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ICA On Tour



The impressive new CA block at Boxford Growers' Suffolk Farm in Sudbury.

For many years, growers in the South East have flourished with the help of ICA's expertise in storage solutions for the increasing demand of English fruit. Now the word is out across the country, Kent based ICA Ltd spread their wings to Herefordshire, Cambridgeshire & Suffolk.

International Controlled Atmosphere (ICA) Ltd together with their sister company

refrigeration combined with the latest state-of-the-art David Bishop control system – the ICA6000 – to meet the growers demanding requirements. All at a competitive cost!

In Hereford, Stephen Ware of **MM & JE Ware & Sons** has experienced this to the highest degree with some outstanding stores and the solution to the grant problem that many growers face.

“Initially I planned to convert the whole of my existing barn for apple storage however the credit crunch led to the demise of the Strategic Investment Grant and my plans were put on hold.

I sat down with ICA to discuss a scaled down store and together we managed to retain high quality design features to safeguard future efficiency and reliability whilst making several fundamental changes to keep project costs to a realistic level.”

ICA worked closely with Stephen to create the solution to work with the ever growing dilemma – quality vs cost. By looking at the capacity needed and the funds available, ICA designed stores that are equipped to be split in the future.

Stephen explains: “The Two main stores are larger than conventional stores. This isn't simply because that's the way we do things in Herefordshire but is a result of the large savings against the Four stores originally planned. ICA were fully sympathetic to my budgetary constraints and we resolved to install control systems, refrigeration units and lighting in pairs in each store so that they can be easily subdivided.”

Luckily Stephen did have his grant application accepted and received about 20% of total project costs. Even though the grant approvals were delayed to mid April this year, ICA were still able to turn the project around in time for harvest.

“It is too early for me to fully endorse the standard of stores built by ICA, however to date I have been very impressed with their no nonsense approach to the project, their ‘can do’ attitude and apparent high standard of workmanship. All the early signs are encouraging with successful pressure tests and commissioning of the refrigeration plant”.

Although diminished grants have caused delays in funding these essential projects for the growers, Robert Rendall of **Boxford Suffolk Farms** in Sudbury also successfully received part funding from EEDA and the RDPE to assist with his new 12 store CA block which ICA have recently completed and commissioned ready in time for the season- despite the challenges.

Robert comments: “It has not been the easiest of builds with short timescales, specialist demolition of old buildings, various grant deadlines and power constraints. ICA and their team have project managed this impeccably, dealing with everything thrown at them and taking it in their stride.”

“ICA have delivered a fantastic state of the art storage block that matches our investments in our orchards for scale and innovation taking our business through to 2017.”



New build at Newling Fruit Growers in Wisbech

With more growers recognising the need for ethylene monitoring with their control systems, ICA installed the new ICA6000 control system at Boxford which is



This store has been designed to be split into two stores at a later date.

Storage Technology Solutions (STS Refrigeration) Ltd bring a complete service to the table offering their advice and bespoke design on cold and CA storage to include insulation and



New generation of Salco gas tight doors at MM & JE Ware & Sons.



The ICA6000 is the latest in a long line of CA control systems developed and produced by the ICA team.

connected to the ICA515E providing measurements and recordings of the ethylene concentration in the CA atmosphere over the range of 0.5 to 25ppm. This permits the operator to monitor throughout the storage season the effectiveness of ethylene control



New steel framed building with vented cladding housing 12 stores.