

# Prompt responses will help avoid payment delays

FARMERS are urged to respond promptly to requests from the Welsh Assembly Government for further information in relation to their application for the Single Payment as payments *cannot* be made until all the checks required by the European Commission have been completed.

In addition to responding to queries promptly, farmers should check they have done the following, as this will reduce the risk of their first Single Payment being delayed:

The Single Payment will be paid directly into farmers' bank or building society accounts via BACS. Farmers who have not already given their account

information to their Divisional Office must do so before the end of September.

Those farmers who have asked to be paid in euros will need to return a completed euro BACS form. Farmers who are also claiming part European funded schemes, such as Tir Mynydd, will also need to return a completed sterling BACS form.

While most farmers will receive only one payment in future, agri-environment and Tir Mynydd payments dates have not changed. Agri-environment payments will continue to be made on the anniversary of agreements made, while Tir Mynydd payments will be in March each year.

## Payment dates for 2005 – 2006

Aid for Energy Crops	1 Dec 05 – 30 Jun 06
Protein Crop Premium	1 Dec 05 – 30 Jun 06
Single Payment Scheme	1 Dec 05 – 30 Jun 06
Tir Mynydd	March 2006

# Habitat information is needed for every field

ONE of the basic conditions of the Tir Cynnal scheme is that all areas classed as wildlife habitat in accordance with the descriptions given in the Single Application Form (SAF) Rules Booklet need to be protected from damage. The SAF therefore required farmers to estimate the amount of habitat in each of their eligible fields. Farmers are reminded, therefore, that the habitat information should be provided for **every** field in the application, not just for enough fields to meet the 5% minimum habitat requirement.

Farmers have until 30 September to amend the Tir Cynnal codes that they supplied on their SAF, if on reflection they feel that the details they gave originally are inaccurate. Instructions on how to do this were given in the August Gwlad. A form for making amendments to the Tir Cynnal codes is now also available from Divisional Offices.

Another of the main Tir Cynnal conditions is the preparation of a Resource Management Plan. Guidance and templates for the Plan are expected to become available during October, when copies will be sent to all applicants. After this a series of meetings will be held across Wales to explain the requirements in more detail.

# 10-month rule requirement

TO meet the requirements of the Single Payment Scheme farmers must have all their Welsh land at their disposal for a continuous 10 month period.

This applies to any land they are using to claim payment on their entitlement, and must have a single start date. Farmers may have a separate start date for any land they farm outside Wales. For the 2005 scheme, farmers could choose a start date between 1 October 2004 and 30 April 2005. The Welsh Assembly Government assumed a start date of 1 February 2005 for farmers who did not set a date on their 2005 Single Application Form (SAF).

Looking ahead to 2006, the Welsh Assembly Government is consulting farming unions and other stakeholders on whether there should be two 10-month periods for Wales. A decision will be announced as soon as possible.

Until the results of the consultation have been considered the existing rules will apply to the 2006 scheme year. This means that farmers must choose one single start date for all land in Wales, which can be set between 1 October 2005 to 30 April 2006.

The Welsh Assembly Government will assume the start date to be 1 February 2006 if farmers do not include a date on their 2006 SAF. Farmers are reminded that they are not allowed to overlap the start of their 2006 SPS 10-month period with land still under a 2005 SPS 10-month period.



FARMING  
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FFERMIO

08456 000 813

### Farming Connect

- aims to assist farming families improve their farm businesses.
- offers a range of services aimed at helping farming families improve their performance and long-term sustainability, including business and specialist agricultural advice, training and grants.
- is delivered by the Welsh Assembly Government, Welsh Development Agency and other key agencies and supported by the EAGGF of the European Union.

# Greater lying times linked to improved milk yields



WITH cows being housed for up to six months of the year, comfort is a major factor affecting milk production and cow longevity.

Cows housed in cubicles of the correct design and dimensions with comfortable beds have been observed to lie down twice as long as cows in sub optimal conditions.

- Longer lying times are associated with a 28% higher blood flow to the udder and improved milk yields.
- Cows with access to cubicles spend less time standing in slurry and have fewer foot problems.

A demonstration of nine different types of mats and mattresses was held at Gelli Aur College in 1997 in association with Kingshay. The costs of the range of mats on demonstration are from £25 to £80. Factors to consider when deciding which to buy include:

- **Degree of cushioning.** Harder mats tend to last longer but cows prefer softer versions. This may be because a cow's full weight is freefall just before it hits the ground. Test the cushioning of a mat or mattress before you buy by kneeling on it. Drop from a few inches onto your knees to check for a comfortable depth of cushioning.
- **Surface type.** Mat or mattress surface should be non-slip and abrasive. Retention of bedding can be poorer with the easy-clean



*Some of the cows which are bedded down on comfortable mattresses at Gelli Aur College*

smooth surfaces. Porous top covers may create a bacterial breeding ground if fluids are not drained away from under the mattress.

- **Retention of shape.** Durability of products can differ. Mats may stretch and lose some of their cushioning due to thinning. Movement of rubber chips within mattresses can be eliminated by enclosing them in small sausage-like envelopes or foam mattresses.
- **Choice of singles or run.** Mats or mattresses can be tilted separately within each cubicle, individual mats or mattresses can be fitted with one top cover for the

whole run, or install them as one long run of cubicle beds. Singles reduce transference of liquid from one bed to the next but may move, stretch and get bedding underneath. Runs are often quicker to install, but are difficult to fit in cubicles with rear legs. A worn-out bed in a run is more difficult to replace than a single.

If you plan to update your cubicles, practical help is available from Gelli Aur farm staff. Consider arranging a visit to the Development Farm by contacting John Griffiths on 01554 748 570. [www.ddc-wales.co.uk](http://www.ddc-wales.co.uk).

Cubicle bedder and straw chopper demonstrations will be among the main activities featured at the Dairy Event 2005, to be staged on 21 and 22 September at Stoneleigh Park, Coventry. It is being organised by the Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers.

These demonstrations are the first of their kind to be staged in the UK with 15 companies signed up and representing all the main ranges of machinery commonly used on livestock farms.

# Results from Year 2 of potato blight trials

by **David Frost**  
Senior Consultant  
ADAS Wales

ADAS has been undertaking trials in West Wales for the past three years in conjunction with Organic Centre Wales (OCW) and, more recently, with the Centre for Alternative Land Use (CALU) in a bid to tackle the problem of potato blight.

The main focus has been evaluation of resistance to potato blight in selected varieties when grown under organic conditions in a high-risk area. In the first year, three Sarpo varieties provided by the Savari Research Trust were evaluated for blight resistance and compared with the blight-prone variety King Edward

With support from the OCW, Year Two of the trials evaluated 27 varieties, including the nationally listed Sarpo varieties Mira and Axona and two Scottish bred varieties with high blight resistance, Stirling and Lady Balfour. Also in Year Two, evaluations were

made of the prophylactic use of compost tea against potato blight.

These trials established that the Sarpo varieties had higher blight resistance than any of the other varieties, and that where this was combined with growth vigour, they produced higher yields under organic conditions. There was some indication that compost tea delayed the onset of infection on the blight prone variety King Edward, but the results were not statistically significant.

In 2005, with support from the CALU, ADAS is undertaking further work on the organic site in West Wales. This includes evaluation of different varieties, compost tea and the blight resistant of the variety Axona at different planting densities.

At the first open day on 13 July local farmers, organic growers and potato blight specialists took the opportunity to evaluate the rate of emergence and growth vigour of the wide range of potato varieties. Blight had been present on the site since 23 June and



*Open day visitors evaluate the growth vigour of potatoes being grown*

visitors could assess the initial resistance and susceptibility to foliar blight that was becoming evident on some cultivars.

The next open day is scheduled for 9 September. By this date fuller evaluations will be available and cooked samples of the potatoes will be available for taste testing.

For more information on the open day please contact CALU on 01248 680450 or mail [calu@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:calu@bangor.ac.uk) or [www.organic.aber.ac.uk/index.shtml](http://www.organic.aber.ac.uk/index.shtml)



Canolfan Organig Cymru  
Organic Centre Wales

## A timely reminder about computer courses

FURTHER Education colleges across Wales are calling on farmers to enrol for a wide range of free computer training courses this autumn to help them manage their farm businesses more efficiently.

A network of colleges, led by Coleg Sir Gâr, Carmarthen in the south and Coleg Llysfasi, Ruthin in the north, arranges courses at venues and times that best suit farmers.

Since ELWa launched the courses with European Social Fund support, as part

of the successful Managing Farms with IT programme, over 3,500 members of farming families aged between 17 and 80 years have logged on. The courses comprise 18 hours of free tuition, which can be split into six or eight sessions. They are designed for a range of skill levels, from complete beginners to those needing support for word processing, spreadsheets, databases, the Internet and e-mail.

Workshops are also held to show farmers how to use farm specific software and the BCMS website to

register cattle and apply for passports online. "The courses are successful because the tutorial sessions include things that are relevant to what a farmer actually needs to do on the farm, such as record keeping, VAT, accounts, writing letters and using the Internet," said Ruth Whittingham, of Coleg Llysfasi.

For more information about the courses available contact either Ruth Whittingham on 01978 790 263 or Llinos Davies at Coleg Sir Gâr on 01554 748 574.

Delivering for the Welsh Assembly Government

# Open days planned to help farmers learn more about alternative farming systems



by **Chris Duller**  
**Extension Officer**  
**Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research**

IN order to meet its targets, Wales will need a mix of renewable energy technologies. In comparison to wind, biomass is at an early stage of development but will doubtless benefit from rises in oil and gas prices, appropriate technological developments and economies of scale.

Helyg i Gymru (Willow for Wales), co-ordinated by the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) and funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, Welsh Development Agency, Industry and EU structural monies is investigating bottlenecks associated with stepping from theory to commercial reality.

The project has now planted seven farms with areas of short rotation coppice willow in Wales. Early work has focused on issues of site suitability, crop establishment and weed control, with planting material and planters imported from Sweden and Yorkshire. Ways need to be found now of cutting establishment costs. It is likely that Wales will need its own willow nursery stocks (licensed through plant breeders) local planting equipment and planting teams.

In the short-term, planting grants similar to those in England are needed to 'kickstart' the planting of energy crops.



*One of IGER's energy crop plots*

Potentially considerable quantities of energy crops will be required to meet Wales' needs. RWE npower – a major employer in South Wales bringing an estimated £52m into the Welsh economy – has chosen the co-firing route to meet its Renewable Obligation at its Aberthaw Power Station. For this, it will need 2000 ha of SRC willow to be planted by 2006 and 2007.

IGER has also received DEFRA funding for the genetic improvement of Miscanthus. This is a giant grass that produces annual yields of up to 20t dry matter/ha with a very high-energy ratio. It is already grown commercially but current varieties come from a very narrow genetic background – making them potentially vulnerable

to disease. IGER's breeding programme will focus on improving yield, persistence and combustion qualities.

A series of open days will be held on demonstration sites across Wales over the next 12 months, in collaboration with the Centre for Alternative Land Use (CALU), to enable farmers to learn more about energy crops and their potential as a genuine economic alternative to livestock or arable systems. The next one is at Glynllifon College, Caernarfon on 28 September at 1pm. For more details contact Chris Duller, IGER 01970 823 157 or CALU 01248 680 450.  
[www.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk/Practice/GTT/gdc.htm](http://www.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk/Practice/GTT/gdc.htm)

# Markets being actively sought for energy crops

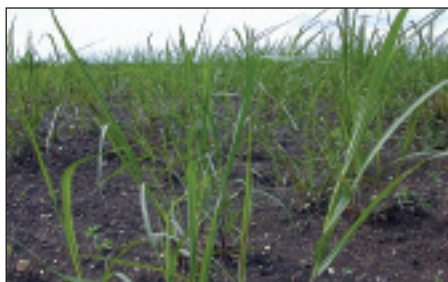


ESTABLISHING markets for energy crops in Wales is an essential part of the drive to develop such crops according to Dr Rebecca Heaton, biomass expert at the Centre for Alternative Land Use (CALU).

Earlier this year, CALU planted energy grasses demonstration plots at Coleg Glynllifon near Caernarfon and at Coleg Gelli Aur. In addition to improving the understanding of growing these crops under Welsh conditions, the Centre is keen to highlight and promote efforts to establish heating markets for biomass crops in Wales.

Wales already has several flagship wood-burning heating projects, such as in the Welsh Assembly Government Offices in Cardiff, the Forestry Commission's Nant-yr-Arian visitor centre in Ceredigion and at Atlantic College in the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Forestry Commission Wood Energy



*A crop of year-old Miscanthus*

## Business Scheme

[www.woodenergybusiness.co.uk](http://www.woodenergybusiness.co.uk)  
01970 821 219 can offer grants towards the cost of installing boilers.

Farmers in Pembrokeshire are actively developing heating markets from energy crops and have formed the Pembrokeshire Bioenergy Group (PBE). The Group has been set up to provide an integrated fuel system to give end users confidence that wood energy crops will be a reliable, efficient and cost effective fuel when priced against fossil fuels. PBE aims to offer a full service range – from fuel supply only to

becoming a full Energy Supply Company (ESCO) selling heat per unit, in a similar way to gas or oil.

This spring they planted 10 ha of Miscanthus, grant aided by the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Sustainable Development Fund.

CALU has produced a range of information leaflets on biomass production (available on-line at [www.calu.bangor.ac.uk](http://www.calu.bangor.ac.uk)) and is arranging open days to view various energy grasses this autumn. For further information, contact CALU on 01248 680 450 or at [calu@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:calu@bangor.ac.uk).

## Correction

An article in the May edition of Gwlad indicated that a number of laboratories provide a sulphur test of grassland 'for less than £10 a sample'. This should have read 'for less than £20 a sample'.

## Grain, oilseed rape and sugar beet set to become important energy source

INTEREST is growing in Wales in the cultivation of alternative energy crops that can help counter the problems brought about by global warming.

It is expected that within three years UK grain, oilseed rape and sugar beet will become an important source of energy if government policy permits a renewable transport fuel obligation.

Against this background the Farming Connect Centre for Alternative Land Use (CALU) held an open meeting at Haverfordwest on 'The opportunities for growing bio fuels', which was arranged by Farming Connect

Facilitator Olwen Moss.

It was addressed by Matt Ware, Senior NFU UK advisor on Non Food Crops who has recently returned from a fact-finding visit to America, which confirmed that British farmers are missing out on valuable new market opportunities for commodity crops.

He said that global warming provided real opportunities for Pembrokeshire farmers, in particular, to grow bio fuels and produce biomass. And he urged government bodies and local authorities to adopt biomass heating in buildings such as schools and hospitals.

"The cultivation of crops such as hemp – which can be turned into body panels for cars – or plants and herbs for use in the pharmaceutical industry, can benefit the environment and the farm income.

"Farmers who work out doors all year round are more aware of changes and they can help to reduce CO2 emissions," he added.

Graham Perkins manager of the South and West Wales Machinery Ring urged farmers to capitalise on this opportunity and by co-operation become "price setters instead of price takers".

# Pasteurellosis - a threat to your flock?

by Jackie Willmington,  
Veterinary Investigation Officer  
VLA Aberystwyth.

PASTEURELLA bacteria may live in the noses and tonsils of normal sheep but can suddenly be triggered to emerge and cause pneumonia or generalised infection (septicaemia).

It may affect sheep of any age throughout the year, although cases are commonest in spring and summer. Some affected sheep are found dead while others show dullness, fever, laboured breathing and finally, frothy fluid around the muzzle. Other sheep in the group may have a cough or nasal discharge. Young lambs may suffer septicaemia involving multiple body systems.

Pasteurella septicaemia is also a common cause of sudden death in lambs aged six to nine months between October and December.

Pasteurellosis can affect single animals but outbreaks involving many deaths also occur. Factors triggering outbreaks include stressful events such as castration, dipping, dosing and driving in warm weather. In the case of septicaemia in autumn, a sudden colder spell, dietary changes and movement are common trigger factors.

As there are many causes of both pneumonia and sudden death, confirming pasteurellosis requires growth of the bacteria in the laboratory. Best results are obtained from the fresh carcass of an untreated animal. Checks can be carried out for infections with viruses, mycoplasmas or tick borne fever which increase susceptibility to pasteurellosis.

Antibiotic treatment may reduce losses in an outbreak but prevention by vaccination is preferable. A course of two injections separated by 4 to 6 weeks is required to establish immunity. Ewes should then receive an



annual booster 4 to 6 weeks pre-lambing.

Colostrum immunity to pasteurellae may only last about a month and where there is a history of disease in young lambs, vaccination can begin at three weeks old. If pasteurellosis has occurred in older lambs in autumn, vaccination should be completed at least two weeks before the expected risk period. Rams should be vaccinated before periods of stress. Purchased replacements may be at risk immediately after introduction, so buy vaccinated animals when possible or vaccinate immediately on arrival.

Disease pattern varies between farms and for best results vaccination programs should be individually tailored as part of a flock health plan agreed with your vet.

# Hydatid Disease can cause serious health problems for humans

by Arjen Brouwer  
Assembly Veterinary Advisor

HYDATID disease is a parasite that could grow into large fluid filled sacs in the body of humans when they have contact with dogs and other flesh-eating animals.

The primary host of the parasite, (Echinococcus granulosus), the hydatid tapeworm, is the dog and, occasionally, other carnivores such as foxes and cats. Four to six weeks after infection, worm eggs may be found in their faeces. These eggs

are sticky and may adhere to the dog's coat, being transferred to man through stroking or other contact. Insects, wind and water may also carry them.

The eggs are fairly robust and may remain infective for up to a year in the right conditions. Ingestion of the eggs by a human results in larval development, usually in the liver, although spread may occur in other tissues such as the heart and brain.

Larval development results in the formation of hydatid cysts, and it is the size, position and ultimate

rupture of these cysts that determine the resulting symptoms. People most at risk of infection are those living and/or working with infected animals. Resulting cysts can be up to 20cm in diameter and may be multiple.

Limit your risk of infection by washing your hands after handling animals. Seek veterinary advice to ensure that your domestic and working dogs are treated regularly with a product effective against Echinococcus. Do not let your dogs feed on carcasses.

# Key role for new veterinary advisors

THE Welsh Assembly Government's Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) now fields a team of three veterinary advisors, whose role is to provide technical and veterinary advice to all its seven policy branches.

**Les Eckford** and **Arjen Brouwer**, who will be based at the new office at Hill House, Carmarthen, join from the State Veterinary Service (SVS). Les brings with him 25 years' experience of state veterinary medicine and he



*Les Eckford*

will be advising on animal transport, by-products, exotic diseases, contingency planning and animal welfare.

Arjen Brouwer will be concentrating on endemic diseases (excluding TB), the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy, including veterinary surveillance and animal health planning and animal identification. Arjen was in rural mixed practice for six years before he joined the SVS in 1998, based in Carmarthen.

**Simon Rolfe**, came to the OCVO from the Animal Health and Welfare Directorate of Defra, where he was responsible for veterinary advice to a number of policy teams including those dealing with the regulation of the artificial breeding of cattle and pigs. Prior to entering the Government Veterinary Service Simon worked at the Royal Veterinary College in London where he completed his Ph.D.

Based at Cathays Park, Simon will be working primarily with the TB branch



*Arjen Brouwer*



*Simon Rolfe*

as they, in partnership with others, endeavour to progress control of one of the most difficult animal health problems facing Wales.

\* Our next issue will include an item on Wales' new Chief Veterinary Officer.

## Farmer stress study

THE Health and Safety Executive has published the results of a study on stress and its effects on farmers and farm workers.

Feelings of stress arose from factors over which farmers had little control, such as falling market prices, European and Government regulation and the weather. The decline in farm incomes, long hours and isolation were highlighted as significant issues for many farmers. Also cited were frequent changes to rules and regulations, increased paperwork and inflexible deadlines that take little account of the unpredictability of farming. The study **RR362 Farmers, Farm Workers and Work Related Stress** can be found on [www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr362.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/research/rrhtm/rr362.htm) or purchased from HSE books.

## Rural stress support groups

### Wales Rural Stress Helpline:

0800 0858 119. Open weekdays 7pm – 11pm. Weekends: 12pm – 12am.

### Rural Stress Information Network:

024 7641 2916. Open weekdays 9am – 5pm.

### Farm Crisis Network:

07002 326 326. Open daily 7am – 11pm.

### The Samaritans:

08457 909090 or local numbers.

### Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution:

01865 727 888 Open Mon – Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 8.30am – 4.30pm 24-hour answer machine.

### National Pig Association Helpline:

01449 711 060. Open daily – all hours.

## Saving energy

FARMERS and others involved in agriculture are being invited to an event at the Dyfi Eco Park, Machynlleth on 1 October that will focus on renewable and cheaper energy for homes and buildings.

The Greener Homes and Buildings event is being organised as part of the Mid Wales Energy Agency's three year Objective 2 project to promote sustainable energy solutions.

For further information or to register your interest, please see: [www.greenerhomesandbuildings.co.uk](http://www.greenerhomesandbuildings.co.uk) or write to Louise Owen, Unit 7, Dyfi Eco Parc, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 8AX or call Rhydian Mason on 01654 703 064.



## How to contact us

Anyone wishing to speak to staff at our Divisional or Area offices can do so by calling one of the following telephone numbers:

Llandrindod Wells:	01597 823 777
Caernarfon:	01286 674 144
Carmarthen:	01267 225 300
Brecon:	01874 625 123
Lampeter:	01570 422 761
Swansea:	01792 310 436
Haverfordwest:	01437 762 441
St Asaph:	01745 585 227
Dolgellau:	01341 422 199
Newtown:	01686 863 132
Aberystwyth:	01970 621 440
Ffynnon Las, Cardiff:	029 2075 2222
National Scrapie Plan Helpline:	084 5601 4858

Staff from the Welsh Assembly Government's Farm Liaison Service will be attending at the following offices: Welshpool Market – Mondays 10am – 2pm; Brecon Area office – Tuesdays 10am – 12.30pm and 1pm – 4pm; Newtown Area office – Thursdays 9am – 12.30pm and 1pm – 2.30pm.

## Important dates for your diary

THREE farm events have been arranged by Farming Connect to highlight business opportunities to farm business presented by the environment and to offer practical advice to farmers. The topics will include cross compliance issues, Tir Cynnal, agri-waste legislation, the Environment Opportunities Review, how to utilise farm slurry and save money, guidance on how to complete waste management, farm manure plan and nutrient management plans, clean and dirty water separation and how to reduce fuel bills. Various demonstrations will also be held, together with a farm walk on the host farm in the company of environmental experts. The events are at:

**12 September** – Cefnmaesoglan, Llangaffo, Gaerwen (3pm); **14 September** – Plas Matw, Llangernyw, Abergelge (3pm); **21 September** – Shordley Hall, Shordley Road, Hope (10.30am). For further details contact: Caernarfon – Dewi Jones on 01248 725 715; Conwy – Lowri Williams on 01490 420 304 and Wrexham – Elaine Rees on 01691 831 430.

Farming Connect has arranged open meetings at Agriculture House, Haverfordwest on

**8 September** and The Forge Restaurant, St Clears on **14 September**, both at 7.30pm, to discuss a number of topics of interest to farmers. These include Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, nature conservation, badgers, bats and moths and mineral working on farms. Farm diversification case studies will come under scrutiny at the following meetings in September, which also start at 7.30pm: 22nd - The Glamorgan Arms, Pontlliw; 26th The Forge Restaurant, St Clears and 28th Agriculture House, Haverfordwest.

A series of courses are being run by FWAG in conjunction with IGER and CCW will focus on woodland, scrub and pond management.

**12 September** – Coleg Glynllifon; **19 September** – Aberhyddnant, Crai, Brecon; **7 October** – Tyncoed, Betws Disserth, Builth Wells; **12 October** – Hottia, Dyserth, Rhyl. Further details and to book a place contact: Sylvia Evans at FWAG Cymru on 01341 421 456 or [sylvia.evans@fwag.org.uk](mailto:sylvia.evans@fwag.org.uk)

**13 September:** Dairy Development Centre Open day at Cefn Isaf farm, Llangedwyn at 11am. There will be a slurry demonstration as well as a discussion on beef and sheep feeding management. Further information: Derwenna Davies on 01691 648 344.

**15 September:** Discussion/demonstration event at Gelli Aur College Farm in conjunction

with Kinghay Farming Trust at 11am that will include an opportunity to view 14 early maturing conventionally grown maize varieties suited to West Wales. Other topics to be discussed include the value of alternative feeds, cost of water evaluation and the construction of farm tracks. Further details: 01554 748 570.

**21 September:** Drop in Day at Denmark Farm Conservation Centre, near Lampeter, with the focus on 'Wildlife Gardening'. Further information: 01570 493 358 or [set@denmark-farm.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:set@denmark-farm.freeserve.co.uk).

**28 September:** CALU/IGER open day at Glynllifon College 1pm with advice on growing energy crops.

A number of Farming Connect meetings have been arranged to provide farming families with information and advice about planning application procedures. **September 5:** Lakeside Farm Park, Hendre Ifan Goch Farm, near Blackmill, 7pm. Contact Gerald Curtis on 01656 302 605. **September 8:** and

**September 28:** Agriculture House, Haverfordwest, 7.30pm. Contact Steven Bradley 01834 860 965. **September 8:** Raven Inn, Welshpool, 7pm. Contact Derwenna Davies on 01691 648 344.

**September 12:** Fronoleu Country Hotel, Dolgellau, 7pm. Contact Gwen Lloyd on 01654 702 481 or Eryl Roberts on 01690 770 273. **September 14** and **September 26:** The Forge Restaurant, St Clears, 7.30pm. Contact Bethan Griffith on 01267 225 507.

**September 15:** NFU Building, Royal Welsh Showground, 7pm. Contact John Hughes on 01597 851 267. **September 19:** Bishops Meadow, Brecon, 7pm. Contact Lynwen Morgan on 01874 636 723. **September 21:** Llety Parc / Park Lodge, Aberystwyth, 7pm. Contact Aled Davies on 01970 636 294.

**September 22:** The Glamorgan Arms, Pontlliw, 7.30pm. Contact Jonathan Saer on 01792 886 305.

**11 October:** Open day at Penygraig Farm, Abergwili, Carmarthen, organised by Dairy Development Centre and MDC concentrating on rationing of the dairy herd and growing red clover for silage making. Further information: 01554 748 570.

**27 October:** Mid Wales Agri Food Partnership Food Producers' Conference in Aberystwyth.

PLEASE CHECK WITH ORGANISATIONS BEFORE TRAVELLING. Changes may also be found on [www.countryside.wales.gov.uk](http://www.countryside.wales.gov.uk)

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