

ELY AND DISTRICT TRAINING GROUP

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Please find enclosed this winter's training programme. As always this is a constantly evolving document and if you want something that has not already been arranged please do not hesitate to get in touch.

New courses to highlight include Potato Irrigation with Dr Mark Stalham. This course was run by another group last winter and is highly recommended by those who attended. Prime Agriculture will present Weed Identification for managers which is a half day; in the afternoon they will run a session on fertilisers and how to limit their adverse affect on the environment with particular reference to water courses. BASIS points will be applied for.

Several members have asked about agronomy for sprayer operators and in response to this John Purslow, whom many of you will know from BASIS training and Agronomy update days, is putting together a course to cover the basics. This should be a really interesting and informative day for those spray men who want to increase their technical knowledge and may give them confidence to tackle the Foundation BASIS course in the future.

A day on motors and starter connections has been arranged to allow those who attended the basic electrical awareness day last winter to further their skills in this field. The course dates for this winter have been scheduled to allow you to attend the basic course which looks at resetting of mcb's and rcd's, wiring a 3 phase plug, wiring a 13 Amp plug, wiring light fittings as used on grading machines, changing fuses and wiring a 110 volt plug and then progress to the motors course. At the end of the PAT testing day you will be able to PAT test your own equipment, saving on the expense of calling in an electrician.

Driver CPC is now entering its third year. Ideally all LGV drivers should have accumulated 14 hours of training, if not you will be under pressure at the end of the 5 year period. There is a day on Health & Safety and Fuel Efficiency in January. One day first aid courses and forklift refreshers (any type) also carry CPC hours. Do make every effort to collect hours on an annual basis.

LandSkills East is supported under the Rural Development Programme for England by Defra and the EU, co-ordinated by Lantra and managed by the Rural Enterprise Hub at Easton College in partnership with Norfolk County Council.



I have had a couple of enquires about pest control training. If this is of interest to more members then we can arrange our own course, otherwise I can book places with other training groups in the region.

The NROSO update is called Water, Widgets and Wotnots; it focuses on operator safety and PPE, water protection, sprayer technology, improvements to sprayers; and future trends and looking at the consequences of poor or thoughtless practise. The 4 hour session finishes with a topical update. 10 NROSO/BASIS cpd points. This course is always popular, please do book a place promptly if you have not already done so, then I can arrange further dates if required.

Funding from LandSkills East is now available until the end of March 2012. Refresher forklift training can be part funded so make the most of this opportunity; certificates should be renewed every 5 years. Practical skills such as ploughing, welding and half day first aid courses are also fundable so this is the winter to catch up with any training requirements.

There are a couple of spaces available on the Risk Management course on November 14. This will provide an update to those already involved with risk management ensuring they are aware of current best practise.

Food Hygiene for farm staff is required by many farm/supermarket audits and I am often asked to write letters of intent stating that an individual will attend the next available course. Please note that this will be run twice on November 28 and all those who have had letters of intent should make every effort to attend.

The legislation on B&E trailer tests is being altered in December. It is thought that a requirement for the test to be taken using a loaded trailer will be introduced which will add to the cost of the training. If you are considering sending staff on this I would suggest that you do so as soon as possible, tests are already booked into mid November. Please note that bookings cannot be made without driving license numbers.

All those who hold FACTS must attend a nutrient management plan course and follow it up by doing the online assessment; there is also an optional exam. This will run in January in Littleport. It is unlikely we will repeat the course so if you require this training please book a place.

If anyone would like me to come out and visit them to discuss their training requirements just let me know.

Susan

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