



Dartmoor
Hill Farm Project

November 2014 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

NFU Open Meeting	With Meurig Raymond, NFU President and Liz Truss, Secretary of State
Date	Friday 28th November, 10.30am
Venue	Exeter Racecourse
Christmas Fair	Featuring the 'Made on Dartmoor' range – ideal gifts for all the family
Date	Saturday 29th November, 11am – 3.00pm
Venue	National Park Visitor Centre, Princetown
Dartmoor Business Event	Update on Greater Dartmoor LEAF grant programme and consider how planning and business can work for a thriving Dartmoor economy.
Date	3rd Dec, Light Buffet 6.30pm, Meeting 7. 00 – 9.00pm
Venue	DNPA, Parke, Bovey Tracey
Study Visit	Tours of INNOVIS & IBERS at Aberystwyth. FULLY BOOKED.
Dates	Weds 3rd & Thurs 4th Dec
DFA Christmas Dinner	Open to all farmers on Dartmoor. 3 course dinner. £20pp. Booking essential through Norman Cowling 01364 621268
	Friday 12 December 7.30pm Old Inn, Widecombe-in-the-Moor
CAP Online	Postponed due to the RPA timeline slipping. See inside for details.
Date	Rescheduled for Thurs 15th and Fri 16th Jan 2014
Venue	Princetown Community IT Suite
Suckler Herd Production	A meeting on how to improve the efficiency of the beef suckler herd with Tim Bebbington of Castle Vets. Book through the HFP office
Date	Tues 13th January 2015, 6.30 – 10.00pm
Venue	HFP Office, Old Duchy Hotel, Princetown
Secretarial Course	5 week course helping you to hone secretarial and basic book keeping skills for the farm office. Booking essential.
Date	Thurs 15th January 2015: 5 weekly sessions
Venue	HFP Office, Old Duchy Hotel, Princetown
Vet Talk	Return of Rachel Risdon, Westpoint, for her popular vet talk for DWIF
Date	Wednesday 28 January 2015: 7.30. Venue TBC.
Optimising your farm in the Uplands	A discussion day for Dartmoor, Exmoor and Bodmin farmers. Free for all with a holding number. Book by emailing south.west@nfu.org.uk
Date	Tuesday 3 February 2015: 10am – 4pm
Venue	Roadford Lake, Devon, PL16 0JL
Visit to Teagle machinery	A combined visit with Dartmoor Hill Farm Project, Next Generation Dartmoor and YFC. We will take a coach to their factory in Truro and see their production from steel to finished product. Please book with HFP .
Date	Wednesday 4 February: 10am – 7pm

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Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Contacts

Sandra Dodd, Project Manager 01822 890912 or
07513801272, sdodd@dartmoor.gov.uk

Kate Tobin, Project Officer, 01822 890917 or 07709
839697, ktobin@dartmoor.gov.uk

Angela Wyke-Smith, Administrator, 01822 890913 or
awykesmith@dartmoor.gov.uk

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project

Old Duchy Hotel

Princetown, Devon, PL20 6QF

01822 890913

Email: hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk

Web: www.dartmoor.gov.uk/hillfarmproject

The Paperwork Pile

We know you have a pile of paperwork sitting menacingly in the corner of the kitchen. Here is a reminder of some of the important bits to pull out and deal with soon:



1 January 2015

Deadline for electronic tagging for lambs and recording movements of older sheep

Slaughter lambs tagged after this date must have either a single yellow EID slaughter tag or a full EID – one yellow tag and a matching non-EID tag.

Older sheep tagged before 2010 must have their individual animal numbers entered onto movement documents unless they are moving to slaughter or between your own holdings.

31 December 2014

Soil Protection Review should be completed.

A copy of the [continuation sheet](#) for 2014 is available at

www.rpa.defra.gov.uk/crosscompliance/farmerguidance.

Or you can contact the RPA Customer Service Centre on 0845 603 7777 or email csc@rpa.gsi.gov.uk. [Cross Compliance Guidance for Soil Management 2010 edition](#) (PB 13315) is available on their website at

www.rpa.gov.uk/crosscompliance/farmerguidance or from the RPA Customer Service Centre on 0845 603 7777.

Update on DHFP Funding

We have heard from Defra that none of the local farmer support networks, like our South West hill farm projects, will be able to apply for direct support via RDPE next year. This means that the funding will reduce down to the core funding provided by DNPA and Duchy of Cornwall, allowing for one part time staff member. We have applied to the Princes Countryside Fund to increase this to allow for two staff and to focus this on helping people get to grips with the new grants and online systems, as well as looking at succession and the next generation. We are also exploring various other funding and income sources.

Looking beyond Dartmoor, we are sorry to hear that Bodmin are preparing to close down their Hill Farm Project, although they may manage to get some funding from elsewhere too. Exmoor got funding from Princes Countryside Fund last year which will carry them through to February 2016, so they are OK for the moment and running some good events from their base at Cutcombe Market.

Optimising your farm in the Uplands

Tuesday 3 February: 10am – 4pm

Roadford Lake, Devon PL16 0JL

Robin Milton, NFU National Upland Spokesperson invites you to an event run by the NFU with Eblex and Foot Anstey with a focus on developing profitable farm businesses and looking at the future of Upland Farming. The event is free for all with a holding number and is aimed at upland farmers on Bodmin, Dartmoor and Exmoor.

There will be discussions on grassland and Livestock Production, Farm Business Planning, Farm legal structures, succession, cutting edge research and science and CAP and environment schemes.

CAP Online

HFP have postponed the sessions in the IT suite which were organised to assist farmers to register with the new RPA system since the launch has been delayed again due to compatibility issues. It is understood that the RPA will invite agents to register during December and farmers in the New Year. This is so that farmers can give agents on the system the authority to deal with their applications, if they want to.

It's important to check that your agent has the appropriate Professional Indemnity insurance for the service they are offering since any mistakes they make in their work would result in a penalty for you.

You will need various identity documents to register. For example photo ID either in the form of a photo driving licence or passport. Maybe now is the time to check that you have one of these two items and that they are still current. You need to have **at least 6 months left** on your passport if you use this to register.

Dartmoor Farmers Online

**Thursday 15 and Friday 16 January 2015
Princetown Community IT suite.**

Book an hour slot to look at the new CAP Information System and get registered. Email us on hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk or ring on 01822 890913.

We are setting up a “**Farmer Drop In Desk**” in the office which will have a computer with good broadband so that farmers can come in and work here. We are not able to offer the level of support an agent would give you but a bit of moral and technical support if you need it. We are not always in the office so please ring us first 01822 890917 if you want to drop in.

Moor Than Meets the Eye

DNPA's landscape partnership bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund has been successful and has won £1.9million for a range of heritage projects covering an area between Two Bridges, Chagford, Bovey and Ashburton.

One element of it is called "Ancient Boundaries, Modern Farming" and is intended to give a 50% grant to rebuild and improve stone walls and gateways within the Moor than Meets the Eye area from summer 2015 - 2018. If you have walls and gateways in this area which are visible from roads or footpaths and need some work or adaptation to make them fit for purpose for modern farming, this may be helpful to you. We expect to send out application forms in the New Year, but if you want to find out more or discuss a project, please get in touch with us. We would also welcome emails with photos and locations of walls you might like to apply for now, so we can get an idea of likely take-up.

Also if you would like to recommend any stone wallers who might like to tender for some of the work, please let us know so that we have a list of those working on the moor.



Fly-Tipping

Extract from National Guidance Document

Local Authorities dealt with a total of 852 thousand incidents of fly-tipping in 2013/14, an increase of 20% since 2012/13. Two thirds of cases involved household waste. There is a heavy burden of responsibility on landowners and tenant farmers to dispose of the waste safely. The true scale of fly-tipping on private land is not clear but it is estimated the fly-tipping on private land costs £50m to £150 million to clear up each year.

Land managers, occupiers or owners of private property are responsible for clearing and disposing of any fly-tipping found on private land. Whilst the Local Councils will not clear waste dumped on private land free of charge, they may investigate such incidents where appropriate. In the event that a successful prosecution is brought, the Council can apply for the Court to order that the landowner's clean-up costs be reimbursed.

The Environment Agency will investigate major incidents with a greater potential to cause harm to human health and damage to the environment, such as the larger scale incidents of fly-tipping (generally those involving more than a lorry/tipper load of waste), incidents involving hazardous waste, and those involving organised gangs of fly-tippers.

The National Fly Tipping Group (NFTPG) is a group of organisations working with a common aim to help prevent and tackle fly tipping through influencing, advising and raising awareness about the anti social nature and potential health and environmental damage fly tipping can cause.

Regardless of whether land is public or private, if you find fly-tipped waste you should report it to the relevant authority. NFTPG has new material and information on their website www.tacklingflytipping.com

**Five point plan for improving the efficiency
of the beef cow herd**

Tuesday 13th January 2015

HFP office, Old Duchy Hotel Princetown

All beef farmers are invited to a meeting on how to improve the efficiency of the beef suckler herd with Tim Bebbington of Castle Vets on 13th January 2015. Targets and how to achieve them will be discussed for heifer management, improving bull selection, managing cow condition and nutrition, avoiding difficult calvings and maintenance of herd health. Funding arrangements should be in place to ensure that the event will be free of charge. This will be an interactive session, so places will be limited and it is advised to book early.

FARM SECRETARY COURSE

Starts 15th January 2015

Old Duchy Hotel, Princetown

This course is for anyone who is involved with the paperwork for the farm and would like to be more efficient! It will cover filing and work systems, Vat, quotes, contra, single analysis, pifs and tifs, cross compliance, record keeping, paye, what accountants want, and much more!!

It will run for 5 weeks from 15th January on Thursdays. Each session will be held at our offices at Princetown beginning at 6pm for two and half hours. Refreshments will be available. The cost will be £25.00 for the 5 sessions, this will include relevant documents and handouts. Booking is essential through HFP.

Spraying Training

In the last 4 months DHFP has organised two programmes of 'Safe Use of Pesticides Training', resulting in 38 farmers becoming qualified in PA6 (Knapsack sprayer) or PA2 (On-vehicle mounted sprayer) and in some cases both. 50% of this training was funded through DHFP. Training and assessments were provided by Hush Farms with a 100% pass rate!

There has been some confusion in regard to what types of spraying PA2 covers. To clarify:

'Be aware that if you require Certification to operate either a Boom-Sprayer or Weed-Wiper there are changes looming to the qualifications in 2015 (no set date, as of yet). This means that at present you get "2 for the price of 1" – taking the PA2 NPTC assessment before the changes apply covers operating both weed-wiper AND Boom-sprayer. Once the changes have applied you will have to register for two separate assessments. Save yourself time and money – DON'T DELAY.'

With the help of Dartmoor Hill Farm Project funding, candidates have saved up to £250 per qualification for the Safe Use of Pesticides and £50 per person for the Short Journey – Animals in Transit.

'The training was good, informative and to the point.' Cameron Zab (farmer – PA6 training)

Animals in Transit

Two evenings of training have been undertaken resulting, after some time, in a 100% pass rate due to the endeavours of Hush Farms who have pursued various issues with the examination board. Congratulations to all those who completed the training. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Land Girls talk



Penny Keogh and fellow members of the Land Army on Dartmoor

Thirty people came to a fantastic talk about Land Girls and Lumber Jills in the Ballroom at the Princetown Visitor Centre. Sue Virgin gave a really lively talk with memorabilia to pass around and fascinating snippets such as the fact that the Land Girls were jealous of the Lumber Gills berets!

WWI Exhibition

Dartmoor Trust are putting together an exhibition about WWI in the Visitor Centre. They would love to hear from you if you have any photos or stories that you have heard about the impact of WWI on Dartmoor's communities. They want to know more about recruitment and conscription, refugees, how the workload changed or new work sprang up, such



as the collection of sphagnum moss. Contact Tony Clark on 01837 650011 or email him on clark.zeal@btopenworld.com

Trip to France



Twenty six farmers – 20 from Dartmoor and 4 from Exmoor - went to France in October for one of the biggest European livestock shows held at Clermont-Ferrand and included visits to local farms.

Doreen Fell wrote of one day” we opted to go on a coach trip to a Cattle Collecting Centre where cattle are selected and more were ready for export. The cattle were well cared for and lorries were continually collecting and dropping off. The lorries were loaded normally and the cattle were elevated up to a second or third level. Approximately 150,000 cattle pass through each year. We then proceeded to an enterprising Charolais unit. Students from a local college made up the staff controlled by a general manager who gave us a presentation.”

And we congratulate Sam Bullingham, who was at the same show independently for the shearing competition, and who took home the World Young Shepherd of the Year Award to Dartmoor.

First Aid Training

Steve Rose of 'Get First Aid', ran a 1 day course in Level 2 Emergency First Aid in the Workplace on 5th November. This training offers a 3 year certificate and also acts as a refresher course for those who already hold the qualification. 8 people attended and all were very positive as to how the course was taught especially as Steve added particular references and potential situations for those working in rural, isolated locations.

Steve has suggested he runs a similar First Aid course split into two 3½ hour sessions over two evenings. Hopefully this will make it easier for farmers to attend. Please call the HFP office if you would be interested in this.

Exmoor to Dartmoor

24 Exmoor farmers asked to visit Dartmoor and particularly Tavistock Livestock market on 4th November. This coincided with a store market. After spending the morning at the market, lunch was taken at the Merrivale Inn with 6 Dartmoor farmers sharing their experiences and insights. The group then visited Phil Heard at Meldon Farm on their way back.

Katherine Williams, Exmoor's Network Officer said "This was a great opportunity for Exmoor farmers to learn from another upland area, sharing ideas and experiences. Many farmers can become quite isolated and visiting Dartmoor has given them an insight into the challenges faced on Dartmoor and their solutions, particularly in relation to the use of different breeds and addressing health issues. We were very interested in the 'easycare' stock management system."

Miscellaneous around the Moor

Dartmoor Food Hub

Stella West-Harding (Ashburton cookery school/The Home Farm Cafe at Parke) is hoping to set up a food hub in some redundant farm buildings in the centre of Widecombe. The aim of the project is to provide a centre for local produce to be prepared for meals for schools on the moor and provide prepared meals for elderly and vulnerable people living on Dartmoor who are not in the position to cook hot meals for themselves. In addition to providing these services the hub would also open its facilities to people who want to set up or expand their own micro food production businesses based on produce from the moor for a minimal fee. If you would like to find out more about the project you can get in touch with Stella via her website:

<http://stellawestharling.com/>

Holding tanks for run off from agricultural stock buildings

The Planning team have noted a recent case for a large concreted holding tank as a result of new Environment Agency regulations. The Planning team would like to pass on a message to the farming community that these structures will often need some sort of permission in advance. Before any such structures are constructed it is advised that farmers should drop a line to the Planning team at Parke with a location/site plan and an indication of the size of the holding structure. On receipt they can then check on the need for planning permission/agricultural notification and advise accordingly.

Steve Belli, DNPA Planning

Businesses on Dartmoor

Tuesday 3 December: 6.30 – 8.30pm
Parke, Bovey Tracey

Dartmoor businesses are invited to join Dartmoor National Park at a meeting on 3 December 2014 to explore new opportunities for business development in the area.

The evening will include a presentation, giving up to date information on the **Greater Dartmoor LEAF** (local enterprise action fund) and how it can help business growth. There will also be an 'ask the planner' session, giving an opportunity for business people to pose questions to Dartmoor planners and gain a greater understanding of how the planning system works.

All questions must be submitted in advance and will be selected to highlight the key issues being raised. Any questions submitted, but not discussed on the night, will receive a written response. Please email your questions to **economy@dartmoor.gov.uk** no later than Sunday 30 November.

Stephen Belli, Director of Planning, Dartmoor National Park, said: 'This is an opportunity for Dartmoor's business people to come and talk to the Planning Authority in a relaxed atmosphere and to hear about some of the new opportunities for businesses on Dartmoor.'

The meeting will be held at the National Park headquarters, Parke, Bovey Tracey. A light buffet will be available from 6.30 pm and the event will start at 7 pm. The meeting will last no more than two hours and is open to all.

To register your interest please email **economy@dartmoor.gov.uk** or contact Miss Jo Rumble, Communities Officer, DNP on 01626 831024.

Rest Assured

FWAG are running a new project called Rest Assured, funded by the Princes Countryside Fund. This allows them to offer a free, confidential visit to farmers feeling overwhelmed by the bureaucracy or anxious about a possible inspection.

They can offer you a:

Paperwork visit: To help you check if your paperwork is up to date.

Cross Compliance Check: To help you complete your paperwork and tour the farm to identify and help you avoid any possible problems.

Farm Tour: Discuss ways you might be able to save money or increase your income on the farm.

FWAG can also work with you to create a free heritage report so that traditional skills and knowledge are not lost when farms change hands.

If you want to find out more you can contact FWAG on 01823 355427 or email info@fwagsw.org.uk

The Farming Community Network

Helping farming people through difficult times
Open 7.00am – 11.00pm every day of the year

0845 367 9990

chris@fcn.org.uk

www.fcn.org.uk

ARC – Addington Fund

Supporting Britain's Farming Communities

02476 690587

enquiries@arc-addingtonfund.org.uk

www.arc-addingtonfund.org.uk

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

Supporting Farming Families

General Enquiries: 01865 724931

Welfare Enquiries: 0300 303 7373

info@rabi.org.uk

www.rabi.org.uk

The Samaritans

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