

Integrated Crop Protection Workshop

CAFRE have organised an integrated crop protection workshop on protected crops to take place on **Tuesday 13 October in the Seagoe Hotel, Portadown commencing at 7pm**. This workshop is targeted at growers of the following crops under cover, soft fruit, vegetables, cut flowers and organics.

Neil Helyer, Integrated Pest Management Specialist for Fagro and Syngenta Bioline will give a practical talk on the use of and identification of biological control agents to control pests and diseases in protected crops.

Examples include;

- Red spider mite, slugs, botrytis and mildew in tabletop strawberries

- Vine weevil in blueberries
- Cut flowers with mildew, aphids, caterpillar, botrytis, red spider and white rust
- Lettuce with sclerotinia
- White fly in cucumber

During the workshop, growers will have an opportunity to discuss specific problems with Terry Horsman, Technical Officer, Fagro.

If you would like further information on the biological control workshop, contact Dr Anne Stone, Edible Crops Development Adviser, Greenmount Campus.



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Funding Opportunities for Horticulture Business

EU Agriculture and Forestry Marketing Development Grant Scheme

If you want to develop the market for your produce, you could seek financial support from the EU Agricultural and Forestry Marketing Development Grant Scheme.

This scheme will fund up to 40% of eligible costs including feasibility studies, market intelligence, recruitment and salary of new staff for up to three years, and purchase of ICT equipment. It is open to applications from individual producers, groups of producers, processors as well as trade associations or industry bodies involved in, or wishing to get involved in marketing.

EU Agriculture and Forestry Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme

If you want to develop the processing element of your business, the EU Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme could be for you. This scheme provides grant aid to erect new buildings, refurbish existing buildings or purchase new processing equipment.

The scheme is open to micro, small and medium sized enterprises and provides

financial assistance at a rate of up to 40% for capital investment projects.

Examples of projects that have been funded under the EU Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme in the past include the provision of packing and processing facilities for cut flowers, vegetables, apples and mushrooms. However it must be noted that funding is restricted to processing operations and therefore normal farm based activities or equipment such as glass houses and tunnels are not eligible for assistance.

Full details of both schemes are available on the Rural Development website www.rdpni.info.

If you would like further information on how the EU Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme or the EU Agricultural and Forestry Marketing Development Grant Scheme could work for your horticulture business contact Elaine Chapman, Senior Supply Chain Development Adviser.

The EU Agricultural and Forestry Marketing Development Grant Scheme and the EU Agricultural and Forestry Processing and Marketing Grant Scheme are part of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme and will run until 31 December 2013.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA)

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) was set up to protect workers from exploitation and legitimate businesses from competitors who cut corners and break the law. So far thousands of workers in the UK have benefited from the actions of the GLA and over 100 labour providers have been stopped from operating illegally.

The GLA operate a simple system for those who supply and source labour in agriculture, horticulture, shellfish gathering as well as food processing and packaging that can be easily complied with. Any business who sources labour in these sectors just needs to ensure that they are using a GLA licensed labour provider. This can be checked via the GLA website (section 'Guide To Licensing') or by contacting the GLA direct on 0845 602 5020. Additional help is provided by signing up to an 'Active Check' which will notify you of any changes to the status of the labour provider you are using.

Anybody who supplies workers or a labour service to the regulated sectors needs to be licensed by the GLA. Those who use an unlicensed labour provider

are committing a criminal offence and could be prosecuted, as well as those labour providers operating without a licence.

All the labour providers need to do is comply with basic legal requirements to meet GLA standards in order to get and keep their licence.

Whilst the vast majority of businesses have nothing to fear from licensing or the GLA, those who step out of line will be investigated. Many of the tip offs that lead to investigations are from within the industry and you can report suspicions directly by phone 0845 602 5020, by email intelligence@gla.gsi.gov.uk or anonymously at www.gla.gov.uk/report.

There is no reason to suffer as a worker or for a business to be undercut by an unscrupulous rival. The GLA and our officers in Northern Ireland can help and want to work with the industry to raise standards.

If anybody has a question or needs advice please contact the GLA on 0845 602 5020 or visit our website www.gla.gov.uk

The Horticulture Forum for Northern Ireland

Providing a voice for horticulture

Speaking collectively for the horticulture industry in Northern Ireland is the main aim of the Horticulture Forum. The Forum has been operating since 2005 when it was created, with help from DARD, to provide a representative horticulture body that focuses on the needs of the entire industry, ultimately creating a stronger lobbying power for horticulture with government.

This umbrella organisation is made up of representatives from all the main edible and amenity horticulture sectors and as such provides a collective means of communication between all the sectors on generic horticulture issues. A few examples of the issues the Horticulture Forum has been involved with include:

- Meeting with the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Michelle Gildernew to inform her of the key issues impacting on local horticulture businesses including, the economic pressures facing horticulture businesses, the importance of research and development, the impact of environmental legislation and training and development needs.
- Responding to the DARD Consultation on the Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Fruit and Vegetable Regime.
- Responding to the Department of Environment (DOE) on the consultation regarding the proposed new (Goods Vehicle Licensing of Operators) Bill and presenting the case to the Northern Ireland Assembly Environment Committee.
- Inputting to the preparation of an Emergency Response Strategy in relation to Food Supply Emergency Planning by DETI and DARD.
- Preparation and submission of a business case to DARD Farm Policy on the need for further DARD engagement with the Horticulture Development Company (HDC) to access research and development information.

Horticulture Forum members are hosting a number of visits to horticultural businesses by DARD Farm Policy staff over the next two months to highlight the main issues impacting on the local horticulture industry.

The Horticulture Forum aims to address issues impacting across all sectors of horticulture. All the major horticulture organisations have representatives on the Horticulture Forum. Current Horticulture Forum members and the organisations they represent are listed below. Robin McKee is the chairman of the Forum with secretarial support provided by DARD. The group meets about four times per year or more depending on the issues to be addressed.

Organisation	Representative
Growers NI	Seamus McGrane
	Stephen Gordon
Assn of Landscape Contractors (ALCI)	Colin Eve
	Lyn Reaney
Horticulture Trades Association (HTA)	Doug Thomson
UFU Vegetable Committee	Robin McKee (Chairman)
	Thomas Gilpin
Mushrooms	James Tiffney
	Eddie Daly
	Kieran Hughes
	Elaine Shaw
Fruit Industry Federation (FIF)	Sam MacNeice
	Graham Hewitt
NI Fruit Growers Association (NIFGA)	John Beggs
	Nathan Loney
UFU	Patricia Erwin
LANTRA	Dave Seffen
Organics	Roy Lyttle
Cut flowers	Shane Donnelly

If you would like to know more about the work of the Horticulture Forum for Northern Ireland contact your sector representative or the secretary, Elaine Chapman.

The Green Challenge - Focusing on Horticulture

The Green Challenge conference organised by The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) in partnership with the Horticultural Trade Association (HTA) took place at Greenmount Campus in February. There was an excellent attendance reflecting the current interest in innovative sustainable technologies which could have a significant impact on horticulture businesses.

Speakers from the Sustainable Development Commission, the Waste & Resources Action Programme and the Farm Energy Centre all gave helpful advice on energy conservation, reducing inefficiencies and minimising resource wastage.

Much interest was generated with practical demonstrations of sustainable technologies at the Horticulture Development Centre at Greenmount Campus. These included the use of reduced peat composts, in vessel composting, biodegradable pots, rain water harvesting and using renewable energy technologies in horticulture.

This information was also brought together in print with the proceedings of the Conference made available on the day to all delegates. A copy is enclosed to those who did not attend.

CAFRE will hold a workshop on rain water harvesting and renewable energy technologies in winter 2009.

If you have any queries associated with the content of these proceedings or on the workshop, contact Kieran Lavelle.



Cathal Ellis, horticultural technologist, CAFRE demonstrating the biomass boiler at Greenmount Campus to first year foundation degree horticulture students.

For further information contact:

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