

## 2010 FARMLANNER COMPETITION

The overall aim of the Farmplanner competition remains the same which is to promote the role of all aspects of planning in modern farm management. Clearly in these changing times for British agriculture there is a chance to look at new options and consider afresh old established practices. This year we have been very fortunate that P.G. & C.P. Whitehouse who farm near Mitcheldean between Gloucester and Ross-on-Wye have agreed to be our case study. Total acreage is around 2000 acres (450 ha) but they have 14 different landlords and a wide range of enterprises including a relatively new venture into milking goats. The farm faces a number of choices in the environment in which it operates. Some of these issues have been chosen to be tackled by those entering this year's competition.

The timetable for the competition will be as follows:

Timing:

- **Early January** - Farm details posted on the Institute website.
- **Mid-January** – Colleges/Universities to confirm to me the names of students entering either as individuals or as a team. If this could be done earlier so much the better. or those who enter the competition full details of the farm will be circulated prior to the visit.
- **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March** – Farm visit.
- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May** – Final submissions either by individuals or group.
- **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Interviews and presentations by the best three/four entries at the Royal Agricultural Society of England offices at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh. As usual Farmers Weekly will feature the finalists and their thoughts and proposals, obviously majoring on the winning entry.

Now the difficult bit! We have become almost victims of our success with Farmplanner in that since we re-launched the competition in 2002 after FMD we allowed complete year groups to enter although only one final entry per institution has been allowed. This has worked well but last year at Overbury we had about 150 people for the Farm visit and this is simply too large for most farms to cater for. Thus I am afraid that from this year onwards we will only allow a max team of 8 per institution to take part in the farm visit. This should ensure that we can keep numbers to a maximum of 50 or so for the visit. I know that this will cause problems for some of you. Many of whom have been very supportive of the competition but I hope that you can see the reasoning.

We also must restrict entry to only undergraduates or equivalents. No post-grads can enter.

I do hope that the above will be of interest to you and look forward to receiving the attached proforma in due course. Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries.

With kind regards and best wishes for 2010