

DARTMOOR FARMERS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - November 2014



Words from the Chair.....DFA has been up and running for the last 7 years, in which they have held farm walks; have had numerous guest speakers - which usually results in competitive deals for the farmers and also discounted feeds and medicines; hold an annual live and dead stock judging competition and the yearly Christmas bash! We are looking for new fresh members on the committee to take the association forward with renewed vigour and enthusiasm.

DFA OPEN MEETINGGrateful thanks to Mark Stephens from Novartis, who ably stepped in at the last minute to give an informative presentation to members on Nov 3rd at the Old Inn Widecombe. 16 members learnt more on parasites specifically Fluke, both rumen and stomach, and the predicted increase due to the weather. Mark spoke in detail about the effects of drenches and the variety on offer and which was best suited. Still not sure who paid the bar tab?!

Next step for DFA..... The open meeting provided an opportunity to discuss what DFA is and what members wanted from it. Everyone took part in the small discussion groups, and there are a few points which each table agreed;

1. DFA should investigate ways to add value to stock /products
2. DFA should provide an opportunity to meet likeminded people and work together
3. DFA to provide an united front for farming on Dartmoor
4. DFA should take advantages of the benefits of a buyers group initiative
5. DFA committee should be separate from DFL.
6. DFA should be promoted widely; clear distinction from DFL
7. DFA should be a source of communication / awareness / development

The next question is how.....

- a) Newsletters / tie in with the DHFP newsletters
- b) Farm visits / knowledge transfer
- c) Promote past deals to encourage more uptake but have something to offer!
- d) New members night / Chairman's question time
- e) Education / youth work /
- f) Machinery ring

New members evening - an opportunity to invite your friends and neighbours to discover more about DFA. There will be a speaker and refreshments will be available. More details to follow in the new year.

MEMBERS savings.....

- A 10% discount is available on the annual membership fee with Farm XS (worth £18 for 100acre farm, more for larger). Farm XS is opening a collection centre in Exeter, and plastic waste delivered to the centre will be free, after payment of membership. Or they will collect upto 2 tonnes from the farm for a fee.
- 10% discount for DFA members at Mole Avon for spraying PPE (coverall; gloves and facemask- all to legislative standards)

More details from the secretary.

Annual Christmas Primestock Show At Gages Farm, Ashburton (Langs)



Dec 1st – live classes, judged by DFA members!

Dec 3rd – carcass classes, judging by Maunders.

All DFA members are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be available.

Carcasses will be on display for viewing and the inevitable second opinion!

Both evenings start at 6pm.

An invitation to any farmer on Dartmoor



DFA CHRISTMAS DINNER

On; Dec 12th 2014

At; Old Inn Widecombe- in-the-Moor

Time; 7.30pm

Three course meal (choice of starter; DFL beef; choice of pudding) cost £20 per person and needs to be booked in advance

Chairman; Colin Abel - 01822 810264

Secretary; Norman Cowling – 01364 621268

Treasurer; George Swayne

Committee members; David Reddaway; Lloyd Mortimore; Russell Retallick; Mat Cole; Andy Bradford; Phil Coaker; Richard Vines; Ed Williams;

WANTED

**Finished native bred
cattle**

Contact Mat Cole