

# ELY & DISTRICT TRAINING GROUP

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2008 October Newsletter

First of all, many thanks to those of you who have already been in touch with me about your winter training requirements. It really helps to put together a relevant programme when I have an idea of what people are looking for. The enclosed course list is a work in progress which will be added to as and when required.

Over the past couple of years several people have expressed concern that they are not up to date with their Health & Safety responsibilities as owners and managers. Even if you only employ people on an occasional basis, or have family members helping out, it is important that you are fully conversant with current legislation and your legal responsibilities. This course aims to ensure that by the end of the day you will be aware of the relevant legislation, HSE priorities and recent guidance, and have had a briefing on managing areas of specific risk in agriculture. The plan is that this should be an interactive day, focused on issues of particular relevance for the agriculture and horticulture sector. There are currently two dates booked for this course, one each side of Christmas.

There has been a very encouraging response to the fuel efficiency course which was outlined in the previous newsletter. Half day courses can be a bit of a head ache for employers with staff drifting back throughout the afternoon or looking at their watches in the morning waiting to leave. We have therefore planned a full day's training with the NROSO course in the morning and the fuel efficiency course in the afternoon. Those who wish to attend both courses will then have a full day's training. It will of course be possible to book onto just the one course but there will be a discount for those attending the whole day. The NROSO course, which is worth 10 CPD points, is this year titled Sprayers, Stores and Buffers. Areas to be covered include pesticide storage & transport, sprayers - ready for work, and buffer zones. The topical update will look at regulatory changes and product revocations, the operator's role in Crop Protection Management Plans and the use of double check valves.

Women in Work Funding. This funding is for women working in the agricultural sector and is applicable to any training that you may require. It is around 2/3 funding – you book and pay for £650 worth of training and £400 can then be claimed back. There are inevitably certain conditions attached. If you are interested in this do let me know.

We will again be offering a Fertiliser Spreader Calibration Clinic. This is not only an easy way to comply with the various assurance schemes' requirements on spreaders but can also save you a lot of money if the fertiliser is spread accurately. If you would like to have your machine assessed please let me know.

As mentioned in the last newsletter the rules on First Aid training will alter next autumn. There is some doubt about whether we will be able to continue to offer the half day emergency first aid course, this may have to become a full days training. If anyone thinks that they should attend a first aid session I would recommend doing it this winter when you can still do this in half a day. Anyone doing a 2 day requalification first aid course must remember to take their current certificate with them to the course.

Dangerous Goods awareness. All drivers carrying any small quantity of chemical in a van or 4x4 should have received general training. This also applies to anyone transporting fuel or fertiliser on the road. There is a half day course which complies with this HSE guidance. Certificates and ID cards are issued as part of the training which will then satisfy VOSA if the driver is stopped. For further information go to [www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/manual/crew.htm#driver\\_training](http://www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/manual/crew.htm#driver_training)

PA 1 Test. As you will probably know the PA 1 test is now taken on a laptop computer. This can cause problems for those with reading difficulties. It is possible to get a dispensation for extra time to complete the test or to have me reading out the questions; however, you MUST mention this at the time of booking the test. It should be noted that when the individual progresses to any of the other PA modules they cannot receive assistance. These modules are assessed verbally but the ability to read and understand the product label is essential. Unfortunately those with English as a second language are not currently permitted a reader but can have extra time if requested beforehand. Anyone planning to take a pesticide module, PA2- PA 12, should attend the PA 1 foundation module training day on November 26 if they have not already done this.

Please get in touch if you would like any further information on any of the courses or to book any training. If you want training in anything not mentioned this can be arranged either by the group or with one of the other members of ART, the umbrella organisation for training groups in the region.

Susan Martin