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Newsletter, October, 2007

Winter Training Programme

Your copy of the training programme is enclosed, please note that we do have some very interesting courses this year such as Efficient Use and Application of Fertiliser, Positive Land Management for Farmland Birds and Transportation of Livestock. There will be additions to the programme over the winter, which I will keep you informed of via this Newsletter. If you feel you have a training need not covered by the programme, please let me know and I will see what I can do.

Training Needs Assessments

Prior to Harvest I sent out Training Needs Assessment forms to some members that I hadn't had a opportunity to visit over the summer, can I thank all of you that managed to return these TNA's to me. I do, however, have three forms that didn't have contact details on them, so I am unable to book these members onto any courses. If you completed your TNA but have not been booked on to any of the courses you requested, please contact me to discuss these training requirements further.

Welcome to New Members

We are pleased to announce the following new Member to the group: -

- Lordship Stud, Newmarket
- Egerton Stud, Newmarket

Legislative Changes

Transport of Animals by Road - January 08 - Do I need to take the test?

If you transport your animal over 40 miles (60km) for an economic activity then the answer is yes – you need to sit the GOLA (Global On Line Assessment) test, this is accredited by NPTC.

There are some exceptions however:

- If you are retransporting one animal and you have one handler, then you are exempt, you don't need to take the test.
- If you keep with the ratio of one handler to each animal you can legitimately take up to four animals in any one journey with four handlers and not have to take the test.

- If your journey is non-economic i.e. moving animals between fields you do not have to take the test.
- If your animals are pets, you don't breed or sell them then you do not have to take the test.

We are doing both the training and assessment for the transportation of livestock all in the same day, this will be on 8th November at the Framers Club, Bury St Edmunds. The test consists of 27 multiple choice questions on a lap-top. This certificate will last for life.

Members Course Fee including NPTC costs £95 + Vat

SMOKE FREE REGULATIONS — from 1st July 2007 - England

On July 1st 2007, England introduced a new law to make virtually all enclosed public places and workplaces in England smoke free. A smoke free England ensures a healthier environment, so everyone can socialise, relax, travel, shop and work free from second-hand smoke.

Managers, employers and those in charge of smoke free premises and vehicles will need to:

- display 'no smoking' signs in smoke free premises and vehicles
- take reasonable steps to ensure that staff, customers/members and visitors are aware that premises and vehicles are legally required to be smoke free
- remove any existing indoor smoking rooms
- ensure that no one smokes in smoke free premises or vehicles

The new law also requires vehicles to be smoke free at all times if they are used:

- to transport members of the public or
- are used in the course of paid or voluntary work by more than one person regardless of whether they are in the vehicle at the same time.

Vehicles that are used primarily for private purposes are not required to be smoke free.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE TRAINING GROUP HAS A 'NO SMOKING' POLICY IN ALL VENUES USED FOR TRAINING INCLUDING VEHICLES

For any further information please go to the website: www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

SOME OF OUR INTERESTING COURSES THIS WINTER

Fertiliser Courses



Currently domestic ammonium nitrate costs about £168/T, triple super phosphate £230/T and Muriate of Potash £165/T. High prices are focussing mind on how to get the best out of fertiliser spreaders & the efficient use of fertilisers, with this in mind we are running 2 half -day courses on this subject in November. One course for the decision makers entitled 'Efficient Use, Planning and Timing of Fertilisers' - 23rd November, NFU Office Newmarket, and one for operators 'Efficient Use and Application of Fertilisers' - 27th November, Symmonds Farm B.S.E. Members course rates £15 per head. BASIS & NRO SO points available.

Price Risk Management

Price is the biggest driver of farm profitability and in the age of decoupling, income from cropping is now 100% reliant on price. Market prices are extremely volatile, with wheat prices typically moving by at least **£20 per tonne** within any season. Increasing pressure on intervention is likely to mean further market uncertainty. Price Risk Management can help you secure minimum prices. This 1/2 day workshop run & funded by HGCA is designed to improve understanding and uptake of Price Risk Management among growers. By attending this workshop the following benefits are available to you:

- Strengthen your understanding of what makes the grain markets volatile
- Gain insight into this season's main issues
- Find out how the futures market relates to your business
- Examine the role of options in grain pricing
- Improve your knowledge of Risk Management tools
- Develop a practical understanding of grain options and market information
- Test your Risk Management skills and strategies in an interactive session

To be held on the 5th February at Haverhill Golf Club & includes lunch. Members course rate £20

Risk Assessment

This one -day course is designed for Managers and supervisors to give them the knowledge and practical skills to carry out general risk assessments in accordance with Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations. It will cover the principles of risk assessment, current legislation and allow you to put risk assessment into practice. 30th January, Withersfield Village Hall. Members Course rate £70.

Farmland Bird Identification & Positive Land Management for Farmland Birds — RSPB



These two one day workshops are being delivered by the RSPB to members free of charge, including a free buffet lunch

These one -day courses will be looking at farmland birds and their importance, bird habitats and feeding requirements. It will also look at birds in relation to Environmental Stewardship Scheme, and will include a farm walk. Maximum number of places available. 4 NRO SO points available.

Members Course Rate: **Free to members, families & friends**

Lantra Basic Tree Survey

Following the success of this course last year and the high profile case of the School Child killed by a falling branch on a National Trust property in Norfolk this June, we are again running this one day course. This course aims to provide specific tree inspection training at a basic level to contractors, tree wardens, grounds maintenance staff, rangers and other persons of non -arboriculture background to allow them to identify obvious defects from ground level and then report their findings to their manager. The course will cover the legal and safety implications of hazardous trees, H & S during inspection, recognition of hazardous trees, level of risk, decision on appropriate action and recognition of your limitations. This is to be held on 11th December 2007. Members Course Rate £75

Lantra Working at Heights and Risk Assessment

This Lantra Course is designed for Managers and supervisors who control the work of others. It will look at the Work at Height Regulations 2005, the Managers responsibilities, risk assessment, accident avoidance and a practical session on the safe use of ladders. Members Course Rate £50

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, then the 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 fertilisers tested for the price and a test certificate will be issued. Clinic Cost £105 per spreader. Dates available in January & February. 6 NRO SO points.

Working in the UK from Overseas? Your health and safety at work in agriculture and food processing?

A lot of employers are now finding problems with communicating Health & Safety issues with employees working in the UK from abroad. To try and address this problem HSE have produced a new leaflet, in the form of a pocket card, aimed at migrant workers which provides basic and essential information

on their rights and responsibilities under UK health and safety legislation. The leaflet is available in the following languages:

English, Polish/Polski, Ukrainian/ українська, Latvian/Latvijas, Lithuanian/Lietuviskai, Russian/ Русский, Romanian/ Română, Bulgarian/ Български

To download a copy of this leaflet go to:
w.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/overseas.htm

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BJD Sprayer Services

- To get your sprayer tested on the farm
 - To ensure you are not wasting money
 - To ensure the chemical is going where it can do the most good
- To do your bit to make the VI work to prevent the introduction of a pesticide detax

We can help you do all these and more

Call Julian or Brian Poulson on 01284828371 Mobiles: 07876308385 or 0785