



Devon YFC Newsletter

Feb.
2008



Oxford Farming Conference A Climate of Change: Agriculture The Solution

Peter Reed and I had the great pleasure in attending the 2008 Oxford farming Conference as delegates of Devon YFC kindly sponsored by the Louise Ryan Fund, co-ordinated by RASE.

The conference although very formal, was certainly a very inviting and friendly experience with the opportunity to meet many people from the industry with a wide range of associated links to British agriculture. The message and feel was very upbeat for agriculture in the UK with the recent increases in the wheat and milk price leading the way, there was however great concern for the meat industry, and its need to follow suit in the near future.

We heard a wide range of speakers from within the UK and abroad. A few of the highlights I thought were the **Farming Without Subsidies session** chaired by Philip Wynn. Farmers from the arable, sheep, dairy and horticultural sectors discussed how their businesses may fair post-subsidies. The four individuals gave the audience an insight into their individual businesses and how they felt they could farm in

the future without subsidies. They all thought it would be possible although there was great emphasis in their individual businesses on collaboration with other farmers either to sell their products or to buy their inputs.

The **Our Next Generation Panel chaired by Declan Curry, BBC Business Presenter**, was also another very interesting session. The panel consisted of Christine Hope (founded *Hopes of Longtown* a village store and post office), Matt Naylor (a director of a farming business producing daffodils for export, potatoes for M&S and cut flowers for M&S, Waitrose and Sainsbury's), Ian Pigott (LEAF demonstration farmer, arable and organic farming in Hertfordshire) and Alexia Robinson (founder of the British Food Fortnight). The four panel members discussed and debated a wide variety of questions from the audience.

Look out for your chance to go to the 2009 Oxford farming Conference as a YFC member in your club correspondence later in the year.

Vicci Camp

Skills Development Worker

I have recently been appointed as the Skills Development Worker for the Devon Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, and look forward to meeting you in the next month or so.

I have many years experience in land based training, having worked for both NPTC & Lantra and local colleges, both dealing with short courses and National Vocational Qualifications. I have plenty of hands on experience too, and understand the difficulties facing agricultural and rural communities at present. I farm with my husband in the Teign Valley, and our main enterprises are sheep and free range poultry.

I shall be contacting each Group and Club to find out when it will be convenient for me to come to your meetings, when I hope to get to know you and find out how I can help and advise on any training requirements you may have.

If you wish to contact me in the meantime, please do so either in the office on Wednesday mornings, or by email or mobile number listed below. I look forward to working with you.

Claire Purser
claire@devonyfc.co.uk
07783729474

Competition Report

Unfortunately we have had no entries for the Junior Reading Competition and therefore the County final scheduled for the 7th February has been cancelled. If any Groups can get a team together please let Gill know in the office asap, as you may be able to go forward to the next round.

Coming up – The Group rounds of the Countryside & Safety Quiz are due to take place on Monday 28th January, with the top Non-YFC team, and the winning YFC team going forward to the County Final on Monday 11th February at The Waie Inn. We also have the revamped ‘Conservation in Farming Competition’ coming up. The competition is now designed around applying for a farm tenancy, encouraging business plans etc. Hopefully those of you who would like to take part have already entered! The farm viewing days have been arranged for later this month.

Stars in their Eyes replaces last year’s Disco dancing, and I hope that we will see each Group entering, there’s no excuse as I’m sure many of you have singing parts in your entertainments, so why not make the practicing even more worthwhile! Moving on to Entertainments & Member of the Year, these will be taking place alongside Stars in their Eyes at The Palace Avenue, in Paignton on the 2nd March. Finally, we are currently trying to organise practices for the speaking teams which will be going forward to SWA next month. So if you were one of those selected you should be hearing from Gill or myself shortly. Good luck to all those competing at South West Area.

Kath

Chairmans Chatter

What a busy start to the year and i'm sure you are busy practising your entertains and stars in their eyes! It was good to see so many of you in fancy dress at the new years dance, I felt very secure having so many nurses and police officers around, excellent effort.



I hope all clubs are getting their Devon County Show entries in, this year is going to be big one with not only having a bigger marquee to fill but incorporating the Year of Food and Farming. Please can I encourage you all to make an extra special effort to get your entries in. Please read the travel section as there two opportunities for you to travel, Austria and Montana, please take advantage of these trips. Cheers

Peter Reed



County Contact

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The YFC Office is open:
Mon – Thur 8:30am 4:30pm,
Fri 8:30am – 1pm.

FARM BUSINESS COMPETITION –

Have a go you might learn something useful!!!!!!

The Farm Business Competition starts on Monday 18th February with the first opportunity to view the farm. There is a second opportunity to view on Saturday 23rd February. You only need to attend one visit but are welcome to attend both if you wish. There are 2 members in each team of any membership age – you will need to put together a short report with photos of around 6/8 pages. The top 5 teams will be invited to present their projects and business plans on the 22nd April at the YFC Centre. All teams entering the competition and completing the report are invited to visit Highgrove Home Farm, by kind permission of HRH The Prince of Wales. The day will be kindly sponsored by Cornish Mutual Assurance and the transport will be provided.

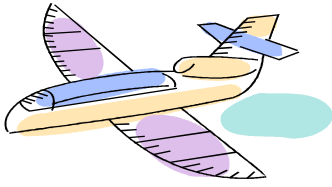
If you are interested please contact myself on 01392 272189 by 11th February.

Nick Creasy



Reminders have now gone out for trophies to be returned for events coming up in the next few months. Please ensure they are engraved, cleaned and MOST IMPORTANTLY returned to the office in plenty of time to avoid any fines!





News from the Travel Desk...

The travel team have been quite active over the last month or two and have lots more opportunities open to all you budding young globe trotters.

Scholarship

Firstly the Junior and Senior destinations have been confirmed. The juniors will travel to Sweden on 6th August, with the Swedish group returning late October. The seniors should be travelling to Russia in June, with the Russian party arriving in Devon in August. We are still looking for a Female Junior Leader to go with Jason Hill to Sweden. If you are interested in helping Jason lead the group please speak to me or the county office.

Montana

Since Sarah Smith has now returned to Montana, we have another opportunity to send a Devon member over to Montana for 6 weeks to 6 months from late

June. Application forms are with your secretaries, with the closing date being 29th February. The successful person will be expected to cover all their costs; however you could approach local businesses and organisations for help. For more information give me a call.

Austria 2008

Lastly we have been invited to join with Austria for their "Youth in Action Project" from 13 to 20 July. We are looking for a group of 5 members, plus a leader to go to Austria with other groups from Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Poland and Austria. The members must be between 16 and 21, with the leader being over 21. The members will be expected to cover their own costs, although if Austria is successful with their funding, you will be reimbursed.

Also, we will be hosting another IFYE candidate from Montana in June, so if you are interested in hosting, please contact Helen Blowey.

That's it for now.

Becca Staddon

Do you transport animals?
Do you travel more than
65 Km (40 miles)?



if so...

From 5th January 2008
YOU WILL BE REQUIRED BY LAW
to obtain a certificate of competence.

British Wool Marketing Board Training are able to offer the necessary assessments for the NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Transport of Animals by Road (Short Journeys). We are now established as a Global On Line Assessment Centre.

For further information and registration forms
email bwmb@devonyfc.co.uk or

Call Alison on 01392 477944

**City & Guilds
NPTC**



We offer assessments
at a reasonable cost.

**British Wool
Marketing Board
working for YOU.**

Dates for Your Diary

March Newsletter Entry deadline February 20th all entries emailed to admin@agrit.co.uk

2008	
February	
7 th	Scholarship meeting, YFC Centre
8 th	Bow YFC Valentines Disco at Fingle Glen. 9-1. members £5, Non Members (No u18s £6. ID needed. Tel Pete on 07737 368969
	Totnes YFC Cops & Robbers themed Disco @ Harbertonford Village Hall. 8-12 (happy hour 8.30 – 9.30pm) Members £4 non members (no u18s) £5. if you dress up you can get a free drink, but if you are under 18 you can have £1 off the entrance fee!
	Honiton YFC Chav and Chavette disco @ Luppitt Village Hall. 9-1. £4 members, £5 non members (no u16s), £1 off entry with fancy dress. ROAR.
11 th	Countryside & Safety Quiz Final, Waie Inn
15 th	Newton St Cyres YFC Blind Date & Disco @ Newton St Cyres Rec. 8pm. Contestants are needed! Contact Georgina on 07933 621130
16 th	East Devon Group Stars in their Eyes disco and karaoke in aid of group funds. Colyton Town Hall. 9-1. No U18 non members. To enter/details call 07812 983235 or 07775 628491.
18 th	Farming Competition – 1 st Farm Viewing
21 st	General Council
22 nd	Haldon Group Ball
23 rd	Farming competition – 2 nd Farm Viewing
March	
2 nd	County Final Entertainments, Member of the Year & Stars in their Eyes, Paignton Tickets available from the County Office
5 th	County Final Ten Pin Bowling, TenPin, Exeter
7 th	Whimble and Broadclyst Disco. Details TBA
7 th	Bow YFC Spring Dinner & Dance @ Waie Inn
	Tavistock YFC Dinner & Dance, New Continental Hotel, Plymouth. Tickets from Joy on 01822 833084 or Richard 07855 639457
14-16 th	South West Area Weekend, Newquay
20 th	General Council
28 th	Deadline for Farming Competition projects
	Newton St Cyres YFC Annual Race Night at The Crown and Sceptre
April	
3 rd	County Final Skittles, Waie Inn
4 th	Fundraising Event for Travel Programme
7 th	Milky Way Fun Evening, Milky Way
10 th	BOM
11 th	Spring Dance at Matford Livestock Centre
17 th	County Final Pool & Darts at the Waie Inn
22 nd	Farm Business Plan Presentation, YFC Centre
24 th	Members meeting

