

Herefordshire Rural Hub

January 2012 Newsletter

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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

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*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*

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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

Herefordshire Rural Hub - January onwards

For the past 10 years we have worked across the county to help farming and rural businesses to engage with computers and the use of the internet. Many of you have 'grabbed' the training opportunities and are now proficient and waiting for the roll out of super fast broadband across Herefordshire in the next couple of years. For those who have yet to take the plunge we are joining up with other training providers to show you where there is support to get you 'going' and to help smooth the path.

Being able to use a computer to access emails and information on websites is becoming more and more essential in the running of your business. A key date is 1st April 2012, when all VAT registered businesses will have to submit VAT Returns online and pay any VAT due electronically.

Herefordshire Rural Hub is planning a number of workshops to help you with on-line submissions - VAT, CTS (cattle movements) and Single Farm Payment. We will also be delivering a Computerised Book-keeping course for those who want to keep your monthly accounts on a spreadsheet programme.

This mailing gives information on our computer provision plus the annual Green Futures session which will get you update with Cross Compliance in 2012. Plenty going on and plenty for everyone but if there is a computer related issue that you need help with please contact us and we will try and find a way to help.

RDPE Programme

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.

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.

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

Computing in Herefordshire in 2012

Getting your business on-line and more.....

How to submit your VAT, CTS Cattle Movements, Soil Protection Review on line

Need to know more about managing your computer systems

- anti-virus software, backing up, broadband connectivity, email systems, purchasing hard ware & software

Drop in sessions will be held between 4pm and 8pm on:

Monday - February 20th - The Village Hall, Preston on Wye, Hfds

Monday - March 5th - Kington area - venue to be confirmed

Monday - March 12th - Leominster area - venue to be confirmed

Computing in the Kington area

I.T. for Beginners

Tuesday, 10-12noon, for 5 weeks from 24th January

For further details and pricing structure please call

Marches Access Point, The Old Police Station,

Market Hall Street, Kington - 01544 231771

email info@map-kington.co.uk

Computing in the Bromyard Area

Email & Internet

Mondays, 10am -12noon, for 5 weeks from 9th January

I.T. for Improvers

Mondays, 2pm - 4pm, for 5 weeks from 9th January

Computer Pick 'n' Mix

Wednesdays - 10.00am - 12.00am for 5 weeks from 11th January

Ring the Hope Family Centre for start dates in January

YOU choose what YOU would like to learn, with help and support from the Tutor!

For more information and pricing structure or to book your place please ring:

Hope Family Centre, Hereford Road, Bromyard HR7 4QU - 01885 488495

email: training@hopefamilycentre.org

Computing in Moccas

Herefordshire Council's Community Learning & Employability team, Herefordshire Libraries & Hfds

Rural Hub are working to together to deliver:

Computers for Beginners

Thursday, January 12th - February 9th

9.30am - 11.30am

This course is aimed for those who have never used a computer before

Digital Photography

Thursday, January 12th - February 9th

12.30pm - 2.30pm

This course is aimed for those wanting to learn how to use a basic digital camera

Courses are free. To book your place tel: 01432 383631

All of the above courses may be subject to change so please contact the training provider in the first instance to register your interest.

If you have any further queries on I.T. provision give the Herefordshire Rural Hub office a ring - 01432 870033.

Engaging with IT on the Farm

Maintaining and completing a financial recording system for the farm business

This 2 day practical course will enable participants to create, maintain and complete farm financial records as required by the accountant in order to produce the year end accounts.

Course Details

Saturdays - 4th February & February 11th 2012

9.30am - 4pm

Wilsley House, Holme Lacy,
Hereford - HR2 6LL

Course Content

1. Create a cash accounting system to produce financial farm records within the farming business using an Excel spreadsheet programme.
2. Maintain a computerised cash accounting system suitable for a farming business to enable the completion of year end accounts.
3. Prepare information required for VAT reporting to HMRC

Cost:

£95 for the 2 days including refreshments, lunch, course material and a copy of the cash analysis programme that can be tailored to meet the needs of your own farm business

If you have a laptop please bring it along to work on.

For more details please contact Herefordshire Rural Hub:
Tel: 01432 870033 or Email: herefordshirehub@hct.ac.uk

Single Payment Scheme - Online

Herefordshire Rural Hub working in partnership with the NFU will be running practical workshops from mid March onwards to enable farmers to :

Find the right website - Register for SPS online - Navigate your way around the system

Make amendments and enter correct details - Save changes and exit the claim safely

View the claim and print a version - How to submit the claim (although no claims will be submitted at the workshop)

Date and venues will be given in the next newsletter

Herefordshire and Shropshire Business Enterprise Fund

Herefordshire and Shropshire Councils have secured European Regional Development Funding to run the Business Enterprise Fund jointly, with £500,000 available in each county for start ups and businesses to bid into over the next three years.

For individuals wanting to start up a business, capital grants are available for up to 50% of the eligible investment or a maximum of £1,500. For small and medium sized businesses that are currently trading, capital grants are available for up to 50% of the eligible investment or a maximum of £1,500 for those trading under 9 months old or a maximum of £5,000 for a business over 9 months old.

Due to European regulations, the Fund is restricted to certain sectors.

Unfortunately, the fund cannot support:

- Retail and other businesses that solely sell products or services directly to the general public
- Land-based industries including farms.

The next application deadline is 10th January 2012.

For further information contact:

To discuss your eligibility and receive an application form, please contact Lyndsay McCron, Project Officer -
tel: 01432 383633 / email: lmccron@herefordshire.gov.uk

Herefordshire Grassland Society

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

HFYFC Events

- **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

Moreton Wood

"Learn to rush seat a chair or stool"

January 21st - 22nd 2012

£90 (including materials)

For more information please contact Jo at moretonwood@googlemail.com or telephone 07920 851 674

www.moretonwood.co.uk

Record Keeping and Nutrient Planning in NVZ's
Thursday 26th January 2012, 10am - 1.30pm
Bishops Frome Village Centre, Bishops Frome, Bromyard WR6 5AP

Catchment Sensitive Farming invites you to a FREE workshop to provide practical training and information on nutrient management, budgeting and planning using the computer program PLANET Version 3.

The workshop will cover:-

1. When is the best time to apply fertiliser and manures?
2. Training on the PLANET program using your own field data

Please bring along some of your own field records

Places are limited so please book early. Lunch is included.

To book a place please telephone 01902 859960 or email usha.sahota@kiteconsulting.com

The Cookery Club

@ The Woodhouse, Kenchester, Hereford

'Cookery demonstrations with a hands on approach', followed by supper.

Gain ideas of how to conjure up delicious meals to 'wow' your family and friends, in the surrounds of Oakwrights' beautiful oak-framed show home. Sue and Serena invite you to book a place on one of their evenings of "cookery demonstrations with a hands-on approach", followed by supper. Gift Vouchers are also available - please ask Sue or Serena for details.

Maximum of **twelve** people per session. Price per evening: **£30**. Start: **6.45pm**

25 th January	Family Suppers
8 th February	Out To Impress
22 nd February	Perfect Puddings
7 th March	Food For Friends
21 st March	Fishy Tales
4 th April	Dinner Party Delights

To book a place please contact: Sue Goring 01981 550280 suegoring@tiscali.co.uk
Serena Crump 01981 590644 serena@oakwrights.co.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.

Energy Expo Now 2012 Conference and Exhibition

15th - 16th February at the Malvern Showground.

An exhibition; featuring more than 120 different renewable energy product and service suppliers including Fisher German, NatWest Bank, EDF Energy Renewables, Envitec Biogas, Energy Innovations and, Aeolus Power.

A two-day conference, featuring specialists discussing the latest developments affecting the sector, the technologies and their viability. The conference will be chaired by the CLA's very own chief surveyor, Oliver Harwood, as well as the renewable energy advisor to the NFU, Dr Jonathan Scurlock. It will combine presentations with interactive panel debates on a number of different topics, including:

- o Financial Incentives - FITs and RHI - Sarah Wells, Countrywide Renewable Energy
- o Planning your project, the do's and don'ts - John Silvester, Planning Officers Society
- o Setting up and maintaining a biogas plant - James Murcott, Methanogen UK Ltd
- o Owning your own wind turbine - Laurence Duncan, ICE Renewables
- o Alternative Vehicles - Michael Hurwitz, The Office for Low-emission Vehicles
- o Biomass heating options - Chris Miles, Econergy
- o Financing renewable energy projects - Ian Burrow, NatWest Bank
- o The future of solar PV - Ray Noble, Solar Trade Association
- o Why hydropower? - David Williams, British Hydropower Association

This year, the event organisers are also introducing a workshop area for the first time. This will be used by experienced suppliers and installers to provide practical advice on the steps involved in progressing with an alternative energy solution.

Conference tickets cost **£99 per person per day**, which includes lunch and access to all presentations and panel debates, as well as the exhibition. **The exhibition is free to attend, providing you register beforehand.**

To order tickets or for more information, please visit www.energynowexpo.co.uk or call 01293 854 405

FiT for FARMING Networking Event

10th May 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

• GRANT TYPE	• 2011-12	• 2012-13
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

NSA Marches Region Invites All Members and Friends to the Winter Meeting

to discuss

Maximise Feed Rations and Liver fluke treatments in 2012

To be held on

Tuesday 10th January 2012

at

The Fishermans Arms Docklow Pools

Nr Leominster Hereford HR6 0RU

7.00 PM FOR 7.30 Start

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introduction by Nick Davies (Chairman Marches Region)
2. Harriet Fuller (Local Vet and Sheep Specialist) - Presentation on Liver Fluke -the costs to the Industry and how we can improve margins
3. Kate Phillips (ADAS Principle consultant) - Presentation on Ewe Nutrition Pre Lambing
4. Discussion - followed by Refreshments

Phil Stocker the new Chief Executive will be in attendance - to discuss the Associations new operating changes and how NSA has a modern "fit for purpose" structure which will deliver even greater representation to the region.

To confirm your attendance please contact Angela Weston (Regional Secretary) 01454 260220 or mobile 07708 244 151 or email angelaweston1@o2.co.uk

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) 2 days	3 rd - 4 th April		Holme Lacy Campus
PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides 1 day	24 th January	17 th April	Holme Lacy Campus
PA2 Ground Crop Sprayers 2 days	24 th - 25 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	11 th - 13 th January 14 th - 16 th March	22 nd - 24 th February 11 th - 13 th April	Holme Lacy Campus
CS39 Operate a Chainsaw from Rope & Harness 3 days + assessment	1 st - 3 rd February 25 th - 27 th April	7 th - 9 th March 1 st - 2 nd May	Holme Lacy Campus
CS31 Felling Small Trees 3 days	8 th - 10 th February 21 st - 23 rd March	7 th - 9 th March 11 th - 13 th April	Holme Lacy Campus
CS32 Fell and Process Trees over 380mm Diameter 3 days	1 st - 3 rd February	16 th - 18 th May	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 16 th - 20 th April	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	24 th - 25 th January 22 nd - 23 rd February		7Y, Wharton Court
Chainsaw CC & M	7 th - 8 th February		7Y, Wharton Court
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	19 th January 15 th February		Sutton St Nicholas TBC
Chainsaw Cross Cutting & Maint	17 th - 18 th January		Eldersfield Marsh
Chainsaw and/or ATV training	31 st January-3 rd February - these dates available for this training if required		TBC
Lift truck and/or Tele-handler training	11 th -12 th January, 1 st - 2 nd February - these dates available for this training if required		TBC
Lift truck or Tele-handler refresher	23 rd January, this date available for this training if required		TBC
PA1 Safe Use of Pesticides	26 th January		TBC
Chainsaw / Tree Felling /or Operating ATVs	21 st to 24 th February - these dates available for this training if required		TBC