



## Autumn workshops

### Inside this issue:

Visit to Frank P Matthews	2
Food Security—Defra report published	2
Short Rotation Forestry—new trials in England	2
CALU wins RWAS award	2
Horticulture Masterclass	3
Jumbo garlic	3
CALU events	4

### CALU's subject areas:

- Horticulture
- Bio-energy
- Arable crops
- Non-food crops
- Alternative livestock

This autumn, CALU has lined up a full calendar of events covering a broad range of topics.

The season starts with a Soils and Arable Stubbles event on 2nd September. Soil compaction is a major problem on many farms. And where there is soil compaction, there will be decreased yields and that means reduced profit. The event is being led by experts from the Grassland Development Centre at Aberystwyth University. It will show how to identify soil problems and then how best to tackle them. As cereal stubbles are such an important habitat for farmland birds there will also be input from the RSPB.

This theme of problem identification is carried through in several other events. It may

seem an obvious thing to say, but if the cause of a problem is unknown, it is impossible to effectively treat it.

On 21st October we will be hosting a “Know Your Enemies” workshop at the Welsh College of Horticulture. The event will deal with pests and diseases in both edible and ornamental crops. Consideration will be given to the full range of control methods available, but emphasising the need for appropriate and integrated control programmes.

The following day, 22nd October, we have a totally different topic: Slaughter and Processing for Small Scale Poultry Producers. The number of slaughterhouses for all livestock, including poultry, has declined in recent years. This creates prob-

lems for producers. If you keep only a small number of birds, the costs involved with transporting them long distances for slaughter can be prohibitive. There are also concerns about the impact of long distance movements on animal welfare and carcase qualities. This workshop, at the Welsh Poultry Centre, will go through the processes involved in designing and running your own small scale poultry processing unit. It will also include a tour of the slaughter facilities at the Welsh Poultry Centre.

This is only a brief taste of the events we have lined up—please see the back page for more information. All the events are supported by the Welsh Assembly Government's Farming Connect Programme.

## Have you signed up for Farming Connect?

The Welsh Assembly Government's Farming Connect Programme provides a diverse range of services for land users in Wales. The meetings and workshops which CALU delivers for Farming Connect are open to anybody to attend.

A more in-depth, one-to-one service is also available from Farming Connect for those who are engaged in producing from the land on a full-time basis. Full-time is judged to be 550hrs a year.

Farming Connect is not just for farmers! It is also open to smallholders, horticulturalists and woodland owners (provided that they meet the eligibility criteria).

For more information on the support that Farming Connect can provide to your business, contact the Service Centre on 0845 6000 813, or visit <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/farmingconnect/?lang=en>

## Visit to Frank P Matthews Nursery

On 4<sup>th</sup> August CALU and the Powys Tree Nurseries group had a visit to the Frank P Matthews Nursery at Tenbury Wells. Nick Dunn kindly led the tour of the production units including field and containerised stock.

The nursery covers 162ha and provides full-time, year round employment for 70 people. All the employees are local. This business clearly demonstrates how production horticulture can benefit local economies. The business is also important in safeguarding gene banks of less usual varieties, and in trialling potential new stocks.

## Defra publishes UK Food Security review

Defra has published an evaluation of the UK's food security situation. Areas highlighted as being of particular concern are water usage and aquaculture. In general, there are concerns about the pressures that agricultural food production puts on eco-system services (e.g. wildlife and biodiversity). The report notes that fruit has become relatively cheaper since 2000, whilst vegetables have become relatively more expensive.

View the full report at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodrin/security/assessment.htm>

### DID YOU KNOW...

*Biomass power plants tend to have low efficiencies. In general, they will only deliver around 30% of the potential energy from the fuel that is used in them... By contrast, modern domestic wood burning stoves are around 80% efficient..*

## Short Rotation Forestry Trials

The Forestry Commission in England is establishing trial plots of trees to examine the potential for Short Rotation Forestry (SRF). SRF is different from Short Rotation Coppice (SRC). It generally uses different tree species and focuses on harvesting single stems, rather than multiple coppiced stems.

The trials in England are using a range of species, including: eucalypts, birch, alder, aspen, ash and sycamore. The studies will investigate potential environmental impacts, as well as the yields of these different species. They will also be evaluating the impact of different initial planting spacings on final yields.

For more information visit: <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/srf>

## CALU success at Royal Welsh Show

We were delighted to win the award for the best Educational and Instructional exhibit at this year's Royal Welsh Agricultural Show.

The CALU stand focused on practical issues in food production. We showcased new varieties of potatoes and cereals which are being developed in Wales. The crops are suited to Wales' cool, damp climate, and also have lower input requirements in terms of fertilisers and pesticides than many conventional cereals and potatoes.

We also had a display of local fruit trees, provided by Ian Sturrock, and a small scale cider press. Apples, and fruit in general, are crops that CALU has been promoting for several years now and we are pleased to see an increased level of interest being shown in them by the public, growers and politicians alike.

### DID YOU KNOW...

*The global average of land area covered by woodlands and forests is 30%. In the EU this rises to 37%. Wales is one of the least forested European countries, having only around 14% forest area.*

## Henfaes Horticulture Masterclass

This autumn, we will be hosting the first Henfaes Horticulture Masterclass on 7th October.

The aim of the event is to bring together growers, suppliers, advisors and other horticultural experts to facilitate knowledge sharing.

A key speaker at the event will be Medwyn Williams of Medwyn's of Anglesey. Since 2008, Medwyn has been utilising space in one of Henfaes's glasshouses to produce a diverse range of crops. Medwyn is well-known within horticultural circles for his ability to produce award winning vegetables. Visitors to the Masterclass event will have the chance to see Medwyn's production area at Henfaes and

to quiz him on his techniques.

Other confirmed speakers / exhibitors for the event include:

**Northern Polytunnels:** there are four polytunnels at Henfaes used for experimental purposes. Northern Polytunnels will be able to provide advice on the best type of structure for different situations. For example whether to have fixed or retractable skins; whether to have full plastic sides, or to have mesh panels; whether to have multiple or single spans. Whatever your question on polytunnels, Northern Polytunnels will be able to help.

**Nutrimate:** a naturally occurring organic growth stimulant reported to increase plant vigour.

Scotts Horticulture: manufacturers of a diverse range of growing media, including well known brands such as Levington and Shamrock.

**ADAS Horticulture:** independent advisors on all aspects of horticulture, from production to marketing.

**JBA Seed Potatoes**—Jamieson Brothers of Annan stock more than 70 varieties of seed potato and are a leading supplier and grower of seed.

The event will include a tour of the facilities at Henfaes, lunch and an open floor Growers' Question Time at the end of the day.

To book your place, please contact us—01248 680450.

## Elephant garlic—the jumbo that's really a leek...

Elephant garlic, *Allium ampeloprasum*, is used like garlic in the kitchen, but is actually more closely related to leeks (*Allium ampeloprasum* var. *porrum*).

Unlike garlic, the bulb of elephant garlic is not divided into cloves, and it is usually a little smaller than a whole garlic bulb. For this reason it is particularly popular with people who like to eat a lot of garlic, but who do not enjoy the fiddly peeling routine its use brings.

Elephant garlic is native to Europe, whereas regular garlic (*Allium sativa*) is thought to originate in China. Apparently elephant garlic is more suited to the cool and damp conditions of Wales.

Elephant garlic has been gaining in popularity as it becomes more widely available. This has encouraged more people to try growing the crop for the first time.

## What heatwave?

Did you know that the Welsh Assembly has specific trigger temperatures that determine when we are officially enjoying (or not!) a heatwave.

These are: daytime maximum temperature higher than 30°C and night-time minimum temperature higher than 15°C for more than two days in a row. In old money, that is 86°F in the day and 59°F at night.

Despite early season forecasts indicating there would be a heatwave this summer, it never actually happened.

### DID YOU KNOW...

*Hairdressing salons located at garden centres seem to be the latest trend.*

*Gardening and hair care are both seen as "feel good" activities meaning they naturally go well together.*

## CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE LAND USE

Henfaes Research Centre  
University of Wales Bangor  
Abergwyngregyn  
LLANFAIRFECHAN  
LL33 0LB

Phone: 01248 680 450  
Fax: 01248 681730  
E-mail: [calu@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:calu@bangor.ac.uk)

[www.calu.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.calu.bangor.ac.uk)

Supporting sustainable land use in Wales



## Forthcoming CALU Events

**Wednesday 2nd September** — Soils & Stubbles: management of arable soils, Guilsfield, nr Welshpool. 1.00pm

**Thursday 3rd September** — Pig nutrition workshop, Carmarthen Show Ground. 6.30pm

**Thursday 10th September** — Forage and browse for goats: a workshop with Dr Heather McCalman, Carmarthen Show Ground. 6.30pm

**Wednesday 23rd September (morning)** — Containerised herbaceous ornamentals workshop, Cambrian Nursery, Ciliau Aeron. 10.30am—12.30pm

**Wednesday 23rd September (afternoon)** — Controlling weeds, pests and diseases: a workshop with Chris Creed, ADAS at the National Trust's Llanerchaeron Estate. 1.00pm—4.00pm

**Tuesday 29th September** — north Wales small fruit producers, meeting to discuss energy reduction and renewable energy sources. 6.30pm

**Wednesday 30th September** — Pig nutrition workshop with Dr David Peers, ADAS, Glynllifon College, nr Caernarfon. 6.30pm

**Wednesday 7th October** — Horticulture Masterclass at Henfaes Research Centre, with Northern Polytunnels; Scotts growing media; Medwyn Williams of Anglesey; JBA seed potatoes; ADAS Horticulture; Nutrimate. 10.30am—3.30pm

**Wednesday 14th October** — Winter Forages at Henfaes Research Centre including new forage maize variety trials. Supported by Olivers Seeds and British Seed Houses.

**Wednesday 21st October** — "Know Your Enemies" - identification and management of diseases and pests in production horticulture. Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop.

**Thursday 22nd October** — Small Scale Slaughter and Processing of Poultry, Welsh Poultry Centre, nr Llanpumsaint. 1.00pm—4.00pm

**For more information about any of CALU's events, please contact us.**

## About CALU

CALU delivers the Farming Connect Knowledge Transfer Development Programme for Land Management. The programme provides information to any business in Wales that is interested in:

- Horticulture
- Bio-energy
- Alternative Livestock
- Arable Crops
- Non-food Crops

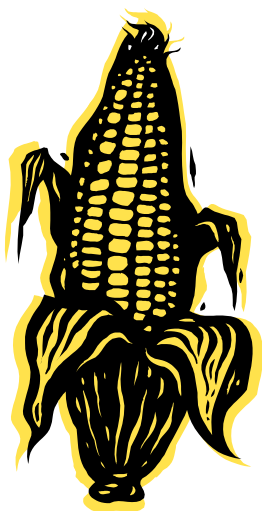
CALU has three dedicated members of staff and a network of associate specialists covering all the topics within CALU's remit.

CALU ACTIVITIES:

- Open days
- Demonstration events
- Technical leaflets
- Training days
- Press articles
- Crop information sheets
- Project reports
- Talks
- Producer groups
- Agricultural shows
- Information booklets

CALU PARTNERS:

- University of Wales, Bangor
- Welsh College of Horticulture
- ADAS
- Coed Cymru
- Coleg Llysfasi



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig  
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig  
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development  
Europe Investing in Rural Areas

