

ELY & DISTRICT TRAINING GROUP
HIGHFIELD HOUSE LITTLEPORT ELY CAMBS CB6 1HQ
TEL 01353 860220 FAX 01353 863626
EMAIL elydistrictg@high-field-house.co.uk
WEB SITE www.elyanddsitrictraininggroup.co.uk

September 2009 newsletter

BASIS points made easy

Several members have reported they are struggling to collect BASIS points, to address this problem a management programme has been put in place for the next two winters. All courses will take place in Littleport, so all you need to do is sign up and turn up. Anyone interested in attending who is not BASIS qualified will of course be welcome. Ideally an individual would attend all five sessions but it should be possible to pick and choose sessions which are of particular interest. It is envisaged that we will run the first three courses listed below this winter but if demand is otherwise there is flexibility on this. In addition to these courses John Purslow will be running his very popular Agronomy Update for us. An application will be made for funding from Landskills East to help with the cost of this training. The courses have been put together with input from committee members to ensure that they are addressing areas that are of current interest.

Energy Efficiency and Carbon Management

- Collecting data on energy usage to set base level. How it should be used.
- Crop Storage – insulation, fans, refrigeration, heating, store management
- Energy use in relation to carbon foot printing
- Tractor and machinery fuel efficiency
- Cultivation Management
- Irrigation – Pumps, pipes, controls
- Interactive exercise on energy calculations

NVZ/Fertiliser Planning/N Max

- Update on NVZ requirements – combinable crops, field vegetables and roots, salads and alliums
- Illustrate how a fertiliser application plan is completed for each field using the new PLANET software
- Show how to maintain records of cropping and applications of organic manures and fertiliser N applications
- Show how to complete all compliance calculations and complete required documentation

Pesticide Management

- The legal and voluntary framework on which pesticide use is regulated and controlled
- Contemporary issues with pesticide use
- Potential threats to production through legislative changes and what we can do about it
- Background to pesticide residues
- Pesticide residues surveillance programmes
- What foodstuffs are included?
- Understanding and interpreting the residue analysis results
- How to minimise residues in the food production

Water Efficiency

- Setting the Scene – water use, water pollution, Water Framework Directive, climate Change
- Water Usage in Food Stuffs
- Reduced deficit irrigation – growing crops with less water requirement
- Water Efficiency Options on farm e.g. rain water harvesting
- Water audits – saving resource costs

Waste Management

- What is waste?
- What controls waste – the regulations, hazardous waste regulations?
- Minimising waste - in the field, workshops, stores and pack houses
- What happens to your wastes – plastics recycled?
- Options with waste – disposal/recycling?
- Review of exemptions
- Biobeds for use with crop sprayers
- Practical exercise waste audit – what and how much?

Agronomy Update – John Purslow – February 2010. Course content not yet available but as the name suggests it will be looking at current issues.

Agronomy for Spray Operators

This is an updated version of a course that your staff may have attended in the winter of 2003 looking at effective control of weeds, pests and disease. Anyone who did not attend then should find this an interesting day. NRoSO points will be applied for.

- Weeds - identification, crops as weeds, which weeds are most damaging
- Main herbicide groups- how they work, maximising their effectiveness, herbicide resistance, environmental information sheets
- Pests and Diseases- main pests and diseases and their effects on yields and quality, identification, thresholds to determine treatable levels, beneficial insects
- Fungicides and Insecticides –how they work, spraying for effective control, resistance.

2009 NRoSO update course

We will as usual be offering this course on several dates over the winter. This year it is called Timing, Targets and Water- further details on course content are not yet available but will be circulated as soon as they are.

New First Aid regulations

These come into force on 1.10.09. The First Aid at Work (FAAW) course will reduce from 4 to 3 days with an annual half day refresher course available. However this is not compulsory and you will still have to attend the two day requalification course every three years. A new HSE recognised full day emergency first aid at work course will also be introduced. The half day emergency first aid course which many members send their staff on will still be available as a useful update. All current certificates remain valid until their expiry date.

Health and safety! - What do we need to do?

Nigel Davy who ran the excellent health and safety update for owners and managers last winter has put together the course outlined below in response to feed back he received last year.

This training day is based on looking at the main agricultural and horticultural risks, explaining how they should be controlled, and then, importantly working with delegates to consider how far they have progressed putting and keeping those controls place. It is not intended to be a risk assessment training course. It will cover the main agricultural and horticultural risks, and the associated causes of accidents, injuries and ill health. There are well recognised and accepted standards of control which should be put in place to manage those risks. This course looks at how well delegates are managing those controls.

The day will be based around a range of specific risk areas. Each will be discussed with brief comment on the hazard, supported by a covering one page handout of key points and moving on to look at each hazard to describe what controls delegates should have in place. (What they should be doing about it!). Delegates will then work in small groups, led by the Course Tutor in short sessions to consider how well they are managing the risks and if they need to do more.

The sections listed below can be altered to suit those attending the day

<i>Machinery</i>	<i>Buildings & Workplaces</i>	<i>Children & young persons</i>
<i>Overhead power lines</i>	<i>Buried services</i>	<i>Noise & vibration</i>
<i>Falls & work at height</i>	<i>Manual handling</i>	<i>Chemicals & substances</i>
<i>Transport risks</i>	<i>Lifting operations</i>	<i>Pressure equipment</i>
<i>Training & supervision</i>	<i>Other persons on site</i>	<i>Managing contractors</i>
<i>Electrical risks</i>	<i>Agency workers</i>	<i>Mechanical handling</i>
<i>Maintenance risks</i>	<i>Working near the public</i>	<i>Dust & other health risks</i>

In addition to the new courses outlined above we will be offering all the usual training in pesticide and machinery use and health and safety . Those of you due for a forklift or first aid refresher over the winter period will receive an email reminder in the coming weeks if you did your previous training through the Group. Driver CPC for those who hold a Large Goods Vehicle license will also be on offer, details on this are being circulated to a sub group of members who have registered an interest in this. If you wish to be added to this group please let me know.

A course programme will be circulated towards the end of October and it would be very helpful if you could let me know beforehand any courses you will be wishing to book your staff on so I can ensure that they are included.

Susan Martin