



THE PRINCE'S
COUNTRYSIDE
FUND

Farm Cornwall

SOUND, PRACTICAL, REALISTIC & CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

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Registered in England
Charity No. 1162845
CIC No: 7716692

DECEMBER
2020



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Milk
b/w cows
level delivery
28-31 ppl

Prices (Truro Cattle Market 25th November 2020)



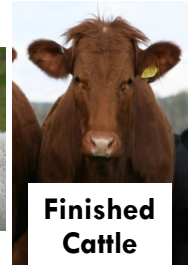
Straw
£120/t



Barley
£130/t



Lamb
Average
208.8p/kg



**Finished
Cattle**
Steers
190.65/kg
Heifers
202.19/kg



**18% Dairy
Cake Price
Range**

Thank You! We would like to thank **The Tanner Trust** for their generous donation to help us continue the work of Farm Cornwall over the next 12 months. It really is very much appreciated. As you are all aware, we do not receive any government funding and rely on donations to operate, so if you are aware of any other organisations which may be able to help us, please let Edward know.

THE
TANNER
TRUST

BPS and ELMS

It is our understanding that, despite Coronavirus, as of 1st December 2020 the RPA will start BPS payments and it is anticipated that 95% of all payments for BPS will have been received before 31st December 2020.

If you have not received your BPS payment and you believe yourself to be in severe hardship, we have a direct link to the RPA which, if proven, can ensure a cash payment is made to you. If you know of anyone else who may be in a similar predicament, please get them to contact ourselves or FCN through the Farming Help Charities Tel 03000 111 999.

Countryside Stewardship applications for 2021

It is the intention of the RPA that all applicants will receive notification of acceptance or not by February 2021.

All Countryside Stewardship Payments will be paid as a single payment as was the case in 2019 and payments for CS and ES will start as of 1st December.

Much as many will pour scorn on the RPA, I think praise is worthy in this case as many of you are so reliant upon BPS these days.

Please also see the briefing note attached to this newsletter regarding the Agricultural Transition.

Please note that we will be closed between 22nd December and 4th January but Edward will be contactable on his mobile in an emergency—please leave a message and he'll get back to you when he can.

Lighting The advent of LED lighting in buildings has made a huge difference to the cost and replacement of lights— a 400w sodium light replaced with an equivalent LED light can reduce electricity use by £170 per annum. The main advantage from an agricultural point of view is that LED lights can be used to mimic sunlight in buildings. Giving the cow access to good lighting for 16 hours a day and dark for 8 hours a day will stimulate a hormonal response in dairy cows, encouraging milk production by 6-10%. Light measurements to achieve this kind of yield increase need to be in the order of 160-200 lux. Having spoken to a few farmers who have installed new lighting not only have they seen yields rise by 2-3 litres per cow but forage intakes have increased too (evidence from the USA suggests

an extra 2-3kg DM intake. Some of this activity may be simply down to cows being able to see where they are going but it may also be down to timid cows having the confidence get up and feed.

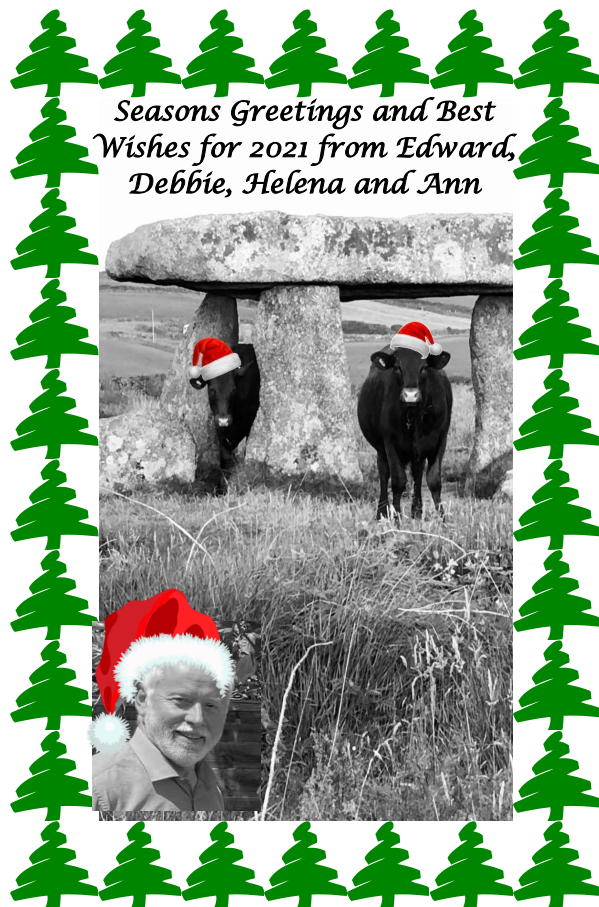
In a similar situation with chicken layer production, one of our farmer clients had seen benefits with his own system in reducing seconds. Another benefit too more anecdotal this time one of the farmers told me he felt better too, long winter nights and early mornings will undoubtedly make a difference.

Prince's Countryside Fund Resilience Programme

Finally, at the third attempt, we might have an unofficial start date of Spring 2021 for both Year Groups.

Year 4 will restart with the fifth workshop –farm succession— in the Spring with Heather Wildman from Dumfries. **Year 5** will start in the Spring, with silage, tail-end of lambing and calving, spring corn and fencing and fertiliser spreading. I

appreciate that this is an odd time to start with these topics, but the Prince's Countryside Fund are keen to get started at some point and they do not want the courses to be delivered by zoom. Covid has messed up so many things that they are keen to get back on track. In addition, with so many changes to agriculture (with BPS going and ELMs coming), they wanted to get back on track. So we are still recruiting and membership packs are being sent out as we speak to those that have signed up.



Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for 2021 from Edward, Debbie, Helena and Ann

Edward's Joke: A woman is being interviewed on the radio about how her husband went missing 20 years ago; "He just went out for a pint of milk and never came back", she said.

The interviewer asked "If he's listening now, is there anything you'd like to say to him?" "Yes" says the woman "Terry, if you can't get whole milk, then semi-skimmed is fine".

Please visit the Farm Cornwall website to see two interesting articles from the Devon and Cornwall Police Rural Affairs Team:

<https://www.farmcornwall.co.uk/devon-and-cornwall-police-rural-newsletter/>

<https://www.farmcornwall.co.uk/poaching-devon-and-cornwall-police-rural-affairs/>



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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