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European Machinery Ring Conference

17th – 20th October 2017

The European Machinery Rings have their annual conference this year in the UK in York from 17th – 20th October 2017. There will be guests from Machinery Rings from many European Countries as well as a European Young Farmer delegation that will have an additional day of visits. The two days will include a number of farm visits around York on Wednesday 18th October and the Conference on the 19th October. Guests can stay at the Monkbar Hotel:

<http://www.bw-monkbarhotelyork.co.uk/>.

The Conference is titled '**Co-Operation, Sustainability & Succession**' & the speakers are confirmed as:

Robin Jackson – City & Guilds Land-based Management

Susan Twining – CLA Chief Land Use Policy Adviser

Minette Batters – Deputy President of the National Farmers Union

George Dunn – CEO of The Tenant Farmers' Association

Katherine Denby – N8 Agrifood, University of York

Gordon Whitford – HSBC Regional Agricultural Director

The conference will be followed by Dinner and an After Dinner Speaker – Kevin Hollinrake MP at the Monkbar Hotel, York.

Fees:

The cost to attend the Conference for the 2 days 17th – 19th October is £235.00 which includes Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. If you would like to just attend the Conference on the 19th October the cost is £40.00 & the Gala dinner in the evening at the Monkbar Hotel is £50.00.

Rooms are available at:

£130.00 – double

£100.00 – Single

All rooms are per room per night & include Breakfast

There will be a shuttle bus running between York train station to the hotel/conference venue. Car parking is available at the hotel. Please contact the hotel reception on arrival. If any TKMR Members would like to attend the above conference a full timetable of the event detailing the specific farm visits is available from the Office. Please do contact Sandi or Camilla for further information or to book your place at the Conference & we will send you the relevant paperwork to confirm your place at the conference.

Sponsorship Packages

Sponsors are very welcome for the Conference. There are three packages available - Silver, Gold and Platinum - starting from just £100. All include National Coverage of the event.

Please contact Sandi or Camilla for more details

TKMR Members Handbook

Deadline for Adverts is fast approaching

Thank you to everyone who has already confirmed they would like an advert in the Handbook. The deadline for booking is fast approaching so if anyone else would like to Place an advert within the handbook please do let us know as soon as possible.

The format for the Handbook will be very similar to the previous one with the main alteration being the size which will be A5 portrait opposed to A6. It will again include up to date articles, rules & regulations and advice for members along with details of our services and the training courses we can supply through our 3 training members.

As mentioned above the booklet will be A5 but for the same advert cost as last time so we would really appreciate your support once again. Our hope is the booklet will be more readily seen on member's desks amongst other paperwork! If you would like to place an advert the rates are as follows:

Members rate for – Full page £175 + VAT

Half page £100 + VAT

Non-Members for - Full page is £200 + VAT

Half page £125 + VAT

If you could send adverts as a jpeg file please, full page needs to be A5 size and portrait and a half page will be A6 size but in landscape please.

We encourage the Member's adverts to display the Machinery Ring contact details to show unity and transparency in member to member dealings. Your gesture in doing this is much appreciated although this is not in any way a compulsory requirement.

If you are interested please do let Sandi or Camilla know as soon as possible and send completed artwork and any questions to camilla@tkmr.co.uk. We simply could not produce the Handbook without sponsorship raised through advertising and very much hope you will be able to support us again.



Gas Price Increase by two Main Suppliers

We understand that there are general price increase notifications being circulated by letter from Main Suppliers. Please remember we have J GAS as Members at the Ring who can offer Gas for Domestic and Business users.

- One annual Standing Charge regardless of tank numbers
- Free No obligation Site Survey
- Order as your order your Gas Oil and Kerosene from the Ring Office
- J Gas will oversee the removal of the old tanks and the installation of the new ones. Any existing gas in old tank will be transferred to the new tank.
- Free Telemetry fitted if required.

Ring the Ring and we will arrange for our representative Innes Miles to contact you to discuss your requirements



Free LPG tank installation with **JGas** when you switch. Their latest offer for domestic LPG switching is a fixed price of 33 pence per litre fixed for 12 months. (minimum consumption of 2000 litres).

If you would like any more information please do contact the Ring Office on 01635 285405.

Straw/Combining

We are looking for straw in the swath, if you have any available please call the Office.

If any of our Members need help with any combining we have members with spare combine capacity so please do call the Office.



Remember the Ring has a member who can arrange mobile seed dressing

Steve and Sandi recently met with Paul Hill who covers the South East area to learn more about the AHDB, and about how farmers can get more for their levies and indeed how the organisation uses the levies. They also discussed how TKMR can help supply machines to the monitor farm sites to help facilitate the trials they carry out. If you haven't attended a Monitor Farm event, it seems an opportunity too good to miss - providing thought provoking discussions and above all the reassurance that you are not alone.

Sandi and Camilla (TKMR) are looking into receiving Training on the new Farmbench system being launched by ADHB in order to help guide members initially through the system to input your costs in order to produce financial data. Below are two links to YouTube videos which show farmers explaining about Farmbench:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NjGybddFmU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GZOGIzsBdOM>

Paul Hill – AHDB Monitor Farms

Our MF events are mainly conducted over the winter period with the addition of a summer open event. The host farmer commits for a 3 year term but this is not a binding contract. Applicants go through a two stage interview process in order to ensure they are suitable and committed to the programme which is primarily going to help them progress their farming business.

“The Monitor Farm programme is well-suited for open minded farmers looking to further their business. Through sharing knowledge with local peers the Monitor Farm programme can be a vehicle to boosting technical performance, profit and long-term sustainability.”

How it works?

The main thing about the MF Programme is the fact that it is very much ‘Farmer Lead, Farmer Driven’ with the monitor farmer hosting these events and having the chance to have their farm issues core to these discussions and topics. The MF is not a demonstration farm; it is used to add authenticity to real life farming issues that are therefore very relevant to other farming businesses. By hosting these events - in reality the Monitor Farmer gets 30 + consultants discussing topics and trying to come up with realistic and viable answers to resolve the host farms issues. This in turn generates ideas, provokes thought and provides information to the farmers, consultants and agronomists, etc. who attend.

As part of these events we bring in expert speakers/scientists which again is an advantage for the Monitor Farmer as they get this expertise on their farm for free along with having access to all resources that the AHDB has to offer.

I attach the link that will take you to our MF page and lists the links to all our current Monitor Farmers along with some additional information. <https://cereals.ahdb.org.uk/get-involved/monitorfarms.aspx> if you then follow the Sittingbourne link it will allow you to see specific information with regards to that farm, event topics and dates for these events.

Arable Business Groups (Benchmarking)

Linked to these monitor farms are usually ‘Benchmarking’ groups. These usually consist of up to 10 farmers who are wishing to analyse their farm business figures more thoroughly and compare/discuss them with other local farmers in order to identify “best practice” strategies that will make their businesses more financially resilient for the future. Being part of an AHDB arable business group will therefore ensure farmers attending will:

- Understand costs of production
- Share ideas and challenge each other
- Improve business management skills
- Identify and address issues that affect their business

The AHDB has its own farm accounting package called ‘Farmbench’ which is a cross – enterprise farm financial accounting/budgeting package which these farmers utilise in order for us to collate their figures and produce the financial data with cost comparisons for these meetings. These groups are again facilitated by the AHDB free of charge and the information produced and discussed is totally confidential to that group, meaning that all the meetings financial data will not be disclosed to anyone – unless the group decides that it wishes to do otherwise.

I hope this additional information helps but please feel free to contact Paul Hill at 07964 243699 or paul.hill@adhb.co.uk directly if you have any additional queries/questions.

Offers on White Goods through AF

Bexel BE50W
Free Standing
Cooker

£134.00

RRP - £199.00

Miele WDD020
Washing
Machine

£550.00

RRP £849.00

Samsung UBDK
8500 Blu-ray
player £103.00

RRP £195.00

Seed Orders

Oilseed Rape: All the main varieties are still available & AF have some very good terms in place. If you would like early delivery we recommend placing orders now. Our most popular varieties so far have been;

Elgar - Top of the Recommended List, East/ West regions. Good for early drilling.

KWS Django- Candidate variety. Best performing conventional variety in AHDB trials.

Wembley - Suited to later drilling. One of the top yielding Hybrid varieties from the latest AHDB trials at 109%, closely followed by Windozz, another option for later drilling.

DK Exalte - Suited to drilling up to mid-September with rapid autumn growth.

Campus - Suitable in all regions, vigorous autumn growth. Still providing very consistent results in the latest harvest results from AHDB and NIAB.

DK Imperial CL - Clearfield variety, limited seed now available. Other options available are; DK Imagis CL, Phoenix CL and Veritas CL.

Catch, Cover and Greening crops

AF have access to a very wide range of straights and off-the-shelf mixes, and many suppliers who are able to put together specific mixtures as required.

Fertiliser News from AF

Market Update

Increased activity across all major urea markets has driven prices higher over the last fortnight, with Egyptian producers rising by some \$19/tonne in this period. Very little product is available for export in September and usual European demand will return in Q4. With freight rates expected to increase through winter & a predicted supply deficit in Q1 of 2018, it is hard to see how prices for all nitrogen products will revert back to low points until mid-2018.

Good quality Ammonium Sulphate (21N+60SO3) will be in short supply again this season, with the best quality products selling out before Christmas in 2016. If you would like the best quality product, AF can take orders for delivery up to and including November.

Fuel Card Prices



As with all prices AF prices do vary weekly so please do remember to check the pump price before filling up.

For more information on taking out a fuel card with AF please call the Office.

Key Fuels App

Please don't forget to download the Key Fuels App onto an Android & Iphone/Ipad. This will enable you see your nearest fuel stations wherever you are in the UK. Please click on the picture below to access the App.



Phone Contracts through AF

Thames & Kennet Machinery Ring members continue to benefit from working with Anglia Farmers.

As our relationship with Anglia Farmers (AF) progresses we are finding more and more ways in which our members can benefit. Be it building materials, water or electricity contracts or just a great price on some toilet paper!

One key area for AF, which we are pleased to be able to offer our members is **telecoms** – business grade mobiles phone, landline and broadband contracts – the deals we can access via AF have shown fantastic cost reductions for members, but also come with a level of day to day support you just cannot get elsewhere. AF offers a wide range of contract options on Vodafone, EE and O2. All their rates are unique, and typically reduce costs by around 40%, sometimes by much more.

If you would like to see what they can do for you please find out when your current contract ends, and get in touch when you would like us to arrange a quote – we will liaise with the AF team on your behalf and get your bespoke deal put together. To get a detailed cost analysis you need to send us a fully itemised bill per line or mobile. If you like the results of the analysis, the deal can be set up with a minimum of fuss, and you will then have access to the dedicated support desk at AF for the life of the contract. The team is very helpful and ready to work with you.

2018 Diaries

All available in Black, Red and Blue.

- A4 day to page £2.35
- A5 day to page £1.35
- A4 week to view £1.30
- A5 Week to view 75p

2018 year planner

- Mounted £2.05
- Unmounted £1.05

All prices are plus VAT & the Levy. To order please call the Office.

Offers on Moisture Meters

AF have the following offers on Moisture Meters:

Martin Lishman

Protimeter Grainmaster - £513 + vat
Delivery Charge £10.00

Dicky John Mini GAC for highly accurate moisture testing £371.88 & vat
Dicky John MINI GAC Plus – the ONLY handheld moisture test offering accurate test weight £503.13 + vat. Delivery Charge £13.50

Sinar 6070 GrainPro Moisture Meter - £1,021.50 + vat
Sinar Farmpro 6096 - £393.75 + vat. £25 carriage

The Cost of Maintaining a Country Estate

Our countryside has been managed by our ancestors in one form or another for thousands of years, and intensively so for a century. If the land is left alone, it will eventually scrub over and then re-forest but it will be a mess and things could get expensive even re-wilding costs money. Buying an estate is one thing, maintaining it is another matter entirely! Parkland trees, woodland and grassland are the features that give the land its unique character but they cost money to maintain. As does the water supply, not to mention the access tracks, fences and hedges. The bills can soon start to mount up whether you invest in one acre or thousands.

Going Wild

Never mind, you might find yourself saying, I can always 're-wild' the estate to save money and, of course, you can. But you will lose the character of the estate, which would undoubtedly have been one of the main reasons that you purchased it in the first place. You should also bear in mind that boundaries, including hedges and fences, will always need to be maintained as will paths and tracks. If you re-wild, the deer population will undoubtedly grow and then become a problem to your neighbours. Once you head down the re-wilding track, bringing everything back into management if you change your mind in the future will involve significant cost. So, what can you do to quantify your potential costs and then to mitigate them?

Land Management

It is best to speak to someone with a practical knowledge of Estate Management so that they can look at the big picture and draw up a basic management plan after identifying the required works and costing it up, the Machinery Ring has Members qualified in advising you on the management of your property alongside physically carrying out the plan. The plan should highlight any urgent works requiring capital investment, but should also suggest possible sources of funding to subsidise at least a portion of the outlay. These may include *Countryside Stewardship Schemes* or *Woodland Grant Scheme funding*.

Please do contact the Ring for further advice.



Author: James Gillies MBIAC

FOR SALE

FORAGE FOR SALE

- We have a Member selling Haylage bales 80x70, along with quantities of Maize, Grass Silage & Whole Crop. For prices & quantity please contact the Office.
- We have a Member with a quantity of clamped Maize in the Reading area for sale. For price please contact the Office.

Wanted

JGas are looking for sites in Berkshire for LPG Gas tanks & Storage. Please contact the Office if you are able to help.

GRITIT are looking for storage yards for salt from October 2017 – 15th April 2018 in the following areas: Bracknell, Camberley (Farnborough), Guildford, Basingstoke, Southampton & Portsmouth. If any of our Members have any storage space available please contact the Ring Office.

TKMR Insurance Regulation Reminder

All members who intend to carry out work through the Ring should ensure that their insurance policy is extended to include all work carried out for other members. Any plant hired through the Ring without an operator must be insured for all risks by the Demander. Ultimately it is up to the owner of the Tractor/machinery to satisfy him or herself that their equipment is adequately insured. The Demander should have full insurance cover for employers' and public liability. The level of cover required is a minimum of five million pounds.

Every member must ensure that adequate insurance cover is held throughout the period of ring membership. The member's insurance must cover the activities supplied or received in connection with membership of the Ring. The member undertakes to inform the Ring of any circumstances which alters their insurance cover.

The Demander will be responsible for damage to Supplier's machinery if caused by neglect. Those members who operate terms and conditions over and above those of Thames and Kennet Machinery Ring, should obtain a signature to such terms from the Demander or his agent agreeing to all such terms and conditions at or before the delivery of the equipment. It is the responsibility of the Supplier to ensure that equipment is mechanically sound and fit for its purpose and that it is fully guarded to comply with health and safety legislation in force at that time. Machine operators, stockmen and other workers should have received adequate training and hold up to date certification.

Dates for the Diary

August

- 28th Summer Bank Holiday
- 31st Deadline for drilling Catch Crops on Environmental Focus Areas (EFA's)

September

- 1st End of closed season for cutting hedges
Not in Countryside Stewardship
- 2nd & 3rd Dorset County Show
- 3rd Alresford Show, Alresford
- 16th – 17th Royal County of Berkshire Show,
Newbury Showground
- 30th Countryside Stewardship – entry for Mid-tier level closes

October

- 1st Deadline for drilling Cover Crops on Environmental Focus Areas (EFA's)
- 1st Deadline for spreading Organic manure on all other Soils in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ's)
- 21st NADAS Ploughing Match, Woolley Estate, Woolley

Training Courses

West Berks and Oxon Training

August

- 29th Emergency First Aid Training
- 29th & 30th LANTRA 2 day Chainsaw
- 31st PA6 Knapsack Sprayer

September

- 6th Social Media Marketing
- 12th & 13th LANTRA 2 day Chainsaw

We have two other training companies who are members so please do call us with your training requirements that you require for any of your employees.