

CORNWALL Agricultural Development TEAM

NEW FACES AND A BIGGER TEAM

As many of you may now be aware some new faces have joined David Rodda (senior agricultural co-ordinator) and Roger Metcalf (dairy sector co-ordinator) in the Agricultural Development Team (ADT) Office.

Mel Sanders moved on at Christmas to take up a post as policy adviser for the NFU, her replacement is Elizabeth Menmuir who joined the ADT in April. Elizabeth a farmers daughter from Yorkshire moved to Cornwall 2 ½ years ago after graduating from Seale-Hayne. She joins us having worked on Bodmin Moor for 2 years as Project Officer on the Objective 5b EAGGF funded Bodmin Moor Project. As Assistant Agricultural Co-ordinator she is available to assist and advise in the preparation of funding applications.

Two new part time posts have also been created.



William Garnier, Woodmeet facilitator will be working 2 ½ days a week with the team promoting and facilitating wood projects. Previously William managed his own arboriculture and forestry management business in Dorset before setting up a charitable fundraising project last year.

Morwenna Walford in her new post as Consultancy Services Administrative Assistant will provide general admin. support and financial processing to Agricultural team among other sections within Cornwall Enterprise. She has worked within Cornwall Enterprise for 6 months so is prepared for the unenviable task of making sure the office runs smoothly.



Mr and Mrs D.G.Lambrick & Son,
Toppenrose Dairy, Trenance Farm,
Trenance, St. Keverne,
Cornwall. TR12 6QL

Phone: 01 326 280 117

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Project worked up by the Cornwall Agricultural Development Team

Cornish dairy farmer David Lambrick and his family in partnership are diversifying into speciality cheese production thanks to a £52,700 grant from the Objective One programme.

Toppenrose Dairy, at Trenance Farm, St Keverne will produce fresh and mould-ripened cheeses in a purpose-built factory on the farm. Initially, milk will be coming from Trenance Farm but as sales grow more milk will be required from local farms.

The project, which is also being funded by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, involves the demolition of a shuttered concrete-built barn and replacing it with a 'state of the art' creamery equipped for the production, storage and packaging of cheeses.

David Lambrick said: "We're a small farm with limited acreage and with milk prices being so volatile, the returns have been disappointing. We knew the only way ahead was to diversify and with the help of Objective One and DEFRA, we've been able to do that."

"We decided that speciality cheese production offered the best use of our resources and as this market sector is growing, this route had to be our way forward."

"We are now looking to produce at least three new cheeses for sale within Cornwall and to speciality cheese retailers throughout the UK. It will be about six months until we have built the factory, installed the equipment and developed our cheese-making skills sufficiently to start marketing our new products".

For more information please contact David Lambrick.

Q. I have a range of redundant farm buildings which I want to convert into holiday accommodation, can I get a grant?

A. Yes but it is widely accepted that the supply of holiday accommodation in Cornwall generally exceeds demand. Therefore an applicant is unlikely to receive grant aid from Objective One unless the business plan which accompanies the application can demonstrate that the project will provide a service for which there is a market and will not take trade from existing Cornish businesses.

Q. I have an old piece of equipment which I need to replace can I get funding for this?

A. Straight replacement of equipment would not be fundable. If the equipment will provide additionality to your enterprise it may be fundable however this would be dependent on the enterprise for which it was used. Example replacing a cream pasteuriser for a similar machine would not be eligible however replacing a cream pasteuriser with modern version which will not only improve the quality of the product and time taken to produce but also enable you to experiment in an alternative product such as crème fraiche could be eligible.

Q. Why is Objective One so complex?

A. Objective One funding is the highest level of European funding available to any region. It is match funded by money from the UK Government (DEFRA in the case of EAGGF). It is therefore public money and we all want to see our taxes spent in the most efficient way.

Cornwall has been allocated Objective One status to boost the economy which lags behind other regions in Europe. It is therefore essential that any investment into a business must be worthwhile and have a positive impact on the Cornish economy as a whole not simply on one farm business.

Q. What are umbrella projects?

A. Umbrella Projects are schemes where Government Office South West has delegated the approval and funding for specific types of project (e.g. farm diversification) to an external body. The schemes are only available to projects with total project cost of under £100,000, if your project idea exceeds this limit an application direct to GOSW will be needed. They have been established to streamline the process for applicants and have staff in place to assist with application development.

Q. Do I need planning permission before I put in application?

A. If planning permission is required an offer letter will not be issued until planning consent is in place. We therefore recommend a planning application is submitted prior to a funding application. It is possible to receive help with pre application costs.

Q. Why can you not fund projects which will improve the core agriculture on my farm?

A. Currently agricultural production is not a focus for the Objective One programme for Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. Cornwall Agricultural Council are keen to see this reviewed with a view to amending the rules.

Q. How long will it take?

A. If an application is made to direct to GOSW 3-4 months from application submission. Umbrella projects were set up to speed up the process usually make a decision in 2 months.

Q. What are the conditions?

A. They vary depending on the project and the information given in your business plan. Generally you are tied to the conditions of the agreement (offer letter) for 5 years from the end of the project.

Q. What do I need to do once I have signed an offer letter.

A. Get on and deliver your project and spend the money and

1) Claims are submitted in arrears in accordance with your financial projections in the business plan this can be monthly, quarterly etc.

2) Reports outlining the progress of your project need to accompany the grant claim.

You cannot claim grant for any expenditure incurred before your agreement has been signed and returned to GOSW.

Q. Can I get help to set up a totally new business?

A. Yes but you must be able to demonstrate that the new business will not have negative impact on any existing businesses in the area.

Q. Who can help point me in the right direction?

Agricultural Development Team
David Rodda (01872) 322888
Roger Metcalf (01872) 322890
Elizabeth Menmuir (01872) 322889
William Garnier (Wood) (07968) 892754

What is happening with the money?

EAGGF (European Agricultural Guidance & Guarantee Fund) current position.

PRIORITY	ALLOCATION	COMMITMENT		
		GRANT	% OF	TOTAL
MEASURE	GRANT	GRANT	% OF	TOTAL
	VALUE	ALLOC	VALUE OF PROJECTS	
PRIORITY 1				
1.4	24,692,200	1,558,744	6.31	7,357,419
P1 TOTAL	£24,692,200	£1,558,744	6.31	£7,357,419
PRIORITY 4				
4.3	1,027,000	5,052	0.49	10,103
4.4	4,101,500	1,697,263	41.38	4,293,042
4.5	3,074,500	598,364	19.46	1,943,728
4.6	18,438,550	9,226,857	50.04	31,788,926
P4 TOTAL	£26,641,550	£11,527,536	43.27	£38,035,799
EAGGF TOTALS	£51,333,750	£13,086,280	25.49	£45,393,218

Cornwall is almost 2 years into a 6 year programme. Just over a quarter of the funding has been allocated to projects, the biggest area of interest being measure 4.6 Promoting the adaptation and development of rural areas.

Many more projects are being worked up or have been submitted and are under appraisal.