

**Worcestershire Rural Hub Limited
is committed to helping the rural businesses
of Worcestershire**

Steering Group Members

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Dear All,

**Worcestershire Rural
Hub becomes part of the
Rural and farming
networks.**

Following Agriculture Minister Jim Paice announcement today we are pleased to inform you that Worcestershire Rural Hub has been selected as one of the 14 organisations within the network, to represent Worcestershire and Warwickshire. We are pleased to add that The Rural Hubs Partnership, a combination of Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire Hubs have also been chosen as one of the 14 to represent their areas.

The press release is included in the Newsletter and this explains the role we will fulfill as point of contact for the local area. We will be providing regular updates to you on progress and issues and look forward to taking on the role on behalf of the rural communities, rural businesses and the food and farming industries.

Kind regards

Val and Pauline

Rural and farming networks to provide hotline to the heart of government

Rural business leaders will have a hotline to the heart of Government through the creation of new Rural and Farming Networks, Agriculture Minister Jim Paice announced today. This means that they will be able to directly shape future rural policies.

Fourteen networks representing different areas of England have been set up to identify and feed back local issues and concerns straight to the heart of Government, in order to make policies more rural-friendly.

The Networks bring together people from rural communities, rural businesses and the food and farming industries. They will make a direct link between rural areas and the Government, creating new opportunities to develop better and more targeted policy.

Each group will also be a vital point of contact in the event of local emergencies – such as flooding – giving advice and information so that the right kind of assistance can be provided to keep businesses running.

Speaking at the Oxford Farming Conference, Jim Paice said:

“For too long our rural communities have been overlooked and had too little say in decisions which affect them. We are putting that right through the Rural and Farming Networks. They will have direct access to Ministers and, just as importantly, Ministers will use them to ensure we understand the impact of our policies.

“Defra will be the ‘listening’ department that will understand and promote the interests of rural communities and businesses, based on direct contact with the people whose livelihoods we are championing.”

The Rural and Farming Network groups are:

1. Farming Food and Rural Network East
2. Rural Network East Midlands
3. Lincolnshire Forum for Agriculture and Horticulture
4. Derbyshire Economic Partnership Rural Forum
5. Food, Farming and Rural Affairs Tees Valley
6. Farming and Rural Issues Group (covering much of the South East)
7. Essex Rural Partnership
8. The Kent Rural Network
9. Rural Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Partnership
10. South West Rural and Farming Network
11. Worcestershire Rural Hub (covering Worcestershire and close links with Warwickshire)
12. The Rural Hubs Partnership (covering Herefordshire, Shropshire and Staffs)
13. Yorkshire Food, Farming and Rural Network
14. The North Eastern Farming and Rural Advisory Network

The new networks sit alongside a £165 million package of measures to support rural communities announced in the Rural Economy Growth Review which aims to maximise the economic potential of rural communities and businesses. The Rural Economy Growth Review included:

- £100 million to grow rural businesses through the Rural Development Programme for England;
- Grants totaling £20 million to extend superfast broadband to the remotest areas;
- New Rural Growth Networks to help rural areas overcome barriers to growth such as poor infrastructure, scarcity of business premises and lack of business networks;
- Action to cut red tape on use of farm buildings to address the shortage of rural business premises;
- £25 million to promote rural tourism and supporting its businesses; and
- Loans totaling £20 million for community-owned renewable energy schemes.
 - The Rural and Farming Network will meet for the first time in early 2012 and then on individual policy areas

Forestry Commission (England) – West Midlands Region – Grants Update

Grant Type	2011-2012	2012-2013
Woodland Assessment	Closed	Open
Woodland Planning	Closed	Open
Woodland Improvement (BIO,Bird,Access,SSI,NI197)	Closed	Open
Woodland Management	Closed	Open
Woodland Regeneration	Closed	Open
Woodland Creation	Closed	Open

Woodfuel Woodland Improvement Grant

This grant supports the sustainable production of woodfuel and other timber products. Work needs to meet the UK Forest Standard but the basis for support is economic rather than environmental or social. The grant offers 60% towards the cost of work, and doesn't take account of the timber income that results.

The following main operations are supported:-

Roads, tracks and other infrastructure to assist the extraction of timber from woodland. Support will be based on 3 quotes and grant paid on the production of receipted invoices. Woodland inventory and costs associated with managing harvesting contracts. Support for this work is based on [standard costs](#). In order to be eligible for this grant, the woodland must have an approved management plan in place so we recommend owners apply for [Woodland Planning Grant](#) if one isn't in place already.

For further details regarding all Woodland Grants, please contact your Forestry Commission Woodland Officers:

Worcestershire & East Herefordshire: **Wayne Barnes** 01905 532213
wayne.barnes@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

South Shropshire and West Herefordshire: **Nick Smith** 01584 877544
nick.smith@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Or visit the website www.forestry.gov.uk/ewgs

GAEC 19 Effective from 1st January 2012

Applies to all farmers in England, even those not in an NVZ.

YOU MUST NOT

- Apply manufactured nitrogen (inorganic) fertiliser within 2 metres of surface water.
- Apply organic manure within 10 metres of surface water, except on land managed for breeding wader birds or as species rich semi-natural grassland and under certain other restrictions.
- Apply organic manure within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole.

IF YOU APPLY ORGANIC MANURE, YOU MUST

- Produce and keep a map of your holding showing
All surface waters on your holding and land within 10 metres of them.
All springs, wells and boreholes on your holding, and within 50 metres of the boundary of your holding, and land within 50 metres of them.

Update the map with any changes within 3 months from the date of the change.

If you have land in an NVZ and you are meeting the requirements under SMR4 NVZs, you will also meet the rules under this standard in respect of that land.

Regional Farm Business Survey Workshop Tuesday 14th February 2012, 9am – 2pm

Sixways Stadium, Worcester Rugby Club

Rural Business Research (RBR) at the **University of Reading** invite you to discover the wealth of free to use economic and financial information available directly to you from the Farm Business Survey (FBS).

The FBS is the most extensive and independent source of information on the performance of farm businesses in the UK and is widely used to inform policy at national level and to aid farm management decision making within the industry. We would welcome the opportunity to showcase the outputs from the survey including the latest results, benchmarking capability and internet reports that are available to you.

Please bring along your wi-fi enabled laptop as the morning will end with a practical session.

Attendance at this half day workshop is free of charge and includes refreshments and a buffet lunch.

To register your interest in attending please visit our website:

<http://farmbusinesssurvey.co.uk/workshops/>

or contact **Helen Davis** by telephone on **0118 378 6480** or email at h.m.davis@reading.ac.uk

Green Futures - 2012

Programme

Tuesday – March 6th YFC Centre, Shires Farm, Hawford, Worcestershire, WR3 7SG

All events run – 7pm – 9pm

Time	Topic	Presenter
6.30pm Onwards	Sign in	Val Breakwell Hub Co-ordinator
7.00pm	Introduction	Pauline Yardley
7.05pm	Cross compliance update:- Inspection Figures 2011 Reminder on animal records GAEC 19 – risk maps	Robert Kynaston
7.40pm	NVZ consultation New rules RPA taking over inspections Waste water exemptions reminders Water Framework Directive CFS Update	Environment Agency
8.10pm	ELS Update	Natural England
8.30pm	Online Services Campaign for Farmed Environment TB issues (where appropriate)	NFU/CLA
8.45pm	Update on Grant funding	Rural Hubs
9.00pm	Completion of Feedback forms Tea and Coffee	Rural Hubs

FiT for FARMING Networking Event 10th May 2012, Stoneleigh Park

The Feed-in Tariff (FiT) scheme and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) means landowners who invest in renewable energy technologies can claim attractive payments for the electricity and heat that they generate.

However, for those with busy work schedules, it can be difficult to commit the necessary time to assess the opportunities, decide on the best technologies to utilise and the most suitable suppliers to work with.

The Midlands FiT for FARMING networking event provides a time-efficient opportunity for those planning renewable projects to have pre-arranged appointments with technology companies and services firms, in order to evaluate options and short-list potential companies to work with.

A wide range of companies are using the event to host meetings to discuss the viability and practicalities of potential renewable projects, including: Wind Turbines, Solar PV, Hydropower, Anaerobic Digestion, Solar Thermal, Heat Pumps and Biomass Heat Projects

Participation is free for those looking to invest in a renewable project on their own land. On the run-up to the event all registered participants are invited to select, either online or by phone, which companies they would like to meet with and so create themselves a programme of individual pre-arranged appointments.

The networking event is open from 9:00 – 17:00 on 10th May 2012, with appointments scheduled at times convenient for each individual participant.

**Online Registration: www.fitforfarming.com
Telephone Registration: 01883 344799**

Energy Now Expo 2012

15th & 16th February 2012
Malvern Show Ground, Worcestershire,
WR13 6NW

Learn about Renewable Energy Solutions for your business. Energy Now Expo is a two-day conference and exhibition designed to bring together farmers and landowners from all over the UK to help them explore and further understand the opportunities available in renewable energy – wind, biomass, biofuels, biogas, ground source heating, hydro and solar.

There are three parts to this event:

CONFERENCE

The two days of conference will explain how the alternative energy technologies work, their viability and potential investment opportunities for your land and business.

EXHIBITION

The exhibition will showcase a wealth of information on renewable energy solutions for farmers and landowners. Exhibitors already include: EDF Energy Renewables, FLI Energy, British Hydropower Association, Biomass Energy Centre, Fisher German, Aeolus Power, Farm 2000, WELtec BioPower, Ardenham Energy, SmartestEnergy, Windcrop, Energy Innovations (UK) Ltd and ICE Renewables.

WORKSHOPS

Hear presentations from exhibitors giving practical advice on the solutions available.

**For further details and booking form,
please contact:
Renewable Energy Events Ltd on 01293 854405**

MERCIA ORGANIC PRODUCERS
“SUPPORTING ORGANIC FARMERS, GROWERS &
PRODUCERS IN THE MIDLANDS”
Monday 21st May 2012 6pm (Cost £2)

Evening farm walk at Lower Smite Farm, Smite Hill,

Hindlip, Worcester, WR3 8SZ. Lower Smite Farm is just off J6 of the M5; see www.worcswildlifetrust.co.uk for directions. Beware sat nav taking you to the nearby Pear Tree Inn.

In the summer we organise a number of farm walks within the region. All are welcome – please show this flyer to anyone who may be interested. It is becoming very expensive to post out details of forthcoming events so if you have access to E-mail please could you send in your address to: (psumption@gardenorganic.org.uk).

Any enquiries please contact Phil Sumption 024 7621 7744 / 07759 318942 or Francis Rayns: 024 7621 7716



Free Breakfast Event to give up to date technical information and training for agents, advisers and agronomists

28th February 2012

8:30am – 11.30am

The Bartlett Suite, The Pear Tree Inn & Country Hotel, Smite, Worcestershire, WR3 8SY

Event ref: WMME61

1st March 2012

8:30am – 11.30am

Temperton Room, Harper Adams Agriculture College, Newport, Shropshire, TF10 8NB

Event ref: WMME62

15th March 2012

8:30 –am – 11:30am

The Fishing Lodge, Toft Farm, Dunchurch, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV23 8AD

Event ref: WMME63

20th March 2012

8:30am – 11:30am

The Sir Stuart Goodwin Pavilion, Newark Showground, Newark, Nottinghamshire,

NG24 2NY

Event ref: EMME64

27th March 2012

8:30am – 11:30am

The Lakeview Suite, Greetham Valley Golf Club, Oakham,

Rutland, LE15 7SN

Event ref: EMME65

www.naturalengland.org.uk



Belbroughton Big Breakfast

!The return of the much loved local Big Breakfast!

12th February Belbroughton Village Hall

8.30 to Mid Day £5.00 (Not to be Missed!)

Proceeds to Air Ambulance and RABI

Local Advertisements and Events

Worcestershire Farmers Markets

Droitwich: 4th February, 3rd March 9am – 2pm

Worcester: Christopher Whitehead School 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month

Bromsgrove: 11th February, 10th March 9am – 5pm

Malvern: Abbey Road 18th February, 17th March 9am - 2pm

St. Peters Garden Centre: 25th February, 24th March

Cattle Grazing Required

Cattle Grazing land required to rent on licence or FBT
Within 10 miles of Bromsgrove

Anything considered from 5 to 50 acres

Contact Ben Roberts 07714 148169

bjre.roberts@btopenworld.com

USE YOUR NEWSLETTER

We are able to offer space within our newsletter for classified advertisements and events as follows:

Local rural events, such as shows, open days, charity events or rural interest events can be inserted free of charge.

Situations Vacant and Situations Wanted can also be inserted free of charge.

Items for sale or wanted can be advertised and carry a small charge of £5 for a quarter page and £10 for a half page.

Business and Service Advertisements That are relevant to rural industries can also be inserted for £10 per quarter page and £20 per half page.

We would need copy by 15th of the month for the following months news letter to ensure insertion. Copy can be either a word document or PDF, sent by email to: pauline.yardley@wrh.org.uk

For more details contact Pauline, either on the email above or
Tel: 07833 051601.

Our news letter is circulated to over 800 rural businesses in the area

Disclaimer – The Worcestershire Rural Hub accepts no liability for any direct, indirect or consequential loss arising from any action taken in reliance on the information contained in this newsletter.