

Farm Family Options: Mentoring

Planning for your future

What's Happening

February 2012

Have you planned for
the future of your farm?

Diversification

Wills and
Succession
Planning

Training and
Development

Income
and
Finance

**We can
help you
consider
your options**
£250 Grant Available

Farm
Business
Decisions

“Farm Future Clinic” Launches in Farming Life

The Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme has launched a monthly feature in the Farming Life called “Farm Future Clinic” which aims to address issues relating to farm families and the future of their farm businesses. Readers will have the opportunity to put forward a question in confidence about any aspect of their farm’s future in relation to succession planning. The first edition dealt with inheritance tax and how the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme can help families address this issue.

The next edition of “Farm Future Clinic” will appear in the Farming Life on Saturday 18th February 2012.

If you are farming, either part-time or full-time, the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme will help you to identify options and opportunities to address your family’s needs. If you are considering changes to your farm business, or perhaps have concerns about adequate household income in the future, this is an opportunity to explore your options for improving profits from your farm business, and other opportunities. Support on offer includes:

- **Free one to one, independent and confidential support from a mentor, experienced in agriculture. (Up to 3 sessions at a time to suit you);**
- **Help to identify potential sources of additional income;**
- **Assistance with succession/ retirement planning through financial support for Legal or Financial advice (£ 250 per farm business);**
- **Referral to relevant organisations/ agencies for further support.**
- **Assistance with identifying training and development opportunities**
- **Support to consider diversification or off farm employment opportunities**
- **A positive Action Plan, identifying options for the way forward for both the farm business and individual farm family members**

To obtain an application pack or to enquire further please telephone: 0845 026 7539, email: mentoring@countrysiderural.co.uk or visit www.countrysiderural.co.uk

Continue reading to find out what else is happening in your area.....

Dates for the Diary

1st February 2012

PSNI Trailer Marking Event

Saintfield Cattle Market, Co. Down 10.30am

Farmers are invited to come along to a PSNI trailer marking event at Saintfield Cattle Market, Co. Down on Wednesday 1st February from 10.30am.

The PSNI have recently launched a booklet containing helpful tips on improving the security of your home and farm machinery. The booklet can be downloaded by following the link: http://www.psni.police.uk/farm_security_booklet.pdf

9th February 2012

Supply Chain Development Red Meat Sector Workshop

Corick House Hotel, Clogher, Co. Tyrone, BT76 0BZ, 7-8.30pm

Would you like to explore ideas and opportunities to work with others in adding value to your red meat? If so you are invited to attend the Supply Chain Development workshop which will concentrate on venison meat as a case study. You will have an opportunity to find out how the Supply Chain Development Programme could help develop your supply chain.

For further information or to book your place contact Martin Reel, Supply Chain Development Programme on 0845 026 7538 or email: supplychain@countryrural.co.uk.

6th-9th February 2012

Prince's Trust Enterprise Programme

Down Arts Centre, Downpatrick, 10am-4pm

The programme is open to those aged 18-30 who are unemployed or working less than 16 hours per week and offers mentoring and financial support to start a business or mentoring support to secure goals in employment, education or training.

Participants can avail of advice on employment options, business skills training, business planning support, start-up loan funding, ongoing support from a volunteer business mentor, access to specialist support, including a free legal helpline, and, if starting a business, access to a wide range of free and discounted products and services. The Prince's Trust is also delivering specific support and funding for farm enterprises, through the Jason Kanabus Fund.

For further information please contact Liosa McKeown at Prince's Trust on 028 9075 8107.

18th February 2012

Second Edition of Farm Future Clinic

The second edition of the Farm Future Clinic will appear in the Farming Life on Saturday 18th February 2012. If you wish to put forward a question in confidence, relating to any aspect of succession or future of your farm business please contact the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme on 0845 026 7539 or email: mentoring@countryrural.co.uk.

22nd February 2012

CAFRE Practical On Farm Renewable Energy Event, 1.30pm to 10pm

Enniskillen Campus, 2 Mullaghmeen Rd, Levaghy, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, BT74 4GF

This event aims to provide practical information on renewable energy options for farmers and the rural sector. Seminars will take place on renewable energy technologies such as: biomass production and utilisation, anaerobic digestion, wind generation, solar hot water, micro-hydro, heat pumps, solar PV. There will also be seminars on the issues associated with renewable energy including grid connection, planning permission, grant funding, finance, renewable heat incentive, NI renewable obligation certificates. Tours of the college renewable energy installation will take place and there will be a trade exhibition. For further information contact Connor Maguire on 028 6634 4853 or email connor.maguire@dardni.gov.uk

29th February 2012

YFCU Family Farm Succession Seminar, “Finding a solution”

Conference Hall, CAFRE Greenmount Campus, 8pm

Young Farmers’ Clubs of Ulster, in association with the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme and Ulster Bank, invite you to attend this event which aims to address the succession planning issues facing farming families in Northern Ireland. You will be able to hear from a range of speakers on the subject and about the support available through the Farm Family Options Mentoring Programme to help address the issue of succession planning.

For further information on the event please contact Ann Cameron on 028 9037 0713.

6th March 2012

National Beef Association, Beef Northern Ireland 2012 Event

Dungannon Farmers’ Mart, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, 10am to 6pm

The 2012 event will follow the winning format developed in 2010 and will include an extensive trade stand area, beef breed demonstrations, educational and advisory exhibits, competitions and a comprehensive seminar programme.

For further information visit www.nationalbeefassociation.com/Nl-Beef-Expo, email: ewan@nationalbeefassociation.com or telephone 01430 441870.

APHIS Online Training in your area- Book Now!!

In October and November 2011 over 50 percent of calf births were registered online using APHIS Online (DARD’s Animal and Public Health Information System). If you are a herd keeper why not use APHIS Online? It will save you time, effort and money.

To help you move from the traditional paper forms to the online system DARD are offering farmers more free training on APHIS Online at local venues across Northern Ireland.

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 Please see below the timetable of courses and book one that best suits you.

Venue	Day	Date	Time
Omagh – South West College	Monday	30 Jan & 6 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Armagh – Southern Regional College	Tuesday	31 Jan & 7 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Omagh – South West College	Wednesday	1 & 8 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Armagh – Southern Regional College	Thursday	2 & 9 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Strabane – North West Regional College	Thursday	2 & 9 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Ballymoney, Community Resource Centre	Monday	13 & 20 Feb	8 -10pm
Comber – Comber Learning Centre	Tuesday	14 & 21 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Tuesday	14 & 21 Feb	8 -10pm
Limavady – North West Regional College	Wednesday	15 & 22 Feb	7.30-9.30pm
Ballymoney, Community Resource Centre	Thursday	16 & 23 Feb	8 -10pm
Assumption Grammar, Ballynahinch	Monday	27 Feb & 5 Mar	7.30-9.30pm
Assumption Grammar, Ballynahinch	Tuesday	28 Feb & 6 Mar	7.30-9.30pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Tuesday	28 Feb & 6 Mar	8 -10pm
Loughry Campus, Cookstown	Wednesday	29 Feb & 7 Mar	8 -10pm
Ballymoney, Community Resource Centre	Wednesday	29 Feb & 7 Mar	1.30 – 3.30pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Thursday	1 & 8 Mar	8 -10pm
Enniskillen Campus	Tuesday	13 & 20 Mar	8 -10pm
Ballymoney, Community Resource Centre	Tuesday	13 & 20 Mar	8 -10pm
Loughry Campus, Cookstown	Wednesday	14 & 21 Mar	8 -10pm
Enniskillen Campus	Thursday	15 & 22 Mar	8 -10pm
Ballymoney, Community Resource Centre	Thursday	15 & 22 Mar	1.30 - 3.30pm
Loughry Campus, Cookstown	Monday	26 Mar & 2 Apr	8 -10pm
Newry - Southern Regional College	Tuesday	27 Mar & 3 Apr	7.30-9.30pm
Greenmount Campus, Antrim	Tuesday	27 Mar & 3 Apr	8 -10pm

Cross Compliance Course Places Still Available

The following courses are subject to change. Please contact Pamela at the Focus Farm Centre on 0845 026 7536 to confirm the training event is taking place before attending.

Date	Venue
01/02/2012	The Manor House, 30 High Street, Moneymore , BT45 7PB
01/02/2012	Doncarragh Hotel, 95-97 Main Street, Lisknaskea , BT92 0JD
01/02/2012	Armagh City Hotel, 2 Friary Road, Armagh , BT60 4FR
01/02/2012	Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road, Omagh , BT79 7DH
01/02/2012	Edenmore Country Club, 70 Drumbreeze Road, Magheralin, Moira , BT67 0RH
01/02/2012	Downpatrick Cricket Club, 2 Strangford Road, Downpatrick , BT30 6SL
02/02/2012	Doncarragh Hotel, 95-97 Main Street, Lisnaskea , BT92 0JD
02/02/2012	Silverbirch Hotel, 5 Gortin Road, Omagh , BT79 7DH
02/02/2012	Armagh City Hotel, 2 Friary Road, Armagh , BT60 4FR
02/02/2012	Belmont Hotel, Rathfriland Road, Banbridge , BT32 3LH
02/02/2012	The Big House, 147 Crankhill Road, Ballymena , BT44 9HA
02/02/2012	Maginns, 5-11 Main Street, Castlewellan , BT31 9DF
08/02/2012	The Big House, 147 Crankhill Road, Ballymena , BT44 9HA

HM Revenue & Customs Free Workshops

HMRC invites anyone in business, especially new businesses or new employers to book a place on any of the following free workshops by visiting www.hmrc.gov.uk/bst or by calling 0845 603 2691.

Date	Course Title	Location	Time
9 th Feb 12	Newly Self Employed	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.15pm
23 rd Feb 12	Becoming an Employer	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.30pm
28 th Feb 12	Paying Expenses and Benefits as an employer	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.15pm
1 st Mar 12	Becoming a Director	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.15pm
12 th Mar 12	Newly Self Employed	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.15pm
20 th Mar 12	Business Expenses & Capital Allowances for Self Employed	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.15pm
21 st Mar 12	How VAT works	HMRC Custom House, Belfast	10am-12.15pm

Points of Interest

DARD Agri-Food Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme Reopens

The Scheme is open to micro, small, medium and intermediate sized enterprises with fewer than 750 employees in the agricultural and horticultural sectors who are involved in processing and marketing including: processors; groups of producers who market their produce collaboratively; and individual producers who want to process and market their own produce.

The level of grant aid will vary depending on the size and turnover of the enterprise. The maximum grant payable under Axis 1 is at a rate of 40% of eligible costs subject to a maximum of £500,000.

Under Axis 3, grant is paid at a rate of up to 50% of eligible costs subject to a maximum of £50,000.

Application forms are available for download from http://www.dardni.gov.uk/index/rural-development/rdp_campaign-processing_marketing_grant.ht

For further information or to request an application form telephone 028 9052 4219 or 028 9052 4871 or email: afpinfo@dardni.gov.uk

Completed applications must be received by DARD Rural Development Division by noon on Friday 24th February 2012.

Support with Exploring Enterprise² at your local Enterprise Agency

The Exploring Enterprise² Programme is a pre-start programme which will support activities to extend the employment opportunities of unemployed, long-term unemployed and inactive people by helping them to enter, remain and make progress in sustained employment.

The programme provides accredited training and development to participants through the network of Local Enterprise Agencies. Participants do not need to have a specific business idea to join; the programme provides an insight into starting a business whilst allowing participants to work towards achieving a qualification.

If you are unemployed and aged over 16 years old then you could achieve an accredited qualification to improve your CV and break down the barriers to self employment/employment you may have experienced.

For further information visit www.enterpriseni.com, telephone 028 7776 3555 or email: pauline.kirk@enterpriseni.com.

Business Planning Courses for Potential Farm Diversifiers

During April 2012 DARD will be running business planning courses in counties Armagh and Antrim for those considering diversification.

The course will give participants the opportunity to fully consider and investigate the viability of their business idea.

For more information or to find out when your local course begins contact Loughry Campus on 028 8676 8122, email: enquiries@cafre.ac.uk or visit www.ruralni.gov.uk.

Supply Chain Development Programme adding value to your business

The Supply Chain Development Programme supports farmers working together to improve the rewards from their supply chain. Support on offer includes:

Facilitation - A professional business facilitator will be provided, without charge to the group, to work with the members and progress its supply chain development ideas.

Training - Up to £5000 per group is available towards the full cost of training members.

Use of Business Tools - Up to £5000 is available to cover the full cost of management tools.

Co-operation Support - 50% funding to a maximum of £2500 is available towards costs associated with co-operation.

Study Tours - 75% of the cost per participant up to a maximum of £3000 per group. For more information telephone 0845 026 7538 or visit www.countrysiderural.co.uk

Field Boundary Management Courses in your area

The Focus Farms Programme will be delivering a series of field boundary management courses over the coming weeks. For further details or to find about a course in your local area visit website: www.focusfarms.co.uk, Facebook page: www.facebook.com/pages/Focus-Farm/286712661357259 or telephone 0845 026 7536.

Benchmarking- a unique, FREE service available to Northern Ireland Farmers

Benchmarking is a method of evaluating the physical and financial performance of your farm business to identify areas where the farm business could be improved to increase profitability. Details are available from www.countrysiderural.co.uk/benchmarking or by telephoning 0845 026 7537.

Save Time, Do IT Online

The Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment has established the log on.ni service to assist all businesses in Northern Ireland to take full advantage of the opportunities that ICT can bring.

The programme includes: Free help, advice and demonstration service with specific help for your ICT issues and challenges; A mobile unit that will be travelling throughout Northern Ireland in order to bring ICT advice to your doorstep. Dates and locations may be found by visiting www.logon-ni.co.uk/mobile-unit

Log on.ni offers a free and impartial ICT advice service, helping you to realise tangible benefits from broadband, the internet and IT. They source information that will help you resolve your IT and internet problems. Ask them any ICT related question and their expert team will endeavour to answer it for you.

Explore how broadband and IT could help improve your business on many fronts, from customer service, to staff retention and right through to the bottom line.

For more information visit www.logon-ni.co.uk, telephone 028 8283 9012 or e-mail logon-ni@commendium.com and book an appointment to meet with an advisor. Advisors will visit you in your office or home at a time which suits.

Schmallenberg Virus - New Emerging Disease of Ruminants

Schmallenberg Virus (SBV) is a newly discovered virus that has been associated with brief mild/moderate disease in adult cattle (fever, reduced milk yield, sometimes diarrhoea) and abortion or birth defects in newborn ruminants in the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and GB.

More recently (since November 2011 onwards) there have been reports of miscarriages and stillbirths associated with congenital (present at birth) abnormalities affecting mainly sheep but also cattle and goats.

There are still many uncertainties around this new virus, such as the vector responsible for transmission, the geographic distribution, transmissibility of infected animals and the virus origin.

This is not a notifiable disease, and as such there are no trade restrictions in place. Farmers planning to import animals should enquire about the health history of herds of origin.

DARD is continuing to monitor developments including discussions at the European Commission.

To assist early detection, were infection to occur here, farmers are asked to inform their veterinary surgeon of any stillbirth, malformation or nervous disease in new born animals or foetuses born to ruminant dams imported from mainland Europe since June 2011.

In addition to provide an assurance that the disease is not already present here, all farmers are asked to inform their PVPs about any serious malformations or nervous signs in new born animals in their herds or flocks. Good biosecurity practices should be followed, especially when dealing with imported animals. For further information visit: www.dardni.gov.uk/schmallenberg-virus.

If you have any news which you would like included in What's Happening March 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.

