



January 2023



Latest News



GRAZING LICENCE AVAILABLE BY INFORMAL TENDER at Driver Farm, Simonsbath
– **Tender deadline this week**
Approximately 244 ha

To graze with cattle and sheep 15th May 2023 – 31st April 2024 (Particulars attached)

DESCRIPTION Moorland and grassland management at Driver Farm, Simonsbath – 244.866 ha. • The land is a mixture of moorland (173.492 ha) and grassland (71.374 ha)– see grazing prescriptions attached; • The land is not fertilised; • Cattle and sheep required; • Available from 15th May 2023 – 31st April 2024; • Stock fencing around perimeter; • Spring water is available at no cost to the grazier; • Access is available via the main entrance to Driver Farm, along the B3358. • There are two separate SSSIs within the site - Pinkworthy and Driver SSSI (short pasture enclosures) and North Exmoor SSSI (moorland) with differing grazing requirements.

For the avoidance of doubt, the uncoloured (white) areas on the plan are available for grazing and will be included within the Grazing Licence. These areas do not have a specific grazing prescription but will also be discussed and agreed upon with Natural England prior to the commencement of the Grazing Licence. The total area available for grazing is therefore approximately **318 ha (786 acres)**. Furthermore, Andrew Lawes and Charity Winfield from Exmoor National Park Authority will be in attendance at the farm on **Wednesday 11th January between 10 am and noon** should you wish to attend and inspect the holding on foot. If you would like to attend, please drive to the main farmyard where Andrew and Charity will be located. The outgoing tenant Mr Owen will also be in attendance.

Tenders to be submitted by email or post to Exmoor National Park Authority, addressed to Andrew Lawes, no later than 13th January 2023. A: Exmoor House, Dulverton, Somerset, TA22 9HL E: alawes@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk T: 01398 322274



Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme – Don't miss out on a funding opportunity

The Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme on Exmoor is open to applications that can be delivered by **March 2023** and the available budget currently stands at over **£50,000**. Farming in Protected Landscapes is a programme of funding for one-off projects,

not an ongoing agri-environment scheme. It will support farmers and land managers to carry out projects that:

- support nature recovery
- mitigate the impacts of climate change
- provide opportunities for people to discover, enjoy and understand the landscape and its cultural heritage
- support nature-friendly, sustainable farm businesses

For example, the programme might support:

- promoting connectivity between habitats
- promoting easier access on public rights of way
- conserving historic features on a farm, such as lime kilns or mining heritage
- action to reduce carbon emissions on a farm
- Purchasing machinery that is not available through other funding sources that meet the FiPL outcomes.

At this time of year, you may want to think about tree planting, hedge laying or planting, or orchard restoration. For example, this is an ideal time of year to prune apple trees and plant replacement trees. Further information can be found here: [Exmoor - Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme \(exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk\)](https://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/landscapes-programme) To apply or if you have any questions please contact Charlotte Thomas cthomas@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk or Sarah Eveleigh seveleigh@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

Latest News from Defra

At the Oxford Farming Conference last week, Minister for Food, Farming and Fisheries, Mark Spencer announced that the payment rates for both Countryside Stewardship revenue options and capital items will change. The new revenue rates will be introduced for all new and existing Mid Tier and Higher Tier Countryside Stewardship agreements from 1 January 2023. On average, there will be a 10% increase in revenue rates. However, this will differ between agreements and not all revenue rates will increase if the evidence suggests current rates reflect market conditions. This change will benefit the 30,000 Countryside Stewardship agreement holders across England. Defra will continue to review payment rates across our environmental land management offers. Later this year, Defra will publish how they will routinely review payment rates from 2024 onwards. Follow the link to read more and see the payment rates: [Introducing SFI Management Payments and changes to Countryside Stewardship rates - Future Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Peer Support Groups

Forward Farming Group Post Christmas Meal

Date: Tuesday 31st January 2023 **Venue:** The Rest and Be Thankful Inn, Wheddon Cross
Time: 7pm arrival for 7.15pm sit down **Guest Speaker:** Philip Beauvais, Defence Capability Manager, Met Office, Exeter. **Topic:** Weather forecasting and climate change: where do we go from now? **Menu:** Carvery and a choice of pudding on the evening **Cost:** £19.00 (cash payment on the night). Booking is essential Booking is essential please book via admin@ehfn.org.uk by Thursday 26th January 2023. Everyone welcome.

Other Interest



Update from Michelle Haimes , Local PCSO, Exmoor Neighbour Policing Team

Unfortunately, there have been three separate incidents this week on Exmoor (Somerset side). Two involved a vehicle and trailer being stolen – both have thankfully been recovered. Chainsaws have also been stolen in a non-dwelling burglary. Can you please remind everyone.

- to be vigilant
- report anything suspicious (via 999 if ongoing)
- secure their property as best they can
- considering marking property and joining Farm Watch (if they have not already done so). [Farm Watch | Avon and Somerset Police Farm Watch \(daccwa.org\)](#)

Michelle will be attending the next cattle market on **8th February**.

Mobile 07889659242 **Email** michelle.haimes@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Dissertation Research

Somerset based students, Molly Hunter from the Royal Agricultural University and Hollie Govier, former EHFN work placement student from Hartpury College are seeking farmers views on a range of topics for their dissertation projects this year. The topics include: Perception of the main cause for the spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in the UK see link [Microsoft Forms \(office.com\)](#) and The Volatility of the Upland Sheep Market in the Southwest of England see attached document. They would be very appreciative of your support.

Defibrillator grants – London Hearts

Grants are available to fund Public Access Defibrillators in communities all over the country. London Hearts is a charity aiming to help and support communities with the provision of heart defibrillators and teaching CPR/defibrillator skills. They can provide a grant of £300 towards the cost of a defibrillator and storage as well as a free online training video. Access the application [here](#).



**Exmoor Rural
Health Hub**

The **Health Hub** will be operating on the **Wednesday 18th January 11am – 2pm** from their new portacabin site at the market (located opposite the wash out). For more information please visit: <https://www.erhh.co.uk/serviceupdates/dates-for-your-diary/>

Pesticide Amnesty

The Upstream Thinking project is working in the Headwaters of the Exe to improve the quality of our rivers and has been running a pesticide amnesty since 2017. Did you know, the amount of pesticide found on the foil lid of a container is enough to pollute 30km of watercourse.

We offer collection of any pesticide, in date or expired, and in any container type free of charge. Collections can be arranged on farm or pharmaceutical DOOPs bins can be provided which can contain empty bottles, spent syringes and unused/out of date medicines, this includes antibiotics, penicillin, and anti-inflammatory drugs. The bins cannot contain any controlled medication (schedule 1-5) or any cytotoxic/cytostatic products.

Through the Headwaters Project we can offer a confidential audit of the pesticides you have on the farm and arrange for a specialist contractor to remove them **free of charge**. The amnesty is anonymous. Waste licences required by the Environment Agency, which are organised by the contractor, require details but no details are passed on to SouthWest Water or Exmoor National Park Authority or are used by FWAG SW beyond the delivery of the project.

If you are interested in taking part in the amnesty, please contact Áine Corrigan at Aine.Corrigan@fwagsw.org.uk / 07557 094029.

Weed control in Grassland Workshop

Raleghs Cross Inn, Brendon Hill, TA23 0LN
Thursday 19th January 2023, 10.30am - 2.30pm

NRoSO & BASIS points will be available

Join us to discuss weed control in grassland to make the best of your pasture.

We have several speakers who will be covering:

- Selection of the best product for your grassland and new products
- Safe responsible handling and application of products
- Nonchemical cultural control of weeds in new and established grassland
- An update on the current legislation regarding the use of plant protection products
- Opportunities for funding available for farmers to protect water quality and the environment.

We are also running a free pesticide amnesty in the Upper Tone catchment offering land managers the opportunity to dispose of unwanted pesticides, to reduce the risk these chemicals pose to water quality and the environment.



Refreshments and lunch will be provided, please provide us with dietary requirements upon booking.
 You will be asked for your SBI number upon booking, please have that ready upon booking.
 Booking is essential for this free event. Call 01823 660684, email info@fwagsw.org.uk or you can book via our website www.fwagsw.org.uk





Applying the The Farming Rules for Water (FRfW)

FRfW aim to protect water and standardise good farming practice but can be difficult to achieve if you have limited storage for organic manures. FWAG SW can help you make plans and changes on your farm to meet FRfW.

Make a plan

Nutrient management plans should be proportionate to the needs of the individual farm, show an assessment of crop nutrient requirements for each parcel, take account of most recent soil analysis and the nutrient content of the applied manures and fertilisers.

Assess crop and soil needs

Along with avoiding the risk of diffuse pollution land managers should also be mindful not to exceed the crop requirements. No more nitrogen should be applied over an annual crop cycle than the soil and crop need on that land. Land managers should plan to avoid applying organic manures that raise the Soil Phosphorus (P) Index above target levels for soil and crop on land over a crop rotation.

Assess significant risks of agricultural diffuse pollution

Farmyard manure and compost are considered to have a low risk of nitrate leaching, provided all appropriate reasonable precautions are taken to help mitigate against diffuse pollution. These materials have low readily available nitrogen (RAN) with RAN content of 30% or less. In this situation an application rate limit would not need to be enforced because of nitrate leaching risk.

Slurry and poultry manure have high RAN, above 30 percent and a higher risk of pollution from leaching. For applications of high RAN organic manure, the potential nitrate leaching risk linked to the application rate will not be considered significant if one of the following 3 criteria are met when applied to land:

- outside the time periods set out below, in which case no application rate limit would need to be enforced because of nitrate leaching risk
- during the time periods set out below with a single application rate limit of 30m³/ha for high RAN organic manures in general and 8t/ha for high RAN poultry organic manures with no repeat applications for at least 21 days during the restricted time periods
- during the time periods set out below at an application rate to meet the soil and crop need of an autumn/winter commercial crop, not including conventional cover crops or green manure

Soil type	Grassland	Tillage land
Sandy or shallow soil	1 September to the end of February	1 August to the end of February
All other soils	15 October to the end of February	1 October to the end of February

Assessment of reasonable precautions

Aim to have green cover by 15th of October to reduce the risk of diffuse agricultural pollution by reducing the amount of bare ground on farm. Green cover means any commercial crop, green manure or cover crop.

FWAG SW has a number of FACTS Qualified Advisers who can help you create a Nutrient Management Plan and a Manure Management Plan. We can also support farmers in the Headwaters of the Exe catchment with grants and advice to identify and make the required

changes for better manure management and storage. Please contact Áine Corrigan for more information at aine.corrigan@fwagsw.org.uk / 07557 094029.

More information on GOV.uk:

- [Rules for farmers and land managers to prevent water pollution](#)
- [Applying the farming rules for water - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- [Nutrient Management Guide \(RB209\) | AHDB](#)

Commercial Adverts

***NEW* Shepherd /flock manager required**

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

Help and assistance will be available, the ideal candidate should have a sound knowledge of shepherding, good attention to detail and enjoy working as part of a team.

For more information, please call Andrew Speed on 07802245843.

Work opportunity - Farming - Mental health - Somerset - (1 day per week)

The mental health initiative in Somerset, Farmerados, has secured funding from Open Mental Health to take the project on to the next step. Part of this is to work with a self-employed contractor to help drive the project forward and get it to a place where pop-up living rooms are visible throughout places where farmers congregate across the County. Part of the role will be inspiring new volunteers, coordinating existing networks and developing relationships with other stakeholders. If you think this role would suit you. Have a read of the full expression of interest here

<https://www.newleaf.uk.com/wp-content/uploads/Farmerados-Invitation-for-an-Expression-of-Interest.pdf>

Expressions of Interest to be returned to becky@newleaf.uk.com advance of Friday 13th January 2023. If you would like to discuss the opportunity in more detail, please email me in first instance the shortlisting will begin in advance of 31st January 2023.

Full Time General Farm Worker

Full time general farm worker required for min: 5 days a week on mixed farm near South Molton. This position will start from January until May 2023. This varied role will involve feeding, bedding up and scraping out using machinery. The candidate must be happy to work alone on occasions. Please call Matt for an informal chat on 07792 453706.



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To book on any of the above events or for more information please contact Kirsty at admin@ehfn.org.uk or 01643 841455.

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