Formentera's agriculture office reports that January marks the start of a fresh crop of free courses for the island's agricultural and livestock sector. 2020 comes with a total of nine courses—twice as many as the previous year. Enrolment is open now and can be completed at the Citizen Information Office (OAC) or online on the OVAC.

The first course on the list covers rudimentary learning for individuals who use plant health products at their places of work. Twenty-five hours of instruction will unfold from 20-25 January and give participants access to a basic phytosanitary product handlers' permit.

And a special refresher course exists for individuals with more than ten years of on-the-job experience using plant protection products. It lasts 12 hours and takes place from 28-30 January.

The other courses are as follows:
· 27 January: Horticultural Planning (4 hours)
· 13 February: Growing fruit trees on Formentera (4)
· 18 February: Best hygiene practices in ag production (3)
· 24 February: Olive oil production (3)
· 25 February: Growing olive trees on Formentera (4)
· 29 February: Integrated management of *Xylella fastidiosa* (5)
· 19 March: Managing crop irrigation (4)

Highlighting a course on olive oil extraction, agriculture councillor Josep Marí drew attention to an expanding body of courses aimed at meeting the requests of local plant and livestock farmers. "There's growing interest in training among islanders in agrarian trades", said Marí, asserting: "Recovering our countryside is key for our administration".

The retooled 2020 course catalogue comes with some familiar names, like integrated management of *Xylella fastidiosa*, and there is also a brand-new course on managing agricultural irrigation with Formentera's still inactive irrigation pond.

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Department of Communication
Consell de Formentera