Harvest Report 2013 - Fruit

Cherries
The UK produced 978 tonnes of British cherries in 2012 and early estimates suggest over three and a half thousand tonnes could have been harvested this year. The cherry industry is growing in Britain, but we still import 95% of the cherries we eat in the UK.

7. Cherries were first imported to the UK
   a) from America in the 1600s
   b) from China around 600BC
   c) from Turkey during the Roman occupation

Strawberries
Despite the season starting three weeks late this year, we still grew 20 times more strawberries than cherries. This year’s average those berries were 15% bigger than usual, and sweeter too.

8. How much did we spend on strawberries last year in the UK (home grown and imported)?
   a) £7,000,000
   b) £70,000,000
   c) £700,000,000

Blackcurrants
After a couple of lean years, the good winter chill, followed by plenty of sunshine and perfectly timed rainfall means our blackcurrant farmers have had an above average crop this year. Blackcurrants contain up to four times more Vitamin C than oranges.

9. The majority of the UK crop of blackcurrants …
   a) is exported
   b) is made into jam
   c) is grown solely for the production of Ribena

Apples
It is still early days for the Apple Harvest, but the picture looks rosy compared to last year when the terrible weather slashed our crop by a third. This year things should be back to normal thanks to the sunny summer. The apples may be a little smaller than usual, but they are likely to be sweeter.

10. Which of these are not a variety of British apple?
    Adam's Permain, Laxton's Superb, Vancouver, Blenheim Orange, Grenadier

Grapes
Grapes had a terrible 2012 - and being perennial plants, it takes the vines a while to recover. However the long cold spring and hot summer have provided good growing conditions so far with growers reporting a good natural bloom on the outside of the swelling fruit which helps with fermentation.

11. How much wine do British growers produce? Which of these is the UK record so far?
    a) 4 million bottles in 2010
    b) 1 million bottles in 2012
    c) 3.5 million bottles in 2013

Other than apples and cherries, the production of other traditional orchard fruits (eg pears and plums) is in decline, so statistics for this year’s harvest are hard to find. We produce about 50% of the vegetables we consume in the UK, but as much as 90% of the fruit that we buy is imported.

12. What is the total value of the fruit imported by the UK each year?
    a) £250,000,000
    b) £2,500,000,00
    c) £25,000,000,000

There are so many other fruits and vegetables that we grow here in the UK. With those at your table, write a list of all the fruit and vegetables you buy and eat … let’s see who can write the longest list and remind ourselves of God’s wonderful provision. No prizes for the longest list … just a sense of satisfaction and a reminder to everyone to eat 5 a day for your health!