Latest News
EHFN involved in a national project to demonstrate improved methods for controlling sheep scab, working with The National Sheep Association (NSA).

NSA and EHFN has welcomed the launch of a new initiative exploring a structured approach to controlling sheep scab – and looks forward to delivering the work on Exmoor and in the Greater Exmoor Area.

NSA and EHFN are just two of a number of partners involved in the two-year initiative, funded by Defra via the Rural Development Programme for England and led by Moredun. It is fully supportive of the concept of using on-farm advice, training and testing to drive a coordinated approach to controlling sheep scab in the three focus areas in England selected for the project – North West, Midlands and South West. With a strong regional presence, NSA has identified Exmoor as an area suitable and will work with EHFN to deliver the project aims. Working with people already on the ground, will bring together sheep farmers, their vets, and advisors into appropriate clusters. Given its role throughout the UK, NSA is also ideally placed to extrapolate learnings from the projects to elsewhere in the region and throughout England, as well as linking with and comparing to existing initiatives in the devolved UK nations.

Phil Stocker, NSA Chief Executive, says: “Sheep scab continues to be a health and economic problem with significant costs to the UK sheep industry. Many outbreaks are ‘imposed’ on farmers through actions outside their control which is why coordinated control programmes need to be implemented. By integrating blood-testing, sound advice and good training, there is a strong chance to show how we could bring this debilitating disease under control. “The number of farmers to be recruited to this project means it a far step from a national eradication programme – but the partnership approach and strong execution means it has the potential to be the benchmark and launch pad for future, larger initiatives. That is why NSA was so keen to be involved. It is an exciting community-led approach involving a team of experts who will work collaboratively with farmers to drive and demonstrate real change - hopefully leading to even greater things in the future.”

Farmers wishing to find out more and how to get involved in the project should contact Katherine Williams, in strictest confidence katherine@ehfn.org.uk 07970 795808. We will be holding a series of zoom open meetings for farmers to attend in May. This project is led by Moredun Research Institute and supported through the Rural Development Programme for England, which is jointly funded by Defra and the European Union.

Open Events in planning – please save the dates for now

Biodiversity Net Gain and Carbon offsetting – Thursday 13th May, 7.30pm via zoom
Biodiversity Net Gain is a Government policy and an approach to development that seeks to leave the natural environment in a better state. It requires a measurable improvement in the quality and condition of habitats following development and some of this improvement may be achieved through habitat creation and enhancement on rural land in the form of biodiversity credits. This information session will provide a broad introduction to Biodiversity Net Gain and how it might be relevant to your farm. Supported by case studies, the event will set out how Biodiversity Net Gain might provide future income opportunities but also the current uncertainties around this relatively new policy and market. The interaction with other payment mechanisms such as carbon offsetting will also be discussed. Everyone is welcome to attend whether you lie in or out the catchment area.

**Follow up meeting Wednesday 25th May, 7pm via zoom.**

Now the project has been completed and the final report submitted to Defra earlier this spring. We would like to invite you to a follow up meeting to discuss the findings of the project, and hear directly from participants involved and next steps. The summary document is in progress and due for release next month prior to this meeting. The project team from Exmoor National Park Authority, Rural Focus Ltd, Savills and FWAG will be in attendance. Please save the date for now.

Please register your interests nearer the time and further marketing reminders will be circulated, the zoom links will be sent on the **morning** of the meeting date.

**Peer Support Groups**

**Exmoor Women in Farming Group – General catch up meeting**

After consideration with members at our last meeting it was decided to hold a further general catch up meeting on 26th April amongst the group. Sally Mitchell, Partner and Auctioneer at Greenslade Taylor Hunt has agreed to speak to us on Monday 10th May. Our next catch up meeting is arranged as follows: **Topic for discussion:**

General catch up with members **Date:** Monday 26th April 2021  **Time:** 8pm – 9pm

**Venue:** from your own home  **Peer Support Contribution:** £5pp

**Join Zoom Meeting**

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86378925830?pwd=NTJnVU12Q2VDK05VaVFIUFZtUEVQVT09  **Meeting ID:** 863 7892 5830  **Passcode:** 193583. We welcome new members to our zoom sessions, do get in touch if you would like help in setting this up.

**Free Business Support**

**The Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme Exmoor Area - places still available this Summer 2021**

Due to Covid restrictions and a delayed start to the Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme there are still places available for this FREE programme, starting this summer.

It is a series of FREE business skills workshops delivered by top agricultural consultants, especially designed for family farm businesses. It covers topics such as business planning, practical cost management, business health check/benchmarking and much more.
To express an interest or for any queries please contact Charmain Dascombe (local co-ordinator - Exmoor Area) charmainfrp@gmail.com or 07881 406306. Open to all members in the Exmoor and Greater Exmoor area.

Latest News

Rural Enterprise Exmoor Vision Survey  
Building a path to Exmoor's future rural economy.  
Have your say on Exmoor's future economy

Following the research undertaken over the last 18 months through the Rural Enterprise Exmoor initiative we are now going on to develop an economic vision. This will be used to guide the work of Exmoor National Park Authority as well as other organisations who have greater roles in economic development to guide future work and articulate our needs clearly. We have commissioned Ash Futures to work with us on the development of that Vision. As part of their work Ash Futures would like to invite you to complete a short online survey about your views on how the economy of Exmoor could or should develop.

Exmoor is one of 15 National Parks in the UK. The National Parks are world-class landscapes with the power to inspire everyone. They’ve been designated because of their special qualities such as natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage. They are also living and working landscapes. We are therefore seeking to develop a vision to sustain and grow Exmoor's rural economy in harmony with its National Park Status. The survey asks for your views looking forward 10 years. What do you think or hope the Exmoor economy might look like? Just click on the link to take you to the survey Rural Enterprise Exmoor vision survey (constantcontact.com). Only aggregated and anonymised responses will be used. The survey will open until 27th April.

Calling Young People of Exmoor 16-30 year olds living / working in and around Exmoor

Given the vision will be used to guide the long term future work of the National Park Authority and our economic development partners within the Local Authorities, we are keen to hear from those just starting out in their careers and have a specific survey aimed at those aged approx. 16 - 30. There is no need to respond twice - e.g if you represent a business and have already responded to the business survey if you are under 30 there is no need to take the young person's survey. https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/.../Rural_Enterprise... The survey is open until 27th April.

Other Interest

FWAG Farm Plastic Recycling Scheme 2021
The FWAG Farm Plastic Recycling Scheme began in 2004 and has taken place annually ever since. The aim of the scheme is to provide farmers with a responsible, environmentally sound way to recycle plastic, preventing it from going to landfill. The scheme is simple and straightforward, with no membership fees and you only pay for the plastic you bring. Collection sites at Cutcombe on Monday 17th May and Blackmoor Gate on Wednesday 17th May.

- £237/tonne +VAT (minimum charge £71 +VAT)
- Pay on the day: card machine payment (preferred), or cheque / cash
- Clean, separated, bagged plastic only. Tyres and contaminated or mixed plastic will be turned away. An additional surcharge may apply to loads where net wrap is more than 10% of the load by volume
- Deliver to the specified site at your booked time
- To book your allocated hourly slot, book online at Farm Plastic Recycling Scheme 2021 | Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West Limited (fwagsw.org.uk) (preferred booking method due to reduced number of office staff) or call 01823 660684 **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**

A face to face meeting will be arranged when safe to do so with Exmoor born Lee Baker, National Sales Director who will be present to advise you how AMC can help you move forward with your farming business. In the meantime please contact them for an informal chat to discuss your requirements. AMC founded in 1928, providing loans to farmers, land estates and rural businesses and is currently supplying 18% of UK Agricultural lending with 9 experienced Regional, along with a large Network of over 280 Land Agents. You can find more about how AMC can help your farm business providing long term, committed, flexible loan type – Interest only and repayment and flexible interest type – fixed and variable and ongoing light touch support. Visit the website here Agricultural Farm Finance & Mortgages UK | AMC (amconline.co.uk) or contact Lee on M: 07793 670715 E: lee.baker@amcplc.com

**Somerset County Council Business Newsletter Spring Edition**
Please find attached SCC Business Newsletter filled with a wealth of business support and details of grants and training sessions all aimed at helping the Somerset business community to reopen, become more resilient and grow.

**Commercial Adverts**
**Clamp Silage For Sale near Winsford.**
300 tons of high dry matter silage made in 2019. Reasonable access. Loading can be arranged. Call Mark for details. 01643851761.
For further information on any of the above. Please contact Katherine Williams on 07970 795808 or email katherine@ehfn.org.uk