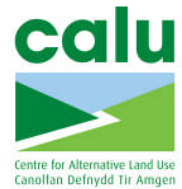


## CALU press release – April 2008



### Help and advice from herb-grower pioneers

By Felizitas Rupp – CALU

Annual retail sales of herbs in the UK are worth more than £68m. And the forecast is for growth to continue expanding until at least 2012. In addition to this market for culinary herbs, there is also a considerable market for medicinal herbs and herbs for use by industry. This offers a great diversification opportunity for herb production in Wales.

Potential herb growers have a range of options open to them for production methods. Culinary herbs can be sold as fresh growing herbs; or as freshly cut herbs; or as dried herbs. Value can be added to the herbs by quite minimal processing, or by sophisticated chemical extraction techniques.

The diversity of herb plants and their production and processing methods mean the scope is nearly limitless for producers. But it can also mean it is hard to know where to begin.

CALU aims to help prospective producers with a herb production workshop on 28<sup>th</sup> April. The workshop will take place at “*Herbs from Wales*”, a family business near Llanerchymedd on Anglesey. This herb farm has been in operation for 20 years and produces a wide range of herbs. It is run by Rowena and Philip Mansfield; Rowena is also the author of the book “*Wild herbs of Anglesey and Gwynedd*”.

One of the production techniques that Herbs from Wales has increasingly specialised in is hydroponics. The advantages and disadvantages of this soil-free production system will be explained on the day by Rowena and Philip Mansfield from “*Herbs from Wales*” It is a unique opportunity to get first class advice from experts with in-depth knowledge and experience of growing and processing herbs.

There will also be opportunity to discuss the wide range of medicinal and aromatic balms, ointments and other remedies made by “*Herbs from Wales*” which will be available to buy at the day.

The workshop is funded by the Welsh Assembly Government’s Farming Connect Programme.

For further information or to book your place, contact CALU – [calu@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:calu@bangor.ac.uk) – 01248 680450.

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