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EASTERN TRAINING ALLIANCE NEWS DECEMBER 2008

Winter Training Bookings

The winter training programme and the course booking sheets have now been out for several weeks and I have had alot of phone calls relating to booking queries and changes. If you haven't contacted me regarding any booking queries please can you try to do so ASAP if you want to make changes , as waiting until the reminder arrives can cause me alot of problems at such short notice.

Additional Courses Added To the Programme

Grassland Management— Have you got a few acres or alot of acres that you graze horses or livestock on and always wondered how to improve this grassland then this is the course for you.

This half day course will look at the following :

- Basics, drainage, ph assessment and soil nutrient status
- Assessment of sward conditions, how long it is cost affective to leave it
- Re-seeding of grassland..what will it be used for? Grazing or conservation and how long will it be down for/
- Weed Control—after re-seeding and general weed control
- Pest Control
- Fungus diseases and their control
- Fertilizer application; assessments and amounts. Choosing the right type.
- Annual cultivation management

Thursday 22nd January—9.30am. Instructor: Richard Martin Cost £45 + Vat. BASIS & NROSO Points applied for.

Bull Handling— 28th January, Thurlow Estate

This 1/2 day course is looking at the theory and practicalities of bull handling. It will look at the Bull—types, breeds, characteristics and temperament and the arguments for the bull V artificial insemination. It will look at the bull pen & boxes and the size shap and flooring in then. It will lastly look at how to handle the bull in the pen and loose using halters, poles and ropes. There will plenty of time to answer any questions you may have

Rodent Control—22nd January—Lord Rayleighs Farm, Terling—Cost £60 + Vat— This 1 day course will be looking at the following—Pest Biology & Ecology, Safe use and storage of poisons, the legal regulations relating to pest control and PPE. There will also be a practical element to the course looking at suitable sites and when to use poisons etc.

Rabbit Control—28th January—Venue to be decided—Cost £60+ Vat. This 1 day course will be looking at the following—
 The purchase, safe use and storage of Poisons and related equipment, Safe use of Traps, identifying suitable areas for trapping, different types of traps, Firearms law relating to the use of weapons for vermin control & PPE. There will also be a practical session on the farm looking at suitable sites for traps and poisons.

Fertiliser Calibration Clinics

This winter we are again offering spreader calibration clinics. If your spreader is not doing its job properly—15% inaccuracy can result in both loss of yield in the crop and a vast overspend on fertilisers. Also you could be applying double to one side of the spread pattern and very little at the other end, the net result would appear that the rate is fine, but if your spread pattern is wrong there may be a different story on the ground. To keep the costs down we will aim to bring 3-4 local farms together in 1 place to have the machines tested. You can have up to 3 different fertilizers tested for the price and a test certificate will be issued. Clinic Cost £115 per spreader. Dates available in the new year please check programme for dates & venue., places are filling up quickly. 6 NRoSO

