



August 2022



Latest News



Following on from the Farm for the Future Programme last year. We are delighted to announce that the Prince's Countryside Fund have been appointed by Defra as a provider to the **Future Farming Resilience Fund (FFRF) Scale Up Project**. The Exmoor Hill Farming Network will deliver this project across the Greater Exmoor area working with 13 other networks across the country including Farm Cornwall and Dartmoor. This project will provide a wealth of information, workshops and free business support as we move through the agricultural transition and will run between September 2022 to March 2025. Further information will become available shortly with project sign up commencing from September 2022.

Dunster Show Celebration - Friday 19th August 2022

After eight years at the helm of the Exmoor Hill Farming Network, Dave Knight is retiring as Chairman later this month due to increasing family commitments. Dave's quiet and confident leadership has created the independent and nationally recognised organisation it is today, gaining him huge respect and many friends. He will continue as a member of the Network's Board of Directors. Following Dave's retirement, from August Ian May, local sheep, and beef farmer on the southern edge of Exmoor, will succeed him as chairman. Ian is hopefully known to some of you. With the support of the Board of Directors and under the continued coordination of the existing network team members (Katherine and Kirsty) the organisation will continue to support and represent Exmoor farmers and farming. We hope many of you will join us and raise a glass to thank Dave.



Peer Support Groups **Forward Farming Group** **August Meeting**

Topic: Farm visit incorporating a new approach to Grassland Management.
Date: Thursday 11th August 2022 (**note change of day due to Exford Show**)
Time: 7pm – 9.30pm approx. (starting promptly at 7pm please)

Venue: Weston Farm, Knowstone, South Molton

EX36 4ED by kind permission of the Stanbury Family

Peer Support Contribution: £5pp or annual membership £50, please make cheques payable to Exmoor Hill Farming Network CIC or request the bacs details from the office.

With increasing input costs - fertiliser, feed, medicine and labour plus the reductions in BPS we have reviewed the way we run our family farm. Join us to see our new grassland

management approach on our beef and sheep farm to curb these costs. We have introduced rotational grazing systems, herbal lays and native stock to get performance without the costs. We hope that we can explore some of the winter crops on foot as we enjoy a trailer ride around the farm.

We will return for some refreshments including home reared red ruby Devon beef burgers. Please ensure clean footwear is worn. Booking is essential for catering purposes -

admin@ehfn.co.uk

Exmoor Women in Farming Group

Annual Summer Walk

Route: Dunkery Beacon, Horner Wood, finishing up at Horner Farm for a bring and share picnic by kind permission of Mark Brewer and Holly Purdey.

Date: Monday 15th August **Time:** 5.30pm **Venue:** Meet either at Horner Farm at 5.30pm (for lifts to Dunkery) or Dunkery Hill Gate at 5.45pm prompt, then walk down to Horner Farm (approximately 3 miles, gentle climb to Dunkery Beacon and then downhill through Horner woods) for bring and share picnic – please let us know what you would like to bring when booking. Please bring appropriate footwear. Bookings by Thursday 11th August to admin@ehfn.org.uk.

Next Generation Group

Topic: System changes to improve farm profitability

Date: Thursday 25th August 2022

Time: 7pm – 9.30pm approx.

Venue: Lyncombe Farm, Brompton Regis, Dulverton TA22 9NH by kind permission of the Buckingham Family. Food will be included

Join us for an informative farm tour and talk with Gerald, Fonda and Jack Buckingham at the family farm near Brompton Regis. Jack works part time on the farm alongside his parents and part time as a Farm Business Consultant with Creedy Associates Ltd. The farm is part way through significant changes to both the sheep and cattle enterprises alongside the expansion of both enterprises. The sheep enterprise currently consists of 430 breeding ewes which are transitioning from Texel x and Suffolk x to include NZ Romney, Aberfield, Lleys and mules with the aim of increasing lambs reared and switching from indoor to outdoor lambing. The suckler herd of 35 cows are Devon x, Angus x and Hereford x dairy put to Limousin with calves sold at 8-9 months old. Root crops for outwintering have recently been reintroduced along with more extensive reseeding and rotational grazing. Booking is essential for catering purposes - admin@ehfn.co.uk

Open Events

Red Tractor Engagement Meeting -attached

Join us for an interactive evening with national and local representatives from SAI Global, the largest Certification body for Red Tractor. Representatives will include Nik Searston (Development Manager), Debbie Stanton (Beef & Lamb Scheme Manager) and Laura Sharland (Team Leader). **Date:** Tuesday 23rd August 2022 **Time:** 7pm – 8.30pm **Venue:** Exford Social Club, Exford TA24 7PP (bar available)

Topics to be covered:

- Overview of Red Tractor
- Processes involved
- What to expect from an inspection?
- Version 5 Changes effective from 1st Nov 2021
- Question and answer session

Booking essential for catering purposes to book a place please contact the Network Office on admin@ehfn.org.uk or 01643 841455.



Free drop in faecal egg counting sessions Monday 8th August, 11am – 2pm until end of sale at Cutcombe Market, with thanks to Exmoor Farmers. See attached information

Training Opportunities

Mastering Medicines – *final remaining places*

As of 1st November 2021, Red Tractor has introduced a new compulsory standard, where at least one member of staff has undertaken a Mastering Medicines training course and holds a certificate of competence. We are taking bookings for a September date due to popular demand if this of interest please get in touch with us. **Date:** Tuesday 6th September 2022

Venue: Cutcombe Market **Time:** 1pm for 1.15am start– 4pm. To book your place, please contact the office admin@ehfn.org.uk.

Other Interest

NSA Samuel Wharry Memorial Award -Travel Bursaries



National Sheep Association

The National Sheep Association (NSA) is excited to open applications as the search begins for the second pair of lucky recipients for the NSA Samuel Wharry Memorial Award for the Next Generation. The award, given in association with the Company of the Merchant of the Staple of England, comes in the form of two generous £2,750 travel bursaries to support two young people, aged 21 to 34, in a study trip to explore the application of science in sheep production. It gives enthusiastic and aspirational young sheep farmers the opportunity to widen their shepherding knowledge and experience. The awards are made in memory of Samuel Wharry of Carnlough, County Antrim, who was NSA Chairman when he died suddenly in May 2017, aged just 56. Samuel was an advocate of science and technology, particularly relating to genetics, during his many years breeding Blackface sheep.

Applicants are invited to apply for the bursary online on the NSA Next Generation website where they will be asked about their current involvement in the sheep sector, their plans for the future and for an outline of a planned study trip. The purpose of the study trip must be to learn more about the practical application of science and technology in the sheep sector. The recipients of the award will be expected to share findings from their trip through NSA communications. Recipients of the first award, Marie Prebble, a sheep farmer and shearer from Kent, and Charlie Beaty, a mixed farmer from Warwickshire, received their bursaries at the beginning of 2019, allowing plans to be



made for study trips exploring different aspects of sheep production. Marie chose to travel to France, Norway, Iceland and parts of the UK, using her bursary to investigate best practice at shearing time, both improving animal welfare and wool presentation, whilst Charlie travelled to the Southern hemisphere visiting New Zealand to investigate grassland management and how improvement and utilisation of permanent pasture can be used to reduce production costs. Applications are now open until **Monday 12th September** with first interviews due to be held on Monday 3rd October. Find terms and conditions and an online application form as well as further information on the NSA Next Generation programme at [Travel Bursary | NSA Next Generation \(nationalsheep.org.uk\)](https://nationalsheep.org.uk/TravelBursary)

National Trust Engagement Event – Thursday 18th August 2022

Regenerative Farming

Evening talks, Q & A and local food.
Horner Farm – 5-8.30pm 18th August

A unique chance to hear from farmers that focus on long term sustainability by putting soils, climate and nature at the core of their farming business.

Come along, enjoy great food and drink in a friendly atmosphere and get involved in some healthy discussion relevant to the future of farming on Exmoor.

Places are free but places must be booked in advance. Numbers limited. Online participation will be possible through MS Teams. Covid safe space.

Please contact Ben Eardley to book a place - ben.eardley@nationaltrust.org.uk

Holly Purdy
Horner Farm
Holly grew up on an organic dairy farm and went on to work in conservation. She is building an agroecological farm with cattle, sheep, goats and chickens which they direct sell through their farm shop. Driven by the climate emergency, and biodiversity loss, she is managing the farm in a way that delivers healthy soils, abundant wildlife and contributes to a thriving local community. The farm hosts education days, food events and open days. Holly is a trustee for Somerset Wildlife Trust.

Naomi Oakley
Chalfacombe Farm
Naomi has a background in agriculture and ecology. Naomi works as a Natural England Principal Advisor (uplands) and is a Duchy Estate tenant farmer on Dartmoor. Naomi is well placed to offer unique insights into farming, the environment and agricultural policy and financial drivers.

Jonny Brunyee
Conygree Farm
Jonny is passionate about regenerative farming, sustainable food and knowledge exchange, and has 25 years of experience in the sustainable farming and environmental sector. Jonny is a National Trust farm tenant producing organic and pasture fed beef and lamb, and species rich grassland, and won the NT Farming with Nature Award in 2017. Jonny is Head of Sustainable Farming at FarmED, the Centre for Farm and Food Education.





Exmoor Farmers Cattle Sale
Monday 8th August 2022 (attached catalogue)
420 Head including suckled calves at 11am. View catalogue here
[Home \(exmoorfarmers.co.uk\)](http://exmoorfarmers.co.uk)



Le Chameau Imperfects Boots

Le Chameau have launched their 'Imperfects' initiative for the second year running to raise money for The Prince's Countryside Fund. Running for one month, from Tuesday 5th July to Friday 5th August, you can shop up to 65% off their minor imperfections collection and support our British countryside, with 10% of each purchase donated to The Prince's Countryside Fund! Known for boots crafted to perfection, Le Chameau is synonymous with quality. Their commitment to the highest standards means that a minor imperfection can cause a boot to be

rejected, even though they are still fit for purpose and meet our rigorous waterproof testing. As the boots are practically perfect they feel the right thing to do is offer them to a home where they can be worn, loved and put through their paces in the British Countryside. Find out more here: <https://www.lechameau.com/gb/imperfects>



Exmoor Rural Health Hub

The Health Hub will be operating from The Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross on the following dates: **8th August - 11am -4pm** and **17th August - 1.30 – 5pm**. No booking necessary. For further information please visit [Dates for your diary – Exmoor Rural Health Hub \(erhh.co.uk\)](http://erhh.co.uk)

Commercial Adverts

NEW*Patterdale Terriers for Sale

4 Patterdale boy pups for sale. Ready to go 21 August. Docked, wormed and will be microchipped before leaving. 3 smooth coated, 1 rough coated, all black with white markings (one with some tan). Can be seen with mum. Used to young children. Rural homes only. Located near Crowcombe. To enquire call/ text or WhatsApp Debs on 07748 716813



NEW*Accommodation required

Young tidy responsible family looking for house rental 3-4 bedroom cottage or house suitable for young children. Fully employed, able to pay rent up-front & could help on farm at peak times, please contact James@jpbwright.co.uk // 07856204233

Sprayer Driver

Experienced skilled sprayer operator/mechanic, for large contracting company, you need to be flexible and organised, prepared to work in a physical environment and able to work with minimum supervision. PA1, PA2 & PA6 preferred but not essential.

Responsibilities and Duties

- Skilled sprayer operator/mechanic
- Previous experience essential
- To be able to use own initiative.

Qualifications and Skills

- PA1, PA2 & PA6 preferred but training can be given.
- NROSO preferred but training can be given.
- Skilled sprayer operator/mechanic
- Extensive experience in same or similar role
- To work with minimum supervision.
- Must take pride in the quality of work and be self-disciplined.
- Great communication skills.
- Able to work under pressure.
- A flexible approach to working hours is required.
- Clean driving licence.
- Experience of self propelled sprayers (Bateman)

Permanent position with immediate start. Accommodation available for the right candidate.

Varied hours Monday – Sunday. Competitive salary - experience dependent.

Annex accommodation available. Please contact Richard Barrow on 01271 882006

Shepherd required

After working with us for 16 years our present shepherd has now gained a tenancy of his own,

Therefore, we are looking for someone to take over his role, looking after 1200 ewes on a frequent lambing system and getting involved with many other aspects of this diverse farm. For more information, please call me (Andrew Speed) on 07802245843.



SPECIALIST SERVICE FOR FARMERS AND SMALLHOLDERS.

Whether you are looking to set up a farm shop, sell produce direct to the public or simply fill the freezer, we can tailor cuts to best suit you and your customers needs. Based locally, with over 12 years experience in the trade, you can guarantee the highest quality of work and food safety standards.




Please call 07572879560 or email samlunt@hotmail.co.uk

Poison free pest control

With over 50 years' experience in vermin control let me help you get rid of unwanted pests eating your profits from cage trapping crows and magpies to large scale rabbit removal with traditional methods all livestock and land respected fully insured with references available all pests removed from land and disposed of by Shotgun and firearm certificate

- Gnvq level 3 in estate management and deer management
- Dmq certificate
- 3rd party insurance
- Covering all areas of Exmoor National Park. Please email matthewturley04@gmail.com Or 07742 475845



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To book on any of the above events please contact Kirsty admin@ehfn.org.uk or 01643841455.

Key partners

