

Led by rural businesses to help local enterprises based in rural areas

Steering Group Members

Christine Hope - Hopes of Longtown (Chairman)
Richard Collins - Farmer
Julia Evans - Farmer / NFU
Bruce Gilbert - Farmer /NFU
Richard Thomas - Farmer/YFC
Martin Williams - Farmer
Patrick Wrixon - Farmer/FWAG
Russell Carrington - Farmer
Heather Gorringer - Wiggly Wiggles
Julian Morgan - 7Y Services
Jon May - HEFF
Charlotte Gibb - HCT
Rachel Jones - Hfds Partnership
Wendy Jones - Natural England

Herefordshire Rural Hub Co-ordinator

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Visit the Rural Hubs West Midlands website for details of events in Herefordshire & the other WM counties

www.ruralhubswm.org.uk

If you currently receive this newsletter by post, but would prefer to receive it by email,

and get regular e-news updates as well, then please

contact us at

herefordshirehub@hct.ac.uk

Disclaimer --The Herefordshire Rural Hub accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter

Many thanks to those of you who have returned the form stating how you would like to receive the newsletter. If you have not yet sent it back, or emailed us with your response, it is not too late to do so.

Thank you to all who came along to support our Rural Business Advice Day on 23rd November. Nearly 200 farmers attended, with many bringing along their SPR's, NVZs, Livestock records etc, and had their ears and eyes tested. We would also like to thank the businesses and organisations who attended. Hopefully you all found the day useful and informative.

We are working closely with the Herefordshire Council Community Learning & Employability team to deliver some Computer Skills workshops in readiness for rural broadband, and are also planning further workshops for the Online Systems (VAT, SPS, SPR, CTS) - see insert, and watch this space.

Our very best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Cathy & Frances

RDPE Programme

A new £20 million fund to help farming, forestry and horticultural businesses to become more efficient at using resources has been launched. The scheme aims to help businesses to become more competitive and more profitable, whilst reducing the impact of farming on the environment.

Farmers, foresters, woodland owners, agricultural contractors and horticulturalists can apply for grants of up to £25,000 to invest in green projects, new machinery and improvements to animal health and welfare so their businesses can grow in an environmentally friendly way.

The Farming and Forestry Improvement Scheme will fund projects that:

- save energy and reduce carbon emissions;
- reduce dependence on artificial fertilizers through better use of manures;
- improve soil quality;
- improve animal health and welfare;
- save and recycle water; and
- promote woodland management by processing timber more efficiently.

For more information go to the website

<http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/farm-and-forestry-improvement-scheme>

The application form is now available on the website. The 1st round of the scheme is open from Wednesday 16 November 2011 until 17 January 2012. If you have further questions and your business is based in Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire please contact the West Midlands RDPE delivery Team.

For all project enquiries - Email: Jo.Jury@defra.gsi.gov.uk

RDPE Partnerships and Programme Team Leader

The contact details for the RDPE team are:

DEFRA, Block A Spur 11, Government Buildings, Whittington Rd, Worcester WR5 2LQ

Contact number: Office Direct Line - 01905 768854

Email: rdpedeliverywestmidlands@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Herefordshire NFU County AGM
December 6th at 7.30pm at Hedley Lodge, Belmont Abbey.
The speaker will be Kevin Roberts, the NFU Director General.

Alternative Energy for Landowners & Farmers
Wednesday 7th December 2011; 12noon- 7.30pm
Hereford Racecourse, Roman Road, Hereford, HR4 9QU.

This is a FREE joint METNET & Heartwoods event open to SME businesses, farmers, land and woodland owners based in Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Telford & Wrekin.

A range of exhibitors from across the Marches, including biomass, AD, Wind, Hydro, Solar and heat pumps, will also be available to discuss potential projects. **Barclays Bank** will also be present to talk about their £100m fund to help farmers finance renewable energy projects, including solar panels, windfarms, hydro plants and organic waste power.

Programme for the day:-

- 12 -12.30 **Registration, exhibition & refreshments**
- 12.30 -1.30 LUNCH & EXHIBITION
- 1.40 -2.00 **Opening Address & Chair** - Sir Ben Gill
- 2.10 - 2.40 **Hydropower** - David Williams, British Hydropower
- 2.50 - 3.20 **Planning Considerations** - Debby Klein, Herefordshire Council
- 3.30-4.00 **Biomass & Renewable Heat Incentive** - Nick Maskery, Heartwoods
- 4.10 - 4.40 REFRESHMENTS
- 4.50 - 5.20 **Anaerobic Digestion** - John Davies, E and J Solutions
- 5.30 - 6.00 **Community Cooperative Financing Projects** - Jon Hallé, Sharenergy
- 6.10 - 6.40 **Renewable Heat Incentives & Feed in Tariff Tax Implications** - Whittingham Riddell
- 6.50 - 7.20 **Solar & Wind (including Feed in Tariff)** - Caplor Energy Ltd
- 7.30 Close

Places limited - booking is essential - to book please contact:

Melanie Smith - Telephone: **01952 435860**; E-mail: melsmith@smallwoods.org.uk

Please specify any dietary requirements.

Herefordshire Grassland Society

Matt Pugh (Partner at Belmont Veterinary Practice), presents:

IS THERE A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE FARM ANIMAL VETERINARY PROFESSION?

Tuesday 13th December 7.30pm at 7Y, Wharton Court, Leominster, HR6 ONX

The numbers of vets involved with the farm animal veterinary practice has been in steep decline over the last 15 years - What Next? Matt will propose some interesting scenarios.

Non members welcome!

Light Refreshments served following the meeting

Generously sponsored by **CXCS Cross Compliance Solutions** www.cxcs.co.uk or **01981 590 514**

Rhys Williams of Padog Farms presents: **WEALTH CREATION IN THE DAIRY INDUSTRY?**

Tuesday 10th January 2012, 7.30pm at 7Y, Wharton Court, Leominster, HR6 ONX

Sponsored by: **SSG Fabrication of Kilpeck**

Dewi Jones of Innovis presents: **BREEDING SHEEP FOR BETTER PERFORMANCE**

Tuesday 7th February 7.30pm, at 7Y, Wharton Court, Leominster, HR6 ONX

Sponsored by: **Countrywide Farmers**

Rhys Lougher of Ty Tanglwyst Dairy presents: **'I'M A FARMER.....AND A PROCESSOR NOW'**

Tuesday 13th March 7.30pm 7Y, Wharton Court, Leominster, HR6 ONX

Sponsored by: **Wynnstay Group**

For more information about the Grassland Society and any of the above events, please contact:

Francis Dunne (Chairman) @ Field Options, 01544 262 500, fd@field-options.co.uk

David Thompson & Andrew Edwards (Secretaries) @ Sunderlands & Thompsons

01432 356 161 a.edwards@st-hereford.co.uk

FREE ELS Best Practice Farm Walks - COME AND JOIN US!

Join other farmers to discuss practical solutions and ideas to help you manage your Entry Level Agreement.
See a range of established ELS land management options in operation on a farm near you.
Explore ways of dealing with problems that you have been scratching your head about!

The walk will include:

- Guidance on how best to locate ELS land options that can deliver cost and environmental benefits to your farming system.
- Meeting and hearing experiences of other farmers who have (O) ELS or UELS agreements.
- Tips on how best to maintain your ELS points threshold.
- Advice on changing your options and the use of derogation forms.
- A clearer understanding of how management of your (O) ELS or UELS agreement can benefit wildlife, resource protection and the historic environment across the farm and help to meet the aims and objectives of the Campaign for the Farmed Environment.

Please see below for details of themed walks, dates and venues. All events are FREE and include refreshments.

- **Monday 5th December, 1pm - 4pm**
Farmland Birds (key ELS options and associated management to support farmland bird populations)
courtesy of Mr J Reeves, Newfields Farm, Shakers Lane, Long Itchington, Southam, Warwickshire, CV47 9QB.
- **Tuesday 6th December, 1pm - 4pm** **Management of OELS Options**
courtesy of Mr N Brown of Clanford Hall Farm, Coton Clanford, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST18 9PE.
- **Wednesday 7th December, 10am - 1pm** **Management of UELS Options**
courtesy of Dr P Cleland, School Green, Huntington, Herefordshire, HR5 3PQ.
- **Thursday 8th December, 10am - 1pm** **Water and Soil (option management to protect/conserv)**
courtesy of Mr D Nott, Gorst Hill Farm, Gorst Hill, Rock, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY14 9YJ.
- **Friday 16th December, 1pm - 4pm** **Field Margins, Ditches and Hedgerows**
courtesy of Mr and Mrs Hunter Blaire, Weir End Farm, Weir End, Ross on Wye, Herefordshire HR9 6AL.

TO BOOK YOUR FREE PLACE CALL: 01270 616800 or email: diane.dalton@genusplc.com

When booking, please have the following information to hand:

Name, address, telephone, farm size, farm type and agreement number, SBI and CPH numbers.

If you would also like a free farm visit please contact Promar

on 01270 616800 or email diane.dalton@genusplc.com

BASIS CPD points available for attendance

Fast Broadband 4 Herefordshire

Every household should have received a newsletter and a questionnaire about your internet service.

The questionnaire can be filled in and returned by post to FB4H, PO Box 4, Plough Lane, Hereford, HR4 0XH, or you can visit the website www.fastbroadband4herefordshire.org.uk and complete the questionnaire online.

Please make sure that you have completed and returned the questionnaire by 9th December.

The information that you provide will help us to demonstrate to the broadband industry that your needs are just as valuable as anyone else in the country, and therefore you should be no less connected than anywhere else.

HFYFC Events

- **Friday 2nd December, 7pm** - Welsh Newton YFC - **Pudding Evening** at Benhall Farm, Ross on Wye
- **Saturday 31st December** - **New Year's Eve Ball** at Luctonians Rugby Club, Kingsland
- **Friday 20th January, 7pm for 7.30pm** - **Senior Debating Competition** at the Bunch of Carrots, Hampton Bishop
- **Friday 27th January** - **County Quiz & Dance** at Ewyas Harold Memorial Hall
- **Monday 13th February** - **Pantomime Festival Week** at Aylestone B&E College, Hereford
Street dancing - Senior member & Junior Member of the Year - The De La Tour Davies Challenge trophy
- **Saturday 18th February** - **Pantomime Finals Night** at Aylestone B&E College, Hereford

For further information please contact: **Lucinda Rees**, County Administrator

Tel/Fax: **01432 274187** Email: countyadmin@hfyfc.org.uk Website: www.hfyfc.org.uk

Herefordshire College of Technology

Unsure about what to do next? Come along to an Information Event for friendly information, advice and an opportunity to visit our fantastic facilities.

Hereford Campus - **Thursday 2nd February 2012, 4.30pm - 7.30pm**

Holme Lacy Campus - **Saturday 4th February 2012, 10.00am - 12 noon**

Regional Farm Business Survey Workshop

Tuesday 14th February 2012, 9am - 2pm

Sixways Stadium, Worcester Rugby Club

Rural Business Research (RBR) at the **University of Reading** invite you to discover the wealth of free to use economic and financial information available directly to you from the Farm Business Survey (FBS).

The FBS is the most extensive and independent source of information on the performance of farm businesses in the UK and is widely used to inform policy at national level and to aid farm management decision making within the industry. We would welcome the opportunity to showcase the outputs from the survey including the latest results, benchmarking capability and internet reports that are available to you.

Please bring along your wi-fi enabled laptop as the morning will end with a practical session.

Attendance at this half day workshop is free of charge and includes refreshments and a buffet lunch.

To register your interest in attending please visit our website: <http://farmbusinesssurvey.co.uk/workshops/> or contact **Helen Davis** by telephone on **0118 378 6480** or email at h.m.davis@reading.ac.uk

WiRE - Supporting Rural Business

WiRE are offering a 3 day Start-Up Training Course with all the skills, information and resources to put down firm foundations and get businesses off to a flying start. **This is now available to ANYBODY, men and women, new and mature businesses, for a minimum of 10 students. The training can be organised ANYWHERE - for just £99.** Visit the website - <http://www.wireuk.org/training> , - or contact **Sarah** for more information on **01952 815338**.

The WiRE Member e-newsletter is now available at <http://www.wireuk.org/wire-e-newsletter.html> with all the news and views from rural businesses, special offers and information about WiRE and WiRE members.

Wood Works Professional Short Courses 2011-12

Funding available for new Woodland Management Courses

The Small Woods Association has joined with Walford College and Lantra to run a series of short subsidised woodland management courses during the autumn and winter to promote good practice and encourage greater management of woodlands within the West Midlands. The courses are designed for woodland and land owners, farmers, conservationists and anyone working within these sectors, to improve and broaden participants' practical skills and knowledge.

January 21 st	Timber Extraction	1 day
January 22 nd	Timber Reduction	1 day
February 3 rd -5 th	Practical Woodland Management	3 days

For further details of costs and to book a place please contact **Richard Thomason**
email richardthomason@smallwoods.org.uk tel: **01952 432769** www.greenwoodcentre.org.uk

Sign up for our free courses newsletter for all the latest news and special offers - <http://eepurl.com/fhHvk>
These courses are supported through Wood works under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) by Defra and the EU.

FiT for FARMING Networking Event

19th April 2012, 9am - 5pm, at Stoneleigh Park - **please note change of date**

The Feed-in Tariff (FiT) scheme and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) means landowners who invest in renewable energy technologies can claim attractive payments for the electricity and heat that they generate.

A wide range of companies are using the event to host meetings to discuss the viability and practicalities of potential renewable projects, including: Wind Turbines, Solar PV, Hydropower, Anaerobic Digestion, Solar Thermal, Heat Pumps and Biomass Heat Projects. Participation is **free** for those looking to invest in a renewable project on their own land.

On the run-up to the event all registered participants are invited to select, either online or by phone, which companies they would like to meet with and so create themselves a programme of individual pre-arranged appointments.

Online Registration: www.fitforfarming.com

Telephone Registration: **01883 344799**

Forestry Commission (England) - West Midlands Region - Grants Update

<u>GRANT TYPE</u>	<u>2011-12</u>	<u>2012-13</u>
Woodland Assessment	Closed	OPEN
Woodland Planning	Closed	OPEN
Woodland Improvement (Bio, Bird, Access, SSSI, NI197)	Closed	OPEN
Woodland Management	Closed	OPEN
Woodland Regeneration	Closed	OPEN
Woodland Creation	Closed	OPEN

Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant

This grant supports the sustainable production of woodfuel and other timber products. Work needs to meet the UK Forest Standard but the basis for support is economic rather than environmental or social. The grant offers 60% towards the cost of work, and doesn't take account of the timber income that results.

The following main operations are supported:- Roads, tracks and other infrastructure to assist the extraction of timber from woodland. Support will be based on 3 quotes and grant paid on the production of receipted invoices. Woodland inventory and costs associated with managing harvesting contracts. Support for this work is based on [standard costs](#). In order to be eligible for this grant, the woodland must have an approved management plan in place so we recommend owners apply for [Woodland Planning Grant](#) if one isn't in place already.

For further details regarding all Woodland Grants, please contact your Forestry Commission Woodland Officers:

Worcestershire & East Herefordshire: **Wayne Barnes** 01905 532213 wayne.barnes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
South Shropshire and West Herefordshire: **Nick Smith** 01584 877544 nick.smith@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit the website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs

GAEC 19 Effective from 1st January 2012

Applies to all farmers in England, even those not in an NVZ.

YOU MUST NOT

- Apply manufactured nitrogen (inorganic) fertiliser within 2 metres of surface water.
- Apply organic manure within 10 metres of surface water, except on land managed for breeding wader birds or as species rich semi-natural grassland and under certain other restrictions.
- Apply organic manure within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole.

IF YOU APPLY ORGANIC MANURE, YOU MUST

- Produce and keep a map of your holding showing
 - All surface waters on your holding and land within 10 metres of them.
 - All springs, wells and boreholes on your holding, and within 50 metres of the boundary of your holding, and land within 50 metres of them.
- Update the map with any changes within 3 months from the date of the change.

If you have land in an NVZ and you are meeting the requirements under SMR4 NVZs, you will also meet the rules under this standard in respect of that land.

Wyvern Training

Tel: 01432 880690 Email: chris@wyverntrainingservices.com Website www.wyverntrainingservices.co.uk

At this stage in the training season, the dates and topics for our training program are not set in stone, so if you don't see the course you are looking for, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.

We are also building training events around the following topics, and would welcome enquiries if you are interested:-

- PA2 (Field Crop Sprayers)
- PA3a (Orchard Blast Sprayers)
- PA4 (Granular Applicators)
- First Aid at Work (3 day course)
- Employment Law
- Make & Manage Risk Assessments
- COSHH
- Internal Auditors
- HACCP's
- Strimmers/Brushcutters
- Basic Food Hygiene (CIEH Level 2)
- Intermediate Food Hygiene (CIEH Level 3)
- Rat & Mouse Control
- Rabbit Control
- Powered Pole Pruners
- Felling Small Trees
- Felling Small Trees
- Mig Welding
- Tractor Maintenance

TRAINING COURSES IN HEREFORDSHIRE

Herefordshire College of Technology Tel: 0800 032 1986 Email: enquiries@hct.ac.uk

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates 2011-12</u>		<u>Venue</u>
ATV Inexperienced Operators)	15 th - 16 th February		Holme Lacy Campus
Tractor Driving (13-16 year olds)	3 rd - 4 th April		Holme Lacy Campus
PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides 1 day	24 th January	17 th April	Holme Lacy Campus
PA6 Hand Held Applicators 2 days	7 th - 8 th February		Holme Lacy Campus
CS30 Chainsaw & Related Operations 3 days + assessment	14 th - 16 th December 22 nd - 24 th February	11 th - 13 th January 14 th - 16 th March	Holme Lacy Campus
CS39 Operate a Chainsaw from Rope & Harness 3 days + assessment	1 st - 3 rd February	7 th - 9 th March	Holme Lacy Campus
CS31 Felling Small Trees 3 days	8 th - 10 th February 21 st - 23 rd March	7 th - 9 th March	Holme Lacy Campus
CS32 Fell and Process Trees over 380mm Diameter 3 days	1 st - 3 rd February		Holme Lacy Campus
CS38 Climb Trees and Perform Aerial Rescue 5 days + assessment	16 th - 20 th January 26 th - 30 th March	20 th - 24 th February	Holme Lacy Campus

7Y Services Tel: 01568 619112 Email: paula.strangwood@7y.co.uk

Discounted prices on some courses are available to 7Y members

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates 2011-12</u>		<u>Venue</u>
Telescopic Loader	12 th - 13 th January 14 th - 15 th February	25 th - 26 th January	7Y, Wharton Court
Counterbalance FLT	5 th - 6 th December 22 nd - 23 rd February	24 th - 25 th January	7Y, Wharton Court
Chainsaw CC & M	12 th - 13 th December-FULL	7 th - 8 th February	7Y, Wharton Court
Health & Safety	13 th December		7Y, Wharton Court
Felling Small Trees	14 th - 16 th December		TBC
First Aid at Work	18 th - 19 th January		7Y, Wharton Court
Emergency First Aid	27 th January		7Y, Wharton Court
First Aid at Work 3 day	30 th , 31 st January, 1 st February		7Y, Wharton Court
PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides	3 rd February		7Y, Wharton Court
PA2 Ground Crop Sprayer	10 th February		7Y, Wharton Court

Wyvern Training Services Tel: 01432 880690 Email: chris@wyverntrainingservices.com

See article on previous page for further details of training topics on offer from Wyvern Training Services

<u>Course</u>	<u>Dates 2011-12</u>		<u>Venue</u>
Emergency First Aid At Work	16 th December	19 th January 15 th February	TBC
Chainsaw Cross Cutting & Maint	17 th - 18 th January		TBC
Chainsaw and/or ATV training	15 th -16 th December, 31 st January-3 rd February - these dates available for this training if required		TBC
Lift truck and/or Tele-handler training	12 th -14 th December, 11 th -12 th January, 1 st - 2 nd February - these dates available, if required		TBC
Lift truck or Tele-handler refresher	23 rd January, 26 th January - these dates available, if required		TBC