, the first year is free of any payments either interest or capital payments. Then during years 2-6 the loan is paid off at 2.5% interest. It can be accessed on line through your

own bank and requires minimal information:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-a-coronavirus-bounce-back-loan>

Government Help

Dairy Compensation Scheme

Still no details



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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