

**ELY & DISTRICT TRAINING GROUP**  
HIGHFIELD HOUSE LITTLEPORT ELY CAMBS CB6 1HQ  
TEL 01353 860220 FAX 01353 863626  
EMAIL [elydistricttg@high-field-house.co.uk](mailto:elydistricttg@high-field-house.co.uk)  
[www.elyanddistricttraininggroup.co.uk](http://www.elyanddistricttraininggroup.co.uk)

September 2008 Newsletter

I am now putting together the winter training programme and would welcome suggestions for any 'new' topics that would be of interest. Forklift refresher notifications will be sent out to all those who attended training over the winter period five years ago. It is also worth checking your emergency first aid certificates as the more recent ones have expiry dates on them. A half day course to update you on first aid techniques and remind you what to do in a crisis could be invaluable.

First Aid training in general is in the midst of a big shake up and new regulations will come into force in September next year. It is not yet clear exactly how they will alter so in the meantime we will carry on as usual. Do remember that the full first aid certificates must be followed up by a two day refresher course every three years. Again, if you gained your certificate through the training group I will be sending out reminders for the winter period.

In the spring we had people travelling all over the country to do last minute PA 1 & PA 4 courses. We will programme in all the standard pesticide courses over the winter. If you know in advance you will have staff needing training in this who will not be able to attend a winter course we can plan ahead and organise our own courses for the spring which would save a lot of mileage and time.

The NRoSO course for this winter will again be offered by the Group using Brian Poulson as the instructor. He will tailor it to suit the requirements of our members, and numbers will be limited to allow time for discussion among course participants. This will be worth 10 CPD points - the length of the course will be determined nearer the time as it may take more than the allocated 3 hours to cover the course material in sufficient detail.

The areas to be covered in the syllabus this year are

- Spray stores - looking at store location, design and management
- Sprayers – preparation for work & also the annual sprayer test
- Buffer Zones – how to work within the rules
- Topical update - looking at changes in regulations, crop protection management plans & reminders on water protection and law.

The Food Standards Agency has produced a new leaflet called Food and Feed Hygiene for Farmers and Growers. This is only available as a download, which I will attach to this newsletter. The following extracts emphasise the farmer's responsibilities:

'Farmers, as primary producers, will have to follow basic hygiene procedures in relation to the feed they use or grow and ensure that hazards are properly controlled. Most of these controls will come into effect from January 2008.

In practical terms, the requirements for farmers and growers amount to fairly basic hygiene procedures. As food businesses, they will have to ensure that hazards are controlled appropriately.

The general principles of food hygiene legislation will extend to all farms engaged in the primary production of food. This will include stock and arable farms where any food crops are grown.

It is the responsibility of the producer of the food to demonstrate that food safety measures are in place. Under new legislation, you will be required to keep records relevant to food safety.'

The official title for documentation that keeps accurate records to meet the requirements of the above is HACCP. The Hygiene Regulations 2006 say 'anyone responsible for HACCP must have appropriate HACCP training'. It is therefore required that either the owner or a senior manager on a farm should have undertaken HACCP training. To this end we can offer a one day course in HACCP which is geared towards the requirements of farmers. We will continue to offer Food Hygiene training for farm staff which meets the requirements of supermarket assurance schemes. These courses will run in December and again in the New Year depending on demand. A new instructor was used last winter to deliver this training and there was extremely positive feedback about her after the course.

Over the summer a couple of members asked about a course for tractor drivers on improving fuel efficiency, as a result of which Brian Poulson has been busy putting together a course on this extremely relevant topic. Subjects to be covered will include

- Engine speed and gear choice
- Wheel-slip – causes and cures
- Ballast/tyre pressures
- Matching tractor to equipment
- Wasted fuel/unnecessary journeys

This course is still being worked on so any suggestions for other areas of relevance would be welcome. NROSO points will be applied for.

Our Health & Safety training programme for farm staff was interrupted in the New Year by the ill health of the instructor. I am happy to say he has now recovered and is available to deliver both the basic health and safety training course and a refresher training day. I am currently looking into a health & safety update day for owners and managers. Last winter we brought Mike Braithwaite, a retired policeman from Yorkshire, down to take the Farm Vehicles on the Road course. He was a successful choice to deliver this training using lots of pictures and anecdotes to convey his message. Those who attended the training reported it to be a useful and enjoyable session.

I hope this gives you an idea of what we will have on offer for the winter training period. In addition to the topics mentioned we will of course be offering all the standard courses such as welding, manual handling, working at height etc. A course calendar will be sent out in a few weeks' time. It would be helpful if you are interested in any of the above courses or any other training if you could let me know. I can then ensure we have covered all areas of interest and have sufficient days booked with the relevant instructors to accommodate numbers. As always if you require training at a specific time, particularly for forklift training, then it is safer to book it well in advance so we can be sure to get the slot you want.

In the meantime let's hope it dries up soon.

Susan Martin