

BASiS re-launches new-look website

The **BASiS website has been re-launched with a fresh new look and improved user-functionality.**

The new-look website gives quick access to the relevant Professional Register, the different types of courses available, and lists of approved trainers by area. The revised design and layout better conveys the sectors covered by BASiS and the wide range of qualifications and courses on offer.

For members, trainers and examiners, a secure log-in area and improved interface provides quick and easy access to online records. Trainers can upload new events while trainers and examiners can access a secure resource area for document downloads.

Professional Register members can continue to manage their CPD records online, including viewing progress against

annual targets and submitting points from other activities. Members can also view and pay their BASiS subscriptions through the secure website.

Rob Simpson, BASiS Managing Director, said: "In an increasingly digital age, our members need an effective online platform to support them. The new website is truly comprehensive and has information for a wide range of audiences. From youngsters aspiring to a career in agronomy right through to experienced agronomists and trainers."

The re-launched website forms part of the 'Only BASiS can...' campaign to raise awareness of the wide range of courses, qualifications, assurance schemes and



professional registers that only BASiS provides to the agricultural, horticultural and amenity sectors.

Mr Simpson continued: "When you look at the wide range of services – training, certification and assurance schemes – that we provide for the industry, you realise that there is no organisation with as much expertise or experience as BASiS."

Visit the newly launched BASiS website at www.basis-reg.com

Biggest ever CPD knowledge trail at Cereals 2015

BASiS offered Professional Register members the biggest ever CPD knowledge trail at Cereals 2015.

In total 14 exhibitors signed up to the knowledge trail, including AHDB, Bayer Crop Science, British Sugar, Certis, De Sangosse, Dow AgroSciences, Limagrain,

Limex, PGRO, Premium Crops, NIAB TAG, Velcourt, Water UK and Yara, with a maximum of six CPD points on offer in exchange for knowledge trail activities.

Michele Williams, BASiS Professional Registers Manager, says, "Each year the CPD knowledge trail at Cereals goes

from strength-to-strength and 2015 was no different. This year we wanted our members to gain maximum benefit from the trail and were pleased that so many exhibitors signed up and thought of innovative ways for members to earn their CPD points."

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Rob's round up



The dust has hardly settled on our busiest ever show season before we get into the hectic autumn training season.

However, despite the day-to-day pressures, BASIS continues to evolve its strategy to meet the ever changing needs of the organisation. We have a new website that is making life easier for our Register members and trainers, but also providing aspiring advisers with a wealth of information on our ever expanding range of offers.

Our market research shows that we are satisfying many of our members' needs, but it also highlights areas that need attention. These will feature in our business plan for 2016.

Our committee structure continues to undergo review, particularly to ensure that we are addressing the needs of our membership as well as underpinning good governance for the organisation.

The breadth of our offering today is truly extensive. We not only serve agriculture and horticulture but also the amenity and industrial pest control sectors. Innovation will continue as we remain committed to serving the UK industry in a way which only BASIS can.

Rob Simpson,
Managing Director, BASIS

FACTS scheme restructures membership requirements

The FACTS scheme is restructuring its membership criteria with FACTS Qualified Advisers being required to complete the Nutrient Management (NMP) training modules and assessment.

All FACTS Qualified Advisers will be transferred onto the BASIS Professional Register and, as a result, will be required to actively maintain their CPD points.

All newly qualified FACTS Qualified Advisers will need to take the NMP within two years, while those who have qualified

since 2010 will have until the end of 2016 to take the training modules and assessments.

Those who have not completed the NMP or fail to complete it during the relevant timeframe will lose their FACTS Qualified Adviser status and will become FACTS Subscribers, which will affect their ability to provide on-farm advice.

BASIS will be sending further information about the membership restructuring to those on the FACTS schemes. For further information contact louisa@basis-reg.co.uk

Changes to BASIS Committees

After some eight years, Professor Andy Cobb has stepped down from chairing the Education and Training Committee and the Professional Matters Committee.

Paying tribute to Prof Cobb's sterling service, BASIS Chairman Chris Clarke said: "The whole organisation is deeply indebted to Andy for his tireless input both to the Committees he has chaired but also for the wealth of experience in education and governance he has brought to meetings of the BASIS Board. We wish Andy every success in the future.

The baton of chairing the Education and Training Committee has passed to Patrick Mitton, who in recent times has been a BASIS exam chairman—so is no stranger to the education role. Patrick has enjoyed a



Patrick Mitton

long career in the crop protection industry, so brings a wealth of understanding of the needs of the industry and the standards those selling and advising on crop protection require.

In 2009 Patrick set up AgriTopics Ltd, a consultancy in crop production techniques offering advice to food industry stakeholders.

Professional Matters Committee under review

When a group of BASIS Trustees reviewed the organisation's committee structure and drew up new terms of reference for each committee, there were doubts about whether the Professional Matters Committee was 'fit for purpose'. BASIS trustee and FACTS Chairman Geoff Dodgson was asked by the Board to lead a review of the committee. His findings, which will be presented to the BASIS Board in November, will propose a new committee is created to represent the views of the rank and file membership of all BASIS Professional Registers.

Anyone with views on the issues that should be within the remit of this new committee is invited to contact Geoff by email: geoff.dodgson@war.uk.com

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Paul Dovey wins Paul Singleton Project of the Year Award

Paul Dovey was announced as the winner of the first Paul Singleton Project of the Year Award at Cereals 2015.

Mr Dovey, a farm estate manager who has 30 years' experience in the farming industry, clinched the award for his project investigating the effects of seed treatments and varietal differences on winter wheat farm-saved seed (FSS) from germination to emergence.

His project was selected from the top five scoring projects and judged by a panel of BASIS exam chairmen. The study concluded that FSS can be a cost-effective and viable option provided that germination and seed-borne disease testing is conducted, and that the grain meets recognised industry thresholds and standards.

Mr Dovey said: "The project formed a large part of the work required to pass the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection course, and



Left to right: Paul Singleton, Paul Dovey

I thoroughly enjoyed doing the necessary research and trials work. It was great news to hear that I passed but to receive recognition for my project is both unexpected and greatly appreciated."

Mr Dovey's training was organised by Hampshire Training Providers run by Jenny Lewis and the lead trainer for the course was Julian Lewis of Octopus Agronomy Training.

Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager, said: "We have seen some spectacular projects over the years and felt it was only right to celebrate

their achievements through the Project of the Year Award. Paul Dovey is a very worthy recipient of the new award."

The Paul Singleton Project of the Year Award was introduced in autumn 2014 to recognise the outstanding input that many candidates apply to their project, which is a fundamental element of the BASIS Certificate in Crop Protection.

The projects from successful Crop Protection Certificate candidates in 2015 will automatically be considered for this award, which will be presented to the winner in mid-2016.

BASIS exhibits at Fruit Focus for the first time

On 25th July BASIS exhibited at the Fruit Focus event for the first time. The exhibition brings together more than 1,200 growers and industry professionals from across the fruit industry.

An increasing number of agronomists working in this specialist area of horticulture are taking BASIS courses. CPD points have always been available to visitors at Fruit Focus, but BASIS hasn't been able to promote its wide range of training and certification without an exhibition stand.

Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager, says: "This was the first time that BASIS has exhibited at Fruit

Focus and we were pleasantly surprised with the enthusiasm and passion that exists within this niche sector of the agronomic community. We spoke to members old and new and were on hand to discuss BASIS training and certificates designed specifically for the commercial horticultural agronomist."

Throughout the day, live demonstrations and open forums offered an insight into the latest applied research and technical developments taking place in the fruit industry.

For 2016, BASIS will look at additional ways to support CPD and knowledge transfer at the event.



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Professional Register survey confirms importance of Continuing Professional Development

The latest survey of BASIS Professional Register members has demonstrated the importance of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and learning.

Survey respondents praised BASIS training courses for helping budding agronomists at the beginning of their careers, as well as those at a more advanced level. This was reflected in the desire for BASIS members to take further training courses, with over half (53 per cent) willing to participate in another BASIS training course in the next two years.

Further feedback from members focused on the need to gain the 'whole picture' of agronomy to help them with their careers,

which BASIS is attempting to achieve with new training courses across different areas of specialism.

Stephen Jacob, BASIS Business Development Manager, says: "Our training courses will not only help those at an advanced level, but also those at the beginning of their careers who are keen to progress within their chosen profession. Gaining more knowledge across different areas of agronomy is important to our members, not just having the minimum qualifications to meet legislative requirements."

The survey also found that members of the BASIS Professional Register remained highly satisfied with the training, with

98 per cent finding their experience to be 'useful' in some way and 70 per cent finding it 'very useful'.

BASIS plans to use the survey feedback to improve existing courses and develop new courses in rapidly developing agronomic areas, such as seeds and traits, to meet industry innovation and agronomists' future requirements.

The BASIS Professional Register Members Spring 2015 survey was completed by 955 BASIS members with equal representation from across all sectors of the register.

Who's who at BASIS: Hope Thurman



What is your role at BASIS?

I am the supervisor for Examinations and Training and the Professional Registers.

What do you do day-to-day?

I deal with different things every day, no two days are ever the same! However, I mainly help to look after the exams and

training side, help to appoint examiners, process exam results, prepare exam papers and attend meetings.

How long have you worked for BASIS?

I have worked for BASIS since September 2010 so just over five years.

What is your background?

I did a Uniformed Public Services course at Chesterfield College which I thoroughly enjoyed. I also worked as a receptionist

at a hotel near my home and as a waitress in a local pub before joining BASIS.

What do you enjoy the most about working for BASIS?

I enjoy the variety of the job and always having to think and be 'on the ball' – it's never boring. I also think the people I work with make BASIS a lovely place to be and work.

Upcoming CPD events

5 November

Drones for Farming Conference

Agricultural Engineering Innovation Centre (AEIC) Harper Adams University, Shropshire

11 November

AIC Agribusiness Conference

East of England Showground, Peterborough

24-25 November

CropTec – seminars and trade show

East of England Showground, Peterborough

10 December

NAAC Contractor Event

East of England Showground, Peterborough

14-18 December

General Pest Control Course

The University of Warwick, Wellesbourne

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provide an industry-wide forum to deliver meaningful improvements to standards