



March 2026 Newsletter



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Since our last newsletter in December, it felt like the rain was never going to stop. Luckily we have just had a week of dry weather and what a difference it has made in so many ways. Fields are finally drying out, cattle are being turned out, there's talk of silage cuts and for many it just brings about a sense of relief and hope, especially with the evenings drawing out now. As is usually the case, the farmers came to the rescue during the storms, clearing roads, unblocking drains, rescuing stranded cars. But it also highlighted how vulnerable some farms are without electricity and power, especially the dairy farms who were cut off for several days. Farming needs to be resilient in many ways and this storm demonstrated the best a rural community can do but also demonstrated its weak points.

We are also all very aware of the sudden surge in price of oil, diesel and fertiliser, and this is going to have a very significant impact on a lot of farms, with no way of knowing when prices might ease.

Milk price The milk price has seen a severe drop since the autumn from the standard litre price 42ppl to 33ppl in February. A 1penny drop per litre on a 1 million litres sold is equal to £10,000, a drop of 9p in the example would equate to £90,000 loss in sales. This price reduction is also being offered alongside reduction in overall volumes of sales too, which is making life very difficult indeed. The overall supply side is beginning to ease but unlikely to resolve itself until the autumn of 2026. It is worth ensuring that quality parameters are met and exceeded around bactoscan.

Welcome to Abigail

Abigail recently joined Farm Cornwall as our Charity Manager. She brings experience working across charities, community organisations, CICs and start-ups, delivering projects in operations, communications, and programme development.

In her role, Abigail leads on fundraising, communications, and event planning, while developing the charity's website and systems to help strengthen its reach and impact. She is focused on building sustainable funding, raising awareness of Farm Cornwall's work, and supporting the continued growth of the charity's support for the farming community across Cornwall.

We are delighted to have Abigail join us.



Farming Grants and Funding 2026: What Farmers Need to Know

Farm Cornwall will be running a series of workshops across Cornwall to update farmers on the latest government announcements on grants and funding opportunities available in 2026.

The sessions will cover key schemes including SFI, Capital Grants and FETF, as well as guidance on preparing for the opening windows of these schemes. We will also provide an overview of other funding opportunities available, including Farming in Protected Landscapes and Forest for Cornwall.

The workshops will be delivered by Farm Cornwall's Louise Davis and Edward Richardson, who will share relevant, up-to-date information alongside practical advice and tips to help make the application process as straightforward as possible.

These workshops are open to anyone who is actively farming.

Thanks to funding from The Royal Countryside Fund, these workshops are free to attend, with pasty, tea and coffee included.

Booking is essential so that we can plan numbers and catering accordingly. Visit our website events page to book your spot! Workshop dates and locations:

Tuesday 14th April, 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Hayle Rugby Club

Thursday 16th April, 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Blisland Village Hall, PL30 4JY

Tuesday 21st April, 11:00am – 1:00pm at Cornwall Farm Machinery, St Columb, TR4 9BE

Wednesday 6th May, 7:00pm – 9:00pm at Millennium Hall, Pensilva, PL14 5NF

What have we been up to so far this year?

2026 has already seen us run several events across the county. A grazing workshop, led by James Daniel from Precision Grazing, was held in January at Cornwall Farm Machinery with a focus on simple, low labour grazing approaches.

We held our annual Dyno Day, this time at D G Buscombes, and we had an incredible turnout. Our thanks to Tony Best and all at Buscombes for really making this event such a success.

We also ran two cattle handling courses led by Miriam Parker MBE. These workshops focused on improving cattle handling, animal welfare and on-farm safety. Both events were fully booked and we hope to run further courses on this in the future.

We have presented a couple of workshops on 'Farm Smarter not Harder' at Duchy College Rosewarne and Stoke Climsland, supported by Cornish Mutual.

We have also attended several events including a livestock worrying session, several Young Farmers events and Edward travelled to London to attend the Mind Your Head reception at The Farmers Club, supporting Sam Staples' 142-mile Walk of Hope and sharing a letter to dignitaries on the pressures facing farmers and the importance of farm support groups.



Support Us

As most of you will already know, Farm Cornwall is the only Cornwall-based charity dedicated solely to supporting farmers, farm workers, farming families and rural communities across Cornwall. For 25 years, we have provided practical, confidential support, advice, training and community connection to those who need it most.

By supporting our Silver 25 Fund or Gold 25 Fund, you can help us continue this vital work and ensure farming people across Cornwall can keep accessing support when they need it most.

The Silver 25 Fund is a one-off donation of up to £1,000, with recognition on our website and in our newsletters. The Gold 25 Fund is a commitment of £1,000 or more per year for three years, with added recognition on our website, in our newsletters, on our supporter display at events including the Royal Cornwall Show 2026, in our Annual Report and Accounts, and through use of the Gold 25 Supporter of Farm Cornwall logo.

Find out more at www.farmcornwall.co.uk/support-us or email abigail@farmcornwall.co.uk.

Community Group Events

Farm Cornwall supports a number of community groups that bring people together from across Cornwall's farming community. Here are updates and upcoming events from Ladies in Wellies and our newly renamed Next Generation group, Trelawny Farmers Club.

Trelawny Farmers Club

We're pleased to introduce the new name for our Next Generation group: Trelawny Farmers Club. We felt this better reflects the group and the people involved, those aged 25–45+ who are part of the current generation of farming in Cornwall.

The group provides opportunities to meet others, socialise, share ideas and support one another.

We aim to organise a variety of events, so if you have any ideas or suggestions for things you'd like us to host, we'd love to hear from you.

Upcoming event - Brewery Tour at the Star Inn, Crowlas (TR20 8DX)

Friday 24 April

7–8pm tour, with food afterwards

£10 per person

Visit our website events page to book

Ladies in Wellies

Ladies in Wellies continues to bring together women from across Cornwall's farming community through social events, walks and informal gatherings.

- Coffee Morning at Griggs Country Store, Lower Sticker, St Austell (PL26 7JH)

Tuesday 24 March, 11am – 2pm

- Bowling and Supper, Country Skittles, Bunkers Hill, Hayle (TR27 6ER)

Thursday 16 April, 7:30pm for bowling, 8pm for food

Hall for Cornwall Events

- 18 April – Al Murray

- 26 May – Illegal Eagles

To book a place on Ladies in Wellies events, please email wendy.wellies@farmcornwall.co.uk

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. If you have any other suggestions or ideas we would love to hear them.

FARM CORNWALL NAMED ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW CHARITY OF THE YEAR



Farm Cornwall is proud to announce that it has been selected as Joint Charity of the Year for the Royal Cornwall Show 2026, marking a special milestone as the charity celebrates 25 years of dedicated support to farmers, farming families, and rural communities across Cornwall.

Richard Thomas, Chair of Trustees, said:

"Myself, the trustees and the Farm Cornwall team are delighted to announce that Farm Cornwall has been chosen as a Joint Charity of the Year for the Royal Cornwall Show 2026. As we celebrate 25 years of support, this recognition gives us a wonderful opportunity to highlight the practical, confidential, and compassionate help we provide to the Cornish farming community every day."

For a quarter of a century, Farm Cornwall has worked to prevent and relieve poverty and financial hardship, improve health and wellbeing, and support farming families facing increasingly complex challenges. Through one-to-one advice, outreach, workshops, and training, the charity offers trusted help with business pressures, health concerns, family matters, social isolation, and supporting farmers to maintain high standards of animal welfare.

Through social groups such as Ladies in Wellies and the Next Generation, alongside tailored support for individuals often isolated in rural areas, Farm Cornwall continues to strengthen the resilience of Cornwall's farming sector.

The Royal Cornwall Show will play an important role in the charity's anniversary year. Farm Cornwall will use the event to celebrate its work, connect with the community, and raise vital funds to expand its outreach across Cornwall. Plans include a special anniversary event, fundraising activities, and opportunities for supporters to get involved.

"The Show is at the heart of Cornwall's agricultural calendar," Richard added. *"It's the perfect place to celebrate our farming community and to share how people can help us continue this work for the next 25 years and beyond."*

Volunteer at the Royal Cornwall Show

Farm Cornwall is currently recruiting volunteers to support its fundraising activities during the Royal Cornwall Show, and we would love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved.

Volunteers will play an important role in helping raise awareness and vital funds for the charity. This will involve collecting donations around the showground in pairs, speaking with visitors about Farm Cornwall's work, and representing the charity in a friendly and positive way.

Typical shifts run 9am–1pm or 1pm–5pm, and volunteers completing a standard four-hour shift will receive a free show day ticket. However, we understand people's availability and physical ability can vary, so shift times can be adjusted where possible. This is a great opportunity to be part of one of Cornwall's biggest events while helping support the farming community. Volunteers will also be invited to a special post-show thank-you event to celebrate their contribution.

To find out more or register your interest in volunteering, please visit:

<https://www.farmcornwall.co.uk/news/join-our-volunteer-team-at-the-royal-cornwall-show>

or email abigail@farmcornwall.co.uk.

We will also be sharing updates on our website and social media in the lead-up to the show, including details of our stand number.