

November 2011

Dear Member,

### **November 2011 Newsletter & 2011 Autumn/Winter Programme**

Please find attached the current version of our 2011 Autumn/Winter Course Programme. The programme will continue to build over the next few months as members contact us and we continue to make our visits and calls.

To help members know what the latest programme contains, we will, as usual, be updating it on the website at the beginning of every month through the peak training periods. Our website can be found at [www.wyverntrainingservices.com](http://www.wyverntrainingservices.com) and all you need to do is click on the 'current courses' button

### **Funding for training in Top and Cider Fruit and Orchardng skills**

You may recall that we were successful in securing some funding through the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) to providing technical and management skills into the Top and Cider Fruit sector.

Whilst we have delivered a number of events under this project and have some planned with members over the coming months, we still have a limited amount of funding available to spend.

The eligibility criteria requires that the farm is within the West Midland regional area (CPH and/or postcode area) and people attending are actively employed part or full time in eligible businesses and training has to be completed by mid February 2012.

Fees for attending these events are subsidised by up to 80% for eligible people.

If you have any suggestions or specific needs and are involved with Top and/or Cider fruit production, please call.

### **Apprenticeship for Cider and Top Fruit Production**

You may be aware that over the last year or so Wyvern Training Services (WTS) have been working with the National Association of Cider Makers (NACM), the National Apprenticeship Service and, more latterly, Holme Lacy College to try and develop an Apprenticeship specifically tailored to the Cider and Top Fruit sector.

This initiative has been driven by a number of WTS top and cider fruit growers and is designed to meet the demands of the sector in both attracting new entrants into the industry and developing the skills and experience that will be needed in the future. (It could also be used for people already working in the industry.)

We have reached the stage where we are ready to pilot this initiative and need to identify growers who would be prepared to employ an apprentice (or more!). The pilot is designed to start in January 2011.

For members who have already indicated that they wish to be involved but whom do not have a potential; apprentice already employed, we are in the process of advertising these opportunities to prospective apprentices with a view to holding an open day either just before or immediately after Christmas. This is scheduled with a view to starting the

programme either on 23 January or 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012. We have meetings with the college over the coming weeks to try and agree arrangements and will be writing to all interested parties before Christmas to update them.

### **The BRC Global Standard for Food Safety Issue 6**

As many of you may know, the BRC Global Standard for Food Safety Issue 6 has been extensively revised in consultation with senior representatives from major retailers and food service companies, ensuring that it continues to meet the requirements of manufacturers and retailers

Issue 6 places increased emphasis on good manufacturing practice, including a change in the balance of the number and depth of requirements in favour of the implementation of good manufacturing systems within the factory and greater focus on standardizing best practices for auditing the Standard.

#### **Key changes for Issue 6 include:**

- Expanded sections on foreign body control, hygiene and housekeeping, and allergens
- Introduction of a new voluntary 2 stage unannounced audit scheme
- A reduced number of clauses to ensure each expresses a significant idea, this will contribute to consistency of grading as requirements are now of similar significance

Issue 6 comes into effect in January 2012 and to help members with awareness of the changes we plan to run an evening event to update people on the key changes and implications. Please let us know if you would be interested in this event.

#### **Member visits**

As ever, we are happy to visit any member who would like us to come out and discuss how we can be of help. Please let us know if and when you would like a visit.

#### **And finally....**

.....if you have any other training needs, requirements or enquiries, please don't hesitate to call – we look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Tony & Chris Walmsley  
(on behalf of Wyvern Training Services)