

What's Happening

November 2012



Taxation and Succession Planning Seminars This Winter

CAFRE, in association with The Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme invite farmers across the province to a free taxation and succession planning seminar during winter 2012.

The seminars will look at taxation and succession planning issues and their implications for farm businesses. The key speakers will be accountants and agricultural business mentors who have experience of working with farmers and their families.

Important issues such as personal and capital allowances, inheritance tax, conacre and succession planning will also be covered. The accountant will address the difficult but very important topic of succession planning.

On the night, agricultural business mentors will explain the service that we offer. Through our support you could identify additional sources of income both on and off the farm, identify training and development opportunities and avail of up to £250 per farm business for legal and financial advice to look at succession/retirement planning.

Find the date and venue of your local event below. For more information contact Technology administration at Greenmount Campus CAFRE on 028 9442 6770.

Thurs 22nd November 12	8-10pm	Seagoe Hotel, Portadown, Co. Armagh, BT63 5JE
Tuesday 27th November 12	8-10pm	The Lodge Hotel, Coleraine, Co. Londonderry, BT52 1NF
Wednesday 28th November 12	8-10pm	CAFRE Loughry Campus, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone, BT80 9AA
Thursday 29th November 12	8-10pm	White Horse Hotel, Derry, Co. Londonderry, BT47 3PA
Monday 3rd December 12	8-10pm	Millbrook Lodge, Ballynahinch, Co. Down, BT24 8LS
Tuesday 4th December 12	8-10pm	Mourne Country Hotel, Newry, Co. Down, BT34 1TR
Tuesday 22nd January 13	8-10pm	Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh, Co. Tyrone
Thursday 24th January 13	8-10pm	CAFRE Enniskillen Campus, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 4GF
Tuesday 5th February 13	8-10pm	Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, BT42 1HJ
Thursday 7th February 13	8-10pm	CAFRE Greenmount Campus, Antrim, Co. Antrim, BT41 4PS

Dates for the Diary

2013 dates added for Aphis Online Training- Book your place now!!

All farmers like to save time, effort and money. By using the computer to register the births of your calves you can achieve this. Currently almost 50% of calf births are registered using the online computer system, APHIS Online. To help you move from the traditional paper forms to the online system, DARD are offering farmers free training on APHIS Online at local venues across Northern Ireland. See below for the timetable of courses and book one that best suits you. During the training course they will help you logon to APHIS Online to view your own herd details and will show you all the benefits that APHIS Online has to offer such as how to:

- Register cattle births, deaths and stillborns;
- Notify DARD of all cattle movements out of and into your herd;
- View, print and download your current DARD herd list;
- View detailed information about your animals, including comprehensive movement and calving history;
- View post and ante mortem information on slaughtered animals;
- Produce a report which counts and classifies your animals in accordance with the Nitrate Action Programme;

Venue	Day	Date	Time
Newry, Southern Regional College	Wednesday	7 th & 14 th Nov 12	7.30-9.30pm
Ballymoney, Acorn Centre	Thursday	1 st & 8 th Nov 12	8-10pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Monday	12 th & 19 th Nov 12	8-10pm
Armagh, Southern Regional College	Tuesday	13 th & 20 th Nov 12	7.30-9.30pm
Enniskillen Campus	Wednesday	14 th & 21 st Nov 12	8-10pm
Ballynahinch, Assumption Grammar	Monday	26 th Nov & 3 rd Dec 12	7.30-9.30pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Tuesday	27 th Nov & 4 th Dec 12	8-10pm
Loughry Campus, Cookstown	Wednesday	28 th Nov & 5 th Dec 12	8-10pm
Ballymoney, Acorn Centre	Thursday	29 th Nov & 6 th Nov 12	8-10pm
Omagh, South West College	Monday	10 th & 17 th Dec 12	7.30-9.30pm
Newry, Southern Regional College	Wednesday	12 th & 19 th Dec 12	7.30-9.30pm
Armagh, Southern Regional College	Thursday	13 th & 20 th Dec 12	7.30-9.30pm
Loughry Campus, Cookstown	Monday	14 th & 21 st Jan 13	8-10pm
Ballymoney, Acorn Centre	Tuesday	15 th & 22 nd Jan 13	8-10pm
Comber, Adult Learning Centre	Tuesday	15 th & 22 nd Jan 13	8-10pm
Enniskillen Campus	Wednesday	16 th & 23 rd Jan 13	8-10pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Tuesday	29 th Jan & 5 th Feb 13	8-10pm
Newry, Southern Regional College	Wednesday	30 th Jan & 6 th Feb 13	7.30-9.30pm
Strabane, North West Regional College	Thursday	31 st Jan & 7 th Feb 13	7.30-9.30pm

Book in online by going to www.ruralni.gov.uk/aphis and follow the on screen instructions. In the meantime if you want to know more information or would like to book your place on a course by telephone, contact the DARD Online Services Helpdesk on 028 9442 6699 or email info@ruralni.gov.uk

13th November 2012

CAFRE Introduction to Renewable Energy Workshop, Omagh, 7.45pm

With the continuing rise in energy and fuel bills, the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) is running a further series of workshops to introduce farmers and growers to renewable energy technologies. The workshop is aimed at those who wish to know more about existing and emerging renewable energy technologies. The course aims to provide participants with an introduction to the issues, economics and technologies, to explain what each will and will not do, examining the costs and payback periods. Technologies covered will include:

Heat from Biomass systems, Energy from Wind; Solar thermal water heating; Heat pumps; Anaerobic Digestion; Micro Hydro

To book a place at a workshop please contact Denise Andrews on 028 9442 6756, or denise.andrews@dardni.gov.uk. For further information speak to Garrett O'Sullivan on 028 9442 6869 or e-mail: garrett.osullivan@dardni.gov.uk

CAFRE Farm Diversification Winter Programme

The free **CAFRE Business Planning Programme** consists of six evening workshops and is currently running during November & December at:

- Loughry Campus, Cookstown on a **Tuesday at 7.30pm**
- or
- Banbridge Enterprise Centre, Scarva Road on a **Thursday at 7.30pm**



The training is designed to develop your business skills and includes researching the market, producing a marketing plan, finding out how legislation impacts on your business and producing financial forecasts for your proposed business. The programme also provides important networking opportunities as you will be signposted to other organisations and departments which can help you progress your business idea. Participants on the training will also receive one-to-one mentoring support from a DARD Rural Enterprise trainer who will help you complete your business plan and support you throughout the programme. Places are limited so if you are interested in attending or would like more information on the **CAFRE Diversification Challenge -Business Planning Programme**, please contact Gareth Wadsworth email gareth.wadsworth@dardni.gov.uk Tel 028 8676 8397 or Siobhan Sheppard, email siobhan.sheppard@dardni.gov.uk Tel. 028 8676 8276.

Visit a Focus Farm this Winter!

59 Focus Farms throughout Northern Ireland are available for visits by groups of farmers or individuals where they can learn, share experiences and solve common problems through discussion, farm walks and demonstrations. Focus Farmers outline management practices and share experiences of managing a farm business as well as demonstrating: good farming practices, innovative farming methods, modern technology and on-farm research.

The following visits are planned for the next number of weeks:

14 th November 2012	Edgar Carson	Co. Down	Pigs
16 th November 2012	Bernard McKay	Co. Antrim	Environmental
19 th November 2012	Thomas Moorehead	Co. Antrim	Beef/ Environmental
20 th November 2012	Andrew McCrea	Co. Tyrone	Pigs
23 rd November 2012	Thomas Moorehead	Co. Antrim	Beef/ Environmental
3 rd December 2012	Thomas Moorehead	Co. Antrim	Beef/ Environmental

More dates to be added soon. For more information or to book a free visit telephone 0845 026 7536 or visit www.countrysiderural.co.uk/focusfarms



17th November 2012

11th Edition of Farm Future Clinic

The 11th edition of the Farm Future Clinic will appear in the Farming Life on Saturday 17th November 2012 and will cover the financial aspect of succession planning. Previous Farm Future Clinic editions can be viewed at www.countrysiderural.co.uk.

If you wish to put forward a question in confidence, relating to any aspect of the future of your farm business, or would like to find out more about how the Mentoring Programme could help you, please contact the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme on 0845 026 7539 or email: mentoring@countrysiderural.co.uk.

27th November 2012

Early Steps Women Into Business Event

Tullyglass House Hotel, Ballymena, Co. Antrim, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Organised by the Rural Network NI, this is the final seminar in the popular Women in Rural Development series. It will provide information and support for women who have started their own business or dream of doing so. Support organisations, such as Enterprise NI, DARD Rural Enterprise Advisers and Women into Business NI will be on hand to explain the role they can play for those women beginning their entrepreneurial journey. The event will include real life experiences from women who have established successful enterprises. Free admission, however, you must reserve your place in advance by 22nd November 2012. Contact Kerry McKeever: Tel: 028 8676 6980 email: kmckeever@rdc.org.uk



28th November 2012

Potatoes 2012 Event

CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Antrim, Co. Antrim, BT41 4PS, 1.30pm-9pm

This event jointly organised by CAFRE, DARD the UFU and AFBI, will form part of Greenmount's programme of Centenary celebrations and will build on the Biennial Seed Potato event, highlighting new upcoming potato varieties, in addition to providing valuable

information for those in the ware sector. A seminar programme featuring top industry speakers from home and abroad will cover topics such as preparing crops for storage, plant breeding, plant health, management & marketing as well as providing an update on CAP reform and the potential impact on the potato sector.

All involved with the potato industry will be welcome. Those attending will undoubtedly gain a better insight into the wider industry and be in a better position to gain from their own enterprise.

For further information, please contact Iain Johnston on (028) 3752 9084.

5th December 2012

Greenmount Centenary Sheep Conference- Building a Profitable Sheep Business

Abbey Farm, Greenmount Campus, Antrim, 11am to 4.30pm

This event, organised by CAFRE in conjunction with the National Sheep Association, The Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute, AgriSearch and the Livestock and Meat Commission Programme will focus on: - breed crosses delivering lamb numbers; strategies for selecting replacements; grassland management techniques as a means to delivering profitability. For further information or to register contact CAFRE (by 29th November 12) on 028 8442 6770 or email: rebecca.coulter@dardni.gov.uk. Event cost £10 to include tea/coffee and lunch.



13th December 2012

The Royal Ulster Winter Fair

King's Hall Pavilions, King's Hall Complex, Belfast

Celebrating 27 years promoting the dairy industry, The Royal Ulster Winter Fair, in association with sole sponsor Northern Bank, is an established and highly successful event in the agricultural calendar. Visitors will see the highest quality of dairy cattle livestock on show as well as having the opportunity to find out what the industry has to offer. It also provides an excellent vehicle for exhibitors to market their products and services to the dairy farming industry. The event features showing classes for Holstein, Ayrshire, Dairy Shorthorn and Jersey breeds. With accommodation for 200 cattle and over 3,500 sqm of trade stand space, this is an event not to be missed. Come and visit a mentor on the DARD stand to find out more about the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme!

15th January 2013

Arable Conference: Profit through Yield – The Way Forward

CAFRE, Greenmount Campus, 45 Tirgracy Road, Antrim, Co. Antrim, BT41 4PS

Following the success of the UFU/CAFRE Cereal Conference and the UAS Arable conference in January and February 2012 a new joint conference will be held in January 2013. The 1st CAFRE/UAS/UFU Joint Annual Arable Conference: Profit through Yield – The Way Forward, will be held at Greenmount Campus CAFRE on 15th January 2013.

Interest in cereal production has been on-the-rise in the recent years due to higher grain prices. However, to make a profit, a considerable amount of technical competence and business acumen is required. This conference will cover both areas. Top industry experts from the UK and Ireland will cover a range of topics, such as, plant breeding, fertiliser efficiency, achieving consistent high yields, business management and precision farming, to name but a few. Those who attend will undoubtedly be in a much better position to gain more from their existing or prospective cereal enterprises.

Places are limited. In order to ensure a place contact Angela Scott, UFU 028 9037 0222 (conference fee £20).



Prince's Trust

Prince's Trust encouraging young people to Explore Enterprise

The Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme supports young people who are aged 18-30 and who are unemployed or working less than 16 hours a week.

Support options on offer include: Business skills training and business planning support, Potential start-up loan funding (up to £4,000 for a sole trader and up to £5,000 for a partnership); In special circumstances, grants up to £1,500; Up to 2 years support from a volunteer business mentor; Access to specialist support, including a free legal helpline; For those who start a business, access to a wide range of free and discounted products/services. If you are considering starting your own business, why not register for a workshop in your area?

The Jason Kanabus fund helps young people get established in farming. This would be a great opportunity for a young person on the farm to get support and funding for a new enterprise on the farm or development of an existing one. This includes: growing of crops or fruit, rearing of livestock, maintenance of farmland, activities associated with or supporting farming. For more information contact your nearest Prince's Trust Programme representative, details as follows.

Information Sessions

21st November 2012, Cookstown Fire Station, 36 Chapel Street, Cookstown, BT80 8QD

4th December 2012, Newry Library, Hill Street, Newry

5th December 2012, Derry/ Londonderry- Location to be confirmed

5th December 2012, Belfast Office, Block 5 Jennymount Court, North Derby Street, Belfast, BT15 3HN

10th January 2013, Ballymena- Location to be confirmed

16th January 2013, Cookstown Fire Station, 36 Chapel Street, Cookstown, BT80 8QD

4 day Explore Enterprise Course

19th – 22nd November 2012, Belfast Office, Block 5 Jennymount Court, North Derby Street, Belfast, BT15 3HN

19th – 22nd November 2012, The Braid, Ballymena Town Hall, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena, BT43 5EJ

26th – 29th November 2012, Cookstown Fire Station, 36 Chapel Street, Cookstown, BT80 8QD

10th – 13th December 2012, Newry Library, Hill Street, Newry

10th – 13th December 2012, Derry/ Londonderry- Location to be confirmed

10th – 13th December 2012, Belfast Office, Block 5 Jennymount Court, North Derby Street, Belfast, BT15 3HN

21st- 24th January 2013, Cookstown Fire Station, 36 Chapel Street, Cookstown, BT80 8QD

21st- 24th January 2013, Ballymena- Location to be confirmed

To find out more, contact your local Prince's Trust representative:

Belfast- Bronagh McCulla on 028 9075 8109 or email bronagh.mcculla@princes-trust.org.uk

Cookstown- Lisa Coyle on 028 8225 3238 lisa.coyle@princes-trust.org.uk

Armagh/ Down- Liosa McKeown on 028 9075 8107 Liosa.McKeown@princes-trust.org.uk

Points of Interest



CAFRE Dry Stone Walling for Beginners

In autumn 2012 and spring 2013, CAFRE is planning a number of Dry Stone Walling Training days for interested novices and improvers. Each training day will cover the basic principles of rebuilding a derelict or damaged section of wall. With a focus on “learning by doing” the dry stone walling courses are designed for beginners who want the confidence and knowledge to tackle some of their own

restoration works. A Saturday course, commencing at 10.00am sharp is available.

All necessary equipment will be provided at the host site and an experienced instructor from The Conservation Volunteers will give safety instruction and guidance. Participants will work in small groups. Everyone attending is asked to work safely and wear suitable footwear (steel toecaps). Bringing a packed-lunch, “waterproofs” and a familiar pair of strong protective gloves is also advised. Farm family participation is free, all participants must however be over the age of 16 years.

To enrol for an autumn 2012 opportunity to gain practical Dry Stone Walling know-how and useful renovation skills, interested farmers should email or call the Agri-Environment Training Administration team at CAFRE. To find out more please contact, Margaret (028) 9442 6728 or Jennifer (028) 9442 6879 or email jennifer.ball@dardni.gov.uk with your name, full home address and telephone number.

FAST TRACK into INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY!

ICT has become an essential part of the farmer's and farm household skills set, not least because of Government's desire to do business online but also helping to support business efficiency, improve customer service and support business growth.

Countryside Agri Rural Partnership through RDC are currently offering "Fast Track into Information Technology", a computer and internet training course which will be delivered in district council areas throughout Northern Ireland to farmers and farm family members age 17 and over with a Farm Business ID number.

One of the main aims of the training is to provide participants with the knowledge to complete forms online which in turn will reduce paperwork and save time and money.

The initial training provided will be on a basic introductory level suitable for those with little or no previous computing experience. It will cover areas such as APHIS, online banking, VAT, buying & selling online and much more. The course will run for 4 weeks from 7pm to 9.30pm and participation is free.

If you are a farmer or a member of a farm family and wish to participate or alternatively if you are a member of a farming group, have 10-12 members and would like the training delivered directly to your group then they can arrange a course specifically for you.

For further information or to register for a course in your area please contact Anne Marie Bell on 0845 026 7534 or email options@countrysiderural.co.uk



Exploring Enterprise² Programme Fermanagh

Fermanagh Enterprise Ltd is running a FREE training programme to all persons over 16 years who are unemployed or working/in education less than 16 hours per week.

The programme provides valuable learning experiences for anyone considering starting their own business or developing skills for employment. The programme is for people of any educational background and does not affect your benefits.

The Exploring Enterprise² Programme can help you:

- Gain a qualification – QCF Understanding Business Enterprise
- Meet new people
- Improve your skills for self employment/employment

The programme includes training (lunch, tea and coffee will be provided) which will cover the aspects of setting up a business, however you do not need to have a specific business idea to join. The programme provides an insight into starting a business whilst allowing participants to achieve a qualification. One to one support is also provided to help you.

If you are interested in participating on this course please contact Joanne or Fionna on 028 66 323117 or email info@fermanaghenterprise.com to find out how they can help you. All enquiries are confidential.

Regional Start Initiative

This programme will provide free advice and training to anyone wishing to start a business. Training courses will be starting in the next few weeks and support can be provided to complete a business plan.

If you would like to discuss your business idea and register your interest in training, please contact them on 028 6632 3117 or email: info@fermanaghenterprise.com

If you have any news which you would like included in What's Happening December 2012 please contact Clodagh Crowe on mentoring@countrysiderural.co.uk or 028 8778 9134.

Although care has been taken to ensure the accuracy of the information provided, Countryside Agri- Rural Partnership does not accept liability for any errors or omissions as this information is subject to change without notice.

