



Our last newsletter in August talked about drought and scorched grass, well those days are certainly well behind us and the mud and rain have turned up as reliably as the bills do!

The last few months have seen worrying (if not predicted) lack of support from the government and inheritance tax is still a major concern for a lot of farms. We understand these challenges, and we are planning our events at the moment with a focus on what can be done to make farms more efficient and reduce costs.

Beef prices have remained high with some incredible results seen at the markets. The milk price has dropped however and we will see further drops in the months to come. At present there is 6% more milk than is needed nationally, we are aware milk price predictions are looking at 37ppl but Cornwall will always do slightly better than elsewhere as milk production is dominated by processing and not liquid milk. Our advice would be to make sure that you are maximising returns on butterfat, protein, cell count and bactoscan, identify cows that could be dried off and or sold as culls (although supply and demand of cull cows going into the abattoirs could become an issue if too many are being culled). We have also been working with an increased number of farms on slurry storage and this is something that cannot be avoided but that comes at huge financial cost.

As the year starts to draw to a close, people often have tendency to reflect. Reflections from Farm Cornwall? It's been a very busy year, we have greatly enjoyed working with familiar faces and meeting new ones too, and we will continue to stand behind our farms and support and champion them in 2026 - Farm Cornwall's 25th anniversary year!

December 2025 Newsletter



Call our helpline
01736 367589



Email Farm Cornwall
office@farmcornwall.co.uk



Follow us on social media
[@farmcornwall](https://www.facebook.com/farmcornwall)



Update from BCMS:

From the end of Feb 2026, all farmers registering calves must use the online service, there will be no more telephone reporting of births and deaths. That is, unless you don't have internet access, in which case they have produced an online Youtube video to tell you how to update details without a computer.



Whats on?

For all events please let us know if you would like to attend by messaging Edward 07775 667825 or Louise 07907 350130

DYNO DAY IS BACK! SAT 17th JANUARY - see poster below

Dyno Day is always a popular event, and this year we are really pleased to be holding it at DG Buscombe. Our thanks to them for hosting, we look forward to seeing lots of you there on the 17th.

GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT AND GRAZING EVENT

Tuesday 27th January, 10.30am - 3pm at Cornwall Farm Machinery, Truro TR4 9BE

A practical, no-nonsense half-day workshop aimed at family farms—including those managing herbal leys showing how simple, low-labour grazing approaches can unlock real full economic, environmental and lifestyle benefits. Event led by James Daniel from Precision Grazing. Booking essential.

CATTLE HANDLING WORKSHOPS

February 10th and 11th - we'll be running the workshop twice, venues tbc (one west and one east)

We will be holding two events with Miriam Parker from Livestock Wise, these events will be sponsored by the Royal Countryside Fund and will be based on a practical point of view but seen from the cows position. Miriam Parker is a member of the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council, on the board of Freedom Food and is on technical advisory groups for Assured British Meats and the Soil Association. More details to come.

DG BUSCOMBE
AGRICULTURAL AND PLANT ENGINEERING

OFFERS ON GROUNDCARE EQUIPMENT

DYNO DAY
17TH JANUARY 2026

DG BUSCOMBE, RETALLACK BUSINESS PARK, ST COLUMB MAJOR, TR9 6DE

RAISING MONEY FOR
Farm Cornwall

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO FARM CORNWALL, SUPPORTING THE FARMING COMMUNITY ACROSS CORNWALL.

TO BOOK YOUR SLOT ON THE DYNO & FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL TONY ON 07737304967

SHARE TO SUPPORT

01637880119

@DGBUSCOMBE

Grants and funding update

This is a pretty easy update - there are no grants or funding opportunities open! Capital grants is shut, SFI is shut. The government made a last minute announcement that those in expiring Mid Tiers would be able to extend their agreements by a year, in recognition that there is no replacement scheme available for them to enter. We have heard nothing about if/when SFI will reopen.

The annual Mid Tier payments are starting to come through from early December. If your claim is straightforward with no issues you should receive it all in December. If some outstanding issues, RPA aim to pay 75% of the total amount in January while they sort the issue. If you don't receive anything by the end of January, it would be advisable to contact RPA if you have not heard from them.

If you were offered a FETF grant, be aware that some suppliers are struggling to meet the demand for the specified equipment. You may need to look elsewhere.

Ladies in Wellies Update and Events

It has been another busy few months, we have enjoyed walks across the county in small informal groups, and we have also got two fully booked wreath making workshops in December. We had a great turnout for the Health and Safety Toolbox Talk with 19 attendees across 9 businesses. Jo Hawkins of Cornish Mutual gave a great talk over a pasty and a catch up with friends after. Thanks to Carrie of Trevedra Farm for helping with the lunches and drinks.



For all upcoming events please let us know if you would like to attend by messaging wendy.wellies@farmcornwall.co.uk or ticking the 'going' tag on the Facebook group. Ring a neighbour and spread the word. If you find you cannot attend please let us know so we are not waiting.

Upcoming events:

Hall For Cornwall Events

16th Jan – a night with Elvis – 10 tickets purchased

18th April – Al Murray – 10 tickets purchased

26th May – Illegal Eagles – 10 tickets purchased

We will of course continue with our walks, coffees & get togethers at various places across the county. These will be posted on our Facebook page.

A well deserved award for Wendy

We were delighted to see Wendy win the 'Farming Champion of the Year' award at the Cornwall Farm Business awards in October. This prestigious event is held annually and was created to celebrate agricultural successes, reward the key players, create a high-profile platform for sponsors and raise vital funds for the Addington Fund. Wendy is a fantastic asset to the farming community in Cornwall - passionate, dedicated, and deeply committed to supporting others in agriculture. Her tireless work on farm, connecting with the public and supporting others through Farm Cornwall made her the judges choice this year. On asking Wendy how she felt about receiving the reward, she replied:

I was surprised to have been nominated and am under no illusions that there are so many others doing more, and better placed to offer meaningful support and advice to those that need it than I am. I am only able to do what I do because of tremendous support of my family & staff.

I have worked in Agriculture all my life as have generations of both John's & my families.

I am always moved by the support we try and give each other, as an industry and thankful to friends who supported me when I needed it most.

I was delighted that the judges recognised the passion that I feel for our industry, and they allowed me to explain why I feel so strongly that education & support must be a priority.

It saddens me that so many still need the help of great farming charities. Addington, RABI, FCN and Farm Cornwall, whom I am so privileged to be involved with, work closely together in Cornwall to support farmers. I don't believe this happens in other areas so effectively and again shows that Cornwall continues to lead the way. I would urge everyone to try and pick up the phone, or make contact with one neighbour, farming friend or acquaintance once a week, or even a month. That ripple of support soon becomes a tidal wave. A kind word of encouragement will make such a difference to someone's day, week, life!

What do Farm Cornwall do? Part Two!

We often hear people say “I had no idea Farm Cornwall did that”, so we thought it might be useful/interesting for us to give some examples of the work we have been doing over the past year. Every day is different for us and every farm is different, but the aim is always to support the farm to provide a positive outcome.

Mental Health Support

Problems in a farm business often go hand in hand with health problems – both physical and mental. There is no underestimating the pressures that farming life can put on everyone in a family. All of our outreach team are Mental Health First Aiders and trained in ASIST (suicide intervention), and we encourage everyone to speak up, whether you are worried about your own health or someone else. We have professional counsellors and mental health resources that we can put you in touch with, and there is now a dedicated community mental health service for the farming community in Cornwall.

Succession Planning

It's never too early to start thinking about succession planning and having a conversation with your family about what will happen when you retire. Who will take over from you, and do they want to? Who will live where? What are the partnership and tenancy agreements? It can be a relief for everyone involved to know what the future will hold and having a plan can minimise the impact if a crisis happens.

Mediation

When there are disputes or disagreements between family members or business partners it can be useful for an impartial third party to come in to discuss the issues and mediate to achieve a resolution. This can help to take the business forward and avoid permanent damage to important relationships.

Grant Applications and help with RPA

There are a range of grants and subsidies available to farming businesses. Brexit and the transition from European funding streams have made the options more confusing. Whether it's Countryside Stewardship, SFI, Catchment Sensitive Farming or other, we can advise on this. We can also help those who are struggling with the RPA, whether that is delayed payments, reclaims or just finding it hard to deal with them. Louise is usually the one to take on the RPA with her terrier like tenacity!

Business Advice

Depending on your circumstances, we may be able to offer advice at no cost or if you do not meet our charitable criteria, we would make a reasonable charge. All advice is strictly confidential, and we will agree terms of reference with you at the outset.

Business Plans

Whether you are considering a big investment, looking at bringing members of the family into the business or approaching the bank for finance it is always good practice to review your business performance regularly and to plan for the future. We can help with evaluating your current performance, considering your options going forward and forecasting the potential outcomes.

Debt Advice

There are many reasons why farming businesses find themselves with unmanageable debt. We know this puts enormous stress on the farmer and their family. The most important thing is to seek help and advice at the earliest opportunity. Our outreach team have a great deal of experience in liaising with creditors and banks to find workable solutions to keep the business going if that is the right decision or assisting with an exit to a new career if that is the preferred option. No problem is insurmountable and the sooner it is tackled the better.