

“Grow Your Business” Training Programme

Following the success of the ‘Grow Your Business’ training programme last winter, CAFRE has further developed it for this winter. The new programme will comprise of one seminar and six workshops and will be delivered from 27th January to 18th February 2010. It is designed to develop the skills of growers and their families to grow their horticulture businesses and it is aimed at all those involved in commercial production.

Details of the programme are as follows;

Trees Store Carbon Seminar

**Wednesday 27th January 2010,
Loughry Campus, Cookstown**

The College of Agriculture and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and the Agri-food and Bioscience Institute (AFBI)

The seminar will consider the potential of trees in carbon capture and storage, the role of forestry, woodlands and carbon in the Northern Ireland context. The afternoon session will deal with current research and technology transfer programmes at both CAFRE and AFBI which are investigating a range of tree and biomass systems for Northern Ireland conditions.



20 year old ash trees in an agro-forestry farming system

“Grow Your Business” Training Programme

- Trees Store
Carbon Seminar
- Renewable Energy
Usage on a
mushroom farm
- Introduction to
Renewables
- Growing Lean
- Energy efficiency
and Renewable
energy in
horticulture
- Employment law
- Staff motivation in
horticulture
businesses

Renewable Energy Usage on a mushroom farm

**Thursday 28th January 2010,
Keenaghan Mushrooms for 2pm**

Frank Donnelly, Keenaghan Mushrooms (Focus Farm), Moy, BT71 6SN and Nigel Moore, Renewable Energy Technologist, CAFRE

The workshop will demonstrate renewable energy usage on this horticulture focus farm. This is an opportunity to view a 150kW biomass boiler fuelled by wood chip providing heat for the mushroom farm, packhouse and dwelling houses.



Introduction to Renewables

**Monday 1st February -
Thursday 4th February 2010**

Anita Gribben, Greengage, NI and CAFRE Renewable Energy Team.

This half day workshop will be delivered at four different venues throughout Northern Ireland during the first week of February. It will cover the main renewable energy options for the horticultural and agricultural industries. Renewable heat is available from a number of sources including biomass, solar hot water systems and heat pumps. Renewable electricity can be generated from wind power, water power or by photovoltaic cells. The potential of each of these options is discussed on the workshop and costings are carried out to give an idea of their economic benefits to the business.

Growing Lean

**Thursday 4th February 2010,
Greenmount Campus for 10am-4pm**

Neil Fedden, Management Consultant, Unique Service Process

A one day Lean awareness workshop which will give you the knowledge, practical experience and confidence to undertake continuous improvement activities in your business. Lean helps you reduce costs, making better use of your resources to satisfy customer requirements and so increasing sales. The theory is illustrated with case studies from the horticultural industry including nurseries and manufacturers.

These case studies illustrate how companies have benefitted from;

- Improved process efficiencies
- Reduced wastage
- Reduced lead-times
- Reduced stock levels
- Increased stock turns
- Improved customer service levels

This workshop will benefit managers and owners. The staff who carry out the activities are usually best placed on how to improve the operations and their attendance can potentially benefit the business.



Energy efficiency and Renewable energy in horticulture

Tuesday 9th February 2010, HDC, Greenmount Campus for 1.30pm

Cathal Ellis, Renewable Energy Technologist, CAFRE and Andrew Kneeshaw, Farm Energy Centre, Stoneleigh

This workshop will demonstrate renewable energy use at the Horticulture Development Centre (HDC), Greenmount Campus. This is an opportunity to view thermal solar panels and a 320 kW biomass boiler fuelled by willow chip providing heat for a 2000 m² glasshouse along with a 5 kW wind turbine which supplies electricity to the HDC. The workshop will demonstrate energy efficiencies in horticulture production and processing.



Employment law

Thursday 11th February 2010, Portadown Rugby Club for 7.30pm

Ciara Dooris, Tughans Solicitors, Belfast

Ciara Dooris is a Director in the employment law team of Tughans Solicitors. Ciara has experience in employment law in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland having worked in the employment department of Arthur Cox, Dublin from 2002 until January

2007, prior to joining Tughans. She provides advice on all aspects of employment law, including public sector and private clients, large and small.

In this workshop, Ciara will discuss statement of terms and conditions of employment, working time, payment of wages, minimum wage including calculation of 'piece rate' pay, holiday pay and maternity leave. There will be an opportunity for discussion after her presentation. This workshop will help your business understand key requirements of employment law.

Staff motivation in horticulture businesses

Thursday 18th February 2010, Portadown Rugby Club for 7.30pm

Marion Nugent, Communication Lecturer, Loughry Campus, CAFRE

This workshop will help you and your staff work more efficiently by setting individual and business objectives with the aim of getting the two to marry together. Motivation, leadership and people skills are essential for your business to get more from the working week.

Growers and family members are encouraged to attend all workshops in order to receive the most benefit from the programme. People can attend all of or part of the 'Grow your Business' programme. If you or a family member is interested in attending, please fill in and return the reply slip from the back cover.

For further information on the training programme, please contact Kieran Lavelle, Senior Horticulture Development Adviser, Greenmount Campus, CAFRE
Tel: 028 3751 5651 or
Mobile: 0799 0575 893 or by
Email: kieran.lavelle@dardni.gov.uk

Reply Slip

Please return to

Denise Andrews, Technology Building, Greenmount Campus,

22 Greenmount Road, Antrim, BT41 4PU

Tel: 028 9442 6756 Fax: 028 9442 6777

If you wish to reply by Email please send to
denise.andrews@dardni.gov.uk

I wish to attend all of the 'Grow Your Business' programme
beginning on Wednesday 27th January 2010

Yes **No**

I wish to attend the following workshops of the 'Grow Your
Business' Programme.

(You will be contacted prior to each session)

Trees Store Carbon Seminar (27th January)

Renewable energy usage on a mushroom farm (28th January)

Introduction to Renewables (1st – 4th February)

- Newry – Mon 1st Feb at 2pm

- Ballymena – Tues 2nd Feb at 9.30am

- Enniskillen – Wed 3rd Feb. at 2pm

- Limavady – Thurs 4th Feb at 2pm

Growing Lean (4th February)

Energy efficiency and Renewable energy in horticulture (9th Feb)

Employment law (11th February)

Staff motivation in horticulture businesses (18th February)

Name/s:

Address:

Telephone:

Email: