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CALU's subject areas:

- Horticulture
- Bio-energy
- Arable crops
- Non-food crops
- Alternative livestock

Small scale turkey production

Recent years have seen an increase in the demand for high quality, traditionally reared Christmas turkeys.

Seasonal turkey production can offer an excellent opportunity for farmers to boost their income, but it is not an easy option.

UK production of turkeys has been in decline for over a decade. In 1996, more than 38 million birds were produced in the UK. By 2007, this had declined to less than 15 million. Over the same period, consumption of turkey has stayed at roughly the same level: this indicates that UK producers are missing out.

To achieve the best prices,

small scale producers need to use traditional strains of birds (e.g. bronze or Norfolk black).



Norfolk black turkey

These birds are slower growing and produce more flavoursome meat than the improved birds used in commercial systems. The birds take around six months to reach slaughter weight. So early planning is needed.

CALU has produced a new factsheet providing a brief introductory guide to small scale poultry production. Copies can be downloaded from the website free of charge – www.calu.bangor.ac.uk

There are strict regulations governing the slaughter of livestock for sale: potential producers need to ensure they are familiar with and comply with these.

For more information on the requirements for legal and humane slaughter, contact The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) at info@hsa.org.uk or telephone 01582 831919. HSA also runs practical courses on slaughter of poultry.

Four Oaks ornamental horticulture trade fair

This year's Four Oaks ornamental horticulture trade fair took place on 2nd and 3rd September. As usual, the event was meticulously organised and well attended despite changeable weather.

Items we noticed of particular interest included:

- Talbott's display of chip fuelled biomass boilers (www.talbotts.co.uk);
- Botanicoir's compressed coir products (www.botanicoir.com)
- Strulch's mulch made from straw

(www.strulch.co.uk)

- Mycorrhizal Systems Ltd promoting the production of culinary truffles (www.plantationsystems.com)
- Aston Horticulture and their range of plant protection products based on garlic and other natural extracts (www.astonhorticulture.com)

Series of CALU pesticide workshops

Appropriate and safe use of pesticides is essential. However, the legislation governing pesticide usage and storage can seem daunting. This is particularly the case for those diversifying into the production of new crops – especially edible crops.

To help farmers and growers know what they should and should not be doing, CALU is running a series of on-farm workshops addressing safe pesticide usage, storage and disposal.

The workshops will be led by CALU's horticulture specialists: Chris Creed and Aldwyn Clarke from ADAS Wales. The day will combine both practical and theoretical elements. The information learnt on the day will be invaluable to any farmers or growers thinking about joining one of the recognised Quality Assurance Schemes.

Those attending the courses will receive supporting information from a wide range of sources including the Voluntary Initiative, Defra and WAG.

The workshops will be held at six different locations across Wales between October 2008 and February 2009. Participants will be able to collect NRoSO and / or BASIS CPD points for attending it.

The first event will take place at CALU Henfaes Research Centre, Abergwyngregyn on November 17th.

The events are fully funded through Farming Connect, so there is no charge to attendees. For more information on the course contents, dates and venues, or to book your place, please contact us.

DID YOU KNOW...

From 2008, the Single Payment Scheme has been extended for a wide range of vegetables and fruits. Those already claiming Single Payment will be eligible from 2008; growers who haven't previously claimed will be eligible for payments from 2010. The application deadline is 31st December 2008.

CALU Potato events

On the 10th July Emlyn Williams hosted this year's first CALU potato event, focusing on seed potato production in Wales. The success of this event was followed by the annual CALU and Sárvári Research Trust open day at Henfaes on the 15th August. The day was well attended with over 50 guests.

After a morning of talks, attendees were happy to tuck into a lunch of chips made from the varieties Will and Mira, and potato salads made from Kifli and Una varieties.

The next in the series of potato themed open days was held in September. Ashley Hope of Gilfach y Fran kindly opened his farm and his fields to allow close inspection of his crops.

He is a new potato grower who has benefited from the guidance and support of the Ceredigion potato grower group. Mr. Hope has planted Sárpo Mira, Home Guard and Desirée potatoes. Aldwyn Clarke, CALU Horticulture advisor and Senior Scientific officer with ADAS was available during the afternoon to offer help and support to any farmers looking to start growing or who are already growing potatoes.



Looking at Sárpo seed potatoes

For those of you interested in growing potatoes Thompson and Morgan currently stock Sárpo Mira and Axona. The Sárvári Research Trust are hoping that Kifli, an early main crop salad variety, Adam Blue (a purple skinned 'novelty' early main crop), Will (an early white main crop) and Una (a pink skinned early variety which can be left to bulk up for summer bakers) will all be added to the list soon.

Lavender at Henfaes

In our spring newsletter we reported on the lavender project starting at Henfaes.

Both varieties (Hidcote and Munstead) grew away well, initially in 9cm pots. They were transplanted into their final field site in early June.

There were a few initial losses following transplanting - mainly due to a rabbit that found its way into the plot. Since the rabbit was evicted and the fence repaired, the plants have thrived.

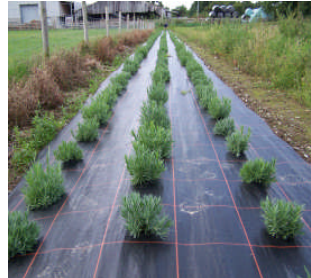
We have produced a factsheet detailing both the processes we

used and their associated costs. This is available from the website – www.calu.bangor.ac.uk.

We will continue to monitor and report on the plants over the coming seasons.

We are also in discussions with the Chemistry Department here at Bangor University and hope to have analyses conducted on the plants to see if there are significant differences in the oil yield and quality from the two varieties.

So far, apart from initial differences in the plants on receipt from the suppliers, we have not



CALU lavender plot

noted any significant differences in the growth rates of the two different varieties.

Goat skins

CALU has been contacted by a number of goat producers recently regarding the issue of goat skins.

As goat skins are classed as an animal by-product, there are strict regulations covering their movement and processing.

Any goat producers who want to bring their skins back from the slaughterhouse will need to apply

for an Intermediate Plant Licence from the Welsh Assembly Government.

To obtain a licence, producers will need to fill in a form (available from the WAG website <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalbyproductswaste/?lang=en>) and then a vet from the Animal Health team will need to inspect

the premises to ensure they meet requirements.

The licence is then valid for two years. The process is free.

For further information, contact your local Animal Health Office.

Caernarfon: 01286 674144
Carmarthen: 01267 245400
Cardiff: 029 2076 8500

DID YOU KNOW...

Lavender is used for anxiety reduction in some dentist's waiting rooms.

Source: BBC

Renewable energy event - 7th October

Everyone is aware of the increasing fuel price and this has raised the questions what can we do about it.

CALU in conjunction with IBERS, (Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences) will be holding an event at the Plas Gogerddan site in Aberystwyth on the 7th October. The open event aims to look at the role of energy

crops to reduce energy costs and provide a more sustainable energy supply for Wales.

During the day there will be chance to look at the Willows for Wales project (<http://www.iger.bbsrc.ac.uk/Practice/WillowsforWales.htm>), improved miscanthus varieties, a look at grass as a future energy crop and

bio-refining to access the valuable chemicals in grass. The day will conclude with a tour of the plots at the site.

For more information or to register for the event please contact CALU, 01248 680450
calu@bangor.ac.uk

CENTRE FOR ALTERNATIVE LAND USE

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Supporting sustainable land use in Wales



Forthcoming Events

Wednesday, 1st October - Ceredigion Grower's Discussion Group meeting, Aberaeron

Tuesday, 7th October - Renewable Energies—Development Farm event, IBERS, Plas Gogerddan

Thursday, 23rd October - Organic Conference, Royal Welsh Show Ground, Builth Wells

Tuesday, 4th November—Promoting pig production in Wales, Glynliffon site, Coleg Meirion-Dwyfor, Caernarfon

Monday, 17th November—Safe use of pesticides workshop, Henfaes Research Centre, Gwynedd

Wednesday 19th November - Workshop—Orchard Restoration, Vale of Glamorgan

Wednesday, 26th November—Development Farm Event, Welsh College of Horticulture, Northop

Thursday, 27th November—Safe use of pesticide workshop, Bellis Country Market, Holt, nr. Wrexham

1st & 2nd December - Royal Welsh Winter Fair, visit CALU's stall displaying a wide range of growing media; Builth Wells

For more information about any of CALU's events, please contact us.

About CALU

CALU delivers the Farming Connect Knowledge Transfer Development Programme for Land Management. The programme provides information to any business in Wales that is interested in:

- Horticulture
- Bio-energy
- Alternative Livestock
- Arable Crops
- Non-food Crops

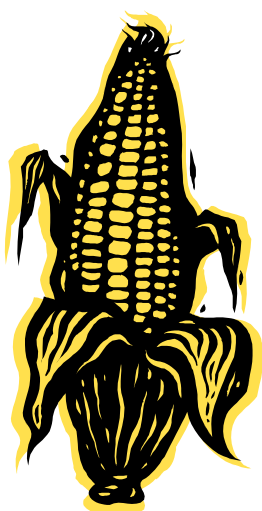
CALU has three dedicated members of staff and a network of associate specialists covering all the topics within CALU's remit.

CALU ACTIVITIES:

- Open days
- Demonstration events
- Technical leaflets
- Training days
- Press articles
- Crop information sheets
- Project reports
- Talks
- Producer groups
- Agricultural shows
- Information booklets

CALU PARTNERS:

- University of Wales, Bangor
- Welsh College of Horticulture
- ADAS
- Coed Cymru
- Coleg Llysfasi



Cronfa Amaethyddol Ewrop ar gyfer Datblygu Gwledig
Ewrop yn Buddsoddi mewn Ardaloedd Gwledig
The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Europe Investing in Rural Areas



FARMING
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cyswllt
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