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CALU's subject areas:

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

Pesticides—do you have your certificate of competence?

Did you know that if you were born after 31st December 1964 and are using agricultural plant protection products (herbicides, pesticides, fungicides, etc.) it is **ESSENTIAL** that you have a **CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE**?

The National Proficiency Tests Council (NPTC) administers the various tests required to obtain the certificates of competency.

There are currently 13 different units PA1 to PA13. PA1 is a general foundation unit. In itself, it is not a certificate of competence for application of plant protection products, but it is a pre-requisite before taking any of the other units. Units PA2 to PA13 cover specific methods of application: you need a certificate of competence for **ALL** methods of application you use.

Generally, the units are just referred to be their code – e.g. PA2 – which isn't very helpful when you are trying to find out which unit you need. The titles of the units are:

- PA1 – foundation
- PA2 – Ground Crop Sprayer – mounted or trailed
- PA3 – Broadcast or variable geometry boom sprayer – mounted or trailed
- PA4 – pesticide granular application – mounted or trailed
- PA5 – boated mounted applicators
- PA6 – handheld applicators
- PA7 – aerial applicator – pilot

- PA8 – mixer loader
 - PA9 – fogging, misting and smokes
 - PA10 – batch dipping
 - PA11 – seed equipment treatment
 - PA12 – application of pesticides to material as a continuous process via conveyor, roller tables and other moving equipment
 - PA13 – subsurface liquid applicator
- (nb some units are subdivided further for more specific application methods)

The schedules for the assessments can be downloaded from www.nptc.org.uk/assessment-schedules

Courses are offered by most local agricultural colleges, plus various independent training companies. The cost of the course is set by the training provider and prices vary. However, we are talking about hundreds of pounds, not tens of pounds.

When enquiring about costs of courses, make sure to check whether the registration and examination fees are included. There may be help towards the cost of the training through Lantra's Farming Connect Skills Programme.

For further information about this, please contact the Farming Connect Service Centre—0845 6000 813.

New discussion groups

We're delighted that several groups of businesses have come together to form new "discussion groups".

North Wales Vineyards are meeting for the first time on 3rd November. Their speaker is Simon Day—a well known viticulture consultant (who has also diversified into cider making).

North Wales Tree Nurseries had their first meeting on 14th October. Geraint Jones, Coed Cymru's Conwy Officer provided an excellent talk on "running a successful tree nursery", along with lots of useful information on legislation and suppliers.

A new group for **Goat Producers** in north Wales is also starting up—their first meeting will be on Thursday 10th December. Kenton Morgan of Liverpool University will be speaking about herd health plans for goat keepers.

We are also thinking about establishing a **North East Wales Pig Producer Group**. At the moment, we are hosting regular meetings for pig producers in north Wales at Glynllifon, but several travel from the north east and if there is sufficient interest, we will form a new group over there.

For more information on any of the groups, please contact us

DID YOU KNOW...

The first use of a large **circular saw** in a saw mill is credited to **Tabitha Babbitt** in **1813**. Babbitt recognised the inefficiency of a conventional pit saw that was only cutting on one stroke (the reciprocal action being non-productive).

Horticulture events

Our series of horticultural workshops for 2009 is drawing to a close. To complete the series there are two final workshops: the first is an 'adding value in Winter' workshop at Aberglasney Gardens, Carmarthen on the 10th November 2009, starting at 11.00am. The event will be led by Robert Mackey of Growth Business and Chris Creed of ADAS. We will also have displays from suppliers covering the south west of Wales.

The final horticulture workshop will be a 'pest and diseases in young plants and liners' workshop at Seiont Nursery, Caernarfon 1.00pm 25th November. Martin Donnelly from Certis will be joining the Seiont team for a walk and talk of their production area focusing on their control methods.

If you would like to receive information on our horticulture events in 2010, please make sure we have up to date contact details for you. Events in the pipeline include: fruit tree grafting and pruning; ornamentals; and fruit & vegetable production.

Grants available for countryside skills courses

Lantra and CCW have funding available (subject to eligibility criteria) for **smallholders and contractors** to improve their skills in countryside management.

The funding covers between 30% and 50% for courses including **fencing, dry stone walling, bracken control, tree planting and hedge-laying**.

The grants are available until March 2010—so if you are interested, don't delay in finding out more.

The aim of the project is to improve practical skills for the benefit of the environment.

If you would like to find out more, please contact Hayley Cleaver at Lantra—01982 552646, e-mail Hayley.cleaver@lantra.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW...

WRAP estimates that more than **4 million apples** and more than **5 million potatoes** are thrown away in the UK every day!

Small scale poultry slaughter & processing

On the 22nd of October 2009 CALU held a workshop at The Welsh Poultry Centre, Llanpumsiant, Carmarthenshire. Owned and managed by Steve Merritt and Juliet Fay.

Steve and Juliet moved to their farm eight years ago. They set up their slaughter house on the farm so that they could slaughter and process both their own, and other producers' poultry.

Initially their slaughter house was registered under the Meat Hygiene Services (MHS) Licence. This allowed them to slaughter and process other people's poultry as well as their own. Unfortunately due to the costs involved in paying an MSH

registered veterinarian to witness any killing or evisceration, it was un-economical. Therefore, the premises now operates under an 'exempt' licence.

Under this licence up to 10,000 birds may be killed each year.

They are only allowed to be sold direct to the final consumer, and only within your local or immediately neighbouring Local Authority area.

Another restriction of the licence is that it only allows slaughter of your own birds, not those belonging to other producers.

As well as providing a detailed insight into the legislative processes and requirements involved in setting up and running a small scale poultry slaughterhouse, the

workshop provided an invaluable practical insight into the operation of the facilities.

Attendees walked the full process line from the point where birds are caught, through stunning, bleeding, plucking and evisceration to the final product. With an explanation of the equipment required at each stage of the process and approximate costs.

Feedback from the event was very positive. The notes from the day have been written up and are available on the CALU website.

If you have ideas for future poultry related workshops, please let us know.

DID YOU KNOW...

There are more chickens in the world than any other domesticated bird. There is more than one chicken for every human!

New CALU factsheets available

Since our last newsletter, we have produced several new factsheets and reports on demonstration farm events.

In the **horticulture section** there is a new introductory factsheet on growing sweet cherries.

In the **woodland section** we have two new factsheets: one providing a basic overview of conventional woodland mensuration (measurement) techniques for volume assessment; the other touches on the evaluation of firewood volumes in stands of trees, how to equate this to potential energy values, and also the perennial issue of assessing a sustainable harvest.

Following on from a very successful workshop on small scale slaughter and processing for poultry producers, the notes from the workshop have been published. Similarly the notes from the excellent workshop we held at Welsh Fruit Stocks looking at the commercial propagation of cane and soft fruits are available.

Another new addition which has been keenly awaited by many is our new factsheet providing a basic introduction to the practical and bureaucratic issues any one new to **land ownership** will need to tackle.

Our factsheets are all written in response to requests from the

public. If there are any topics which you would like to see us cover, please do let us know.

All the factsheets are available to download for free from our website—
www.calu.bangor.ac.uk.

However, if you have any problems downloading the factsheets, or would prefer to receive them via e-mail or as a hard copy, please let us know.

Production of the factsheets is funded through the Welsh Assembly Government's Farming Connect Programme. We gratefully acknowledge this support.

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Supporting sustainable land use in Wales



Forthcoming CALU Events

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

2009

Tuesday 3rd November: North Wales Vineyards producer group meeting with Vine & Wine consultant Simon Day. Henfaes Research Centre, Abergwyngregyn. 6.30pm-8.00pm

Tuesday 10th November: Adding Value in Horticulture, Aberglasney Gardens. 11.00am-3.30pm

Tuesday 24th November: Torfaen Agri-food Diversification Drop-in Evening, 4.00pm-8.00pm

Wednesday 25th November. Pest and disease management in young plants and liners. Seiont Nursery, Caernarfon. 1.00pm-3.30pm

Wednesday 25th November: South West Pig Producer Group—presentation on the Food Technology Centres' facilities and adding value to pig meat. Carmarthen Mart, 6.30pm-8.00pm

Monday 30th November & Tuesday 1st December: Royal Welsh Winter Fair. Visit us on the Balcony in the livestock hall.

Thursday 3rd December Ceredigion growers meeting. Royal Feather Hotel, Aberaeron.

Thursday 10th December. North Wales goat meeting. Henfaes Research Centre. 6.30pm-8.30pm

2010

January—Managing Woodlands for Firewood, Clatter, nr Caersws (date to be finalised)

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
- Factsheets
- Training days
- Press articles
- Crop information sheets
- Project reports
- Talks
- Producer groups
- Agricultural shows
- Information booklets

CALU PARTNERS:

- Bangor University
- Glyndŵr University
- ADAS
- Coed Cymru
- Coleg Llysfasi

