

Latest News



Farming is Changing

DEFRA's updated version of its "Farming is Changing" flier has a short summary of all the schemes and a timeline of their development and roll out, as the document states subject to change. See attached.

Farming Investment Fund Adding Value Grant - deadline dates announced.

Defra has announced a new £30 million grant fund focused on supporting farmers to process, diversify and add-value to their products. Grants of between £25,000 and £300,000 are available (up to 40% of costs) to pay for capital items (buildings, machinery, or equipment) that add value to eligible agricultural products, after they've been harvested or reared. It includes wool, hides, and skins and equipment such as retail vending machines. Further details at Adding Value grant for farmers to improve crops or livestock -

<https://www.gov.uk/.../adding-value-grant-for-farmers-to...>

Eligible agricultural products include:

- arable and horticultural crops (including food and non-food crops)
- livestock products (including dairy, meat, skins and hides)
- non-food crops (including fodder, fibres and flowers)

See the [list of eligible agricultural products](#).

The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) will prioritise funding for projects that:

- increase, improve or introduce new processing capabilities
- grow your business - to improve business resilience
- process products for the first time
- shorten supply chains
- encourage collaboration and partnerships
- improve environmental sustainability

Please note the added value theme is for reasonably sized projects of at least **£62,500**. With the minimum grant being £25k (at a maximum rate of 40% of eligible costs), applicants will need to provide at least **£37,500** (60%) in match funding. There is a two-stage application process opening from **9th June 2022** with a deadline of **21st July 2022** for first round applications.

The Network is considering running another one-to-one advice session for potential application ideas with a grant officer from RPA (1 hour slot per farming business). Please contact us if this is of interest.

SLURRY INVESTMENT GRANT TO OPEN THIS AUTUMN

This week, Defra provided more information about the Slurry Investment grant which will be launched in the autumn of 2022. This will help farmers already using a slurry system to upgrade their storage to reach 6 month's capacity. You can use the grant to:

- replace existing stores that are no longer fit for purpose;
- build additional storage, if your current storage is compliant;
- expand otherwise compliant storage, e.g. by adding another ring to a steel tank.

Click the link below to find out more: [Farming Investment Fund – new Slurry Infrastructure grants coming in autumn 2022 - Future Farming \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://www.blog.gov.uk/2022/06/farming-investment-fund-new-slurry-infrastructure-grants-coming-in-autumn-2022/)

Red Tractor – WRITTEN HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY REQUIRED

The new Red Tractor standards that came into force in November 2021 included the requirement that all farms with workers have a written Health and Safety policy. This exceeds the legal baseline which only applies to businesses with more than **five** employees. See link to the Health and Safety Executive website which has a H&S policy template and an example - <https://www.hse.gov.uk/simple-health-safety/>.

Prince's Countryside Fund Visitation

We were delighted to welcome Keith Halstead, Executive Director from the Prince's Countryside Fund to Exmoor to meet with a representation of EHFN Directors and beneficiaries involved in our network activities including the Prince's Farm Resilience and Farm for the Future programmes.

Keith's visit enabled him to gain a better insight into the work of the Exmoor Hill Farming Network, and the challenges we are addressing. He met with members to learn first-hand of the challenges faced and how attendance at network events has stimulated their future thinking.

L-R: Dave Knight, EHFN Chairman, Keith Halstead, PCF and Jonathan Webber, local farmer.

Peer Support Groups

Exmoor Women in Farming Group – June visit - *final reminder*

Topic: Moor and Meadow – Farm diversification **Date:** Wednesday 15th June 2022 **Time:** 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Venue: Swineham Farm, nr Knowstone, South Molton EX36 4SB by kind permission of Richard Cole and Kate Harris

Join us for a visit to a small-scale flower farm growing seasonal flowers and foliage for sale locally. The new venture started in 2020, and new for this year expanding to a second 1/2-acre flower field. Supplying direct to customers, via local shops and farmers markets and holiday lets. Moor and Meadow are about to start running pick your own days and over the next few years hope to expand enough to be able to supply wholesale to local florists as well. We will hear about the opportunities and challenges and the plans for the future. Please bring appropriate footwear. Booking essential via admin@ehfn.org.uk for catering purposes.



Next Generation Group (Under 40's) – June visit

Topic: Farm Walk and Tour **Date:** Thursday 23rd June 2022 **Time:** 7pm prompt start – 9pm
Venue: Coombe Farm, Exford, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 7QQ, by kind permission of the Colwill Family. Join us for an informative farm tour and talk with Mike and Serena Colwill (nee Stanbury). In 2020, the 3rd generation family of 5 returned home to the farm to take over the running of the sheep enterprise consisting of 620 breeding ewes of mixed breeds including, Texel cross, Suffolk cross, Ileyns and Exmoor mule. Lambs are mainly sold as stores at Blackmoor Gate in the Autumn. Cattle have been re-introduced to the farm after 20 years, at present Serena and Mike farm 76 Aberdeen Angus cattle, some of which will be sold finished and some as stores. They have also very recently taken on a calf rearing contract. We will hear about the opportunities and challenges faced amongst this progressive, young family and hear about their plans for the future. Followed by a BBQ. Please let us know if you are intending to join the meeting for catering purposes to admin@ehfn.org.uk.

Forward Farming Group

Date of next meeting is Wednesday 13th July 2022 at 7pm. Please **save the date** for now. For information, our August meeting will be rescheduled for Thursday 11th August due to Exford Show falling on Wednesday 10th August.

Open Events

SUSTAINABLE FARMING INCENTIVE Workshop - *final reminder, book now*

Date: Thursday 16th June 2022. **Time:** 7pm -8pm via zoom.

Join Adam Lockyear, FWAG and Gethin Rees, Exmoor Farmers for an update on the latest scheme which opens next month. They will run through the eligibility criteria and answer any questions. Please register for the zoom link which will be circulated nearer the time.



Red Tractor Assurance

Save the date.... An Introduction to Red Tractor Assurance. Save the date: **Tuesday 23rd August- 7pm – 9pm**, Exford area. Join representatives from SAI Global for an information evening on what is involved during an inspection, cross compliance, record keeping with an opportunity for Q and A session. Further details to follow nearer the time. Please save the date for now.

Farm Diversification – where do we start?

Join us for an informative workshop on farm diversification planning with Dean Kinsella, Head of Planning, ENPA. Meet Park staff face-to-face and start up conversations about Planning, FiPL funding, diversification and experiential tourism.

Date: Wednesday 6th July 2022

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Venue: The Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

Planning topics to be covered:

- Pre-planning advice
- Overview of Planning policy
 - Change of use
 - Access to information

Tea, coffee and cake provided

Open to all farming businesses within Exmoor National Park

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

This is a series of workshops running throughout the Autumn on various topics relating to your farming business, further details to follow.

This project is part funded by the UK Government through the UK Community Renewal Fund as part of the Somerset Business Cluster and Networks Initiative.



Training Opportunities

Final reminders, bookings required by early next week at the latest

City and Guilds NPTC PA Qualifications -SAFE USE OF PESTICIDES – Monday 27th June 2022

We are coordinating the delivery of training on Exmoor for the City and Guilds courses: PA1 (Mandatory)- Foundation Course for all sprayer operators in safe use of pesticides; PA2 Foundation Course for Ground Crop Sprayers Mounted or Trailed training, on farm with tractor and sprayer and PA6 - Hand Held Applicator training at Cutcombe Market. Please register your interest admin@ehfn.org.uk .

NPTC level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Transport of Animals

Date: Monday 27th June 2022 **Venue:** EHFN office, Cutcombe Market **Time:** 1.30pm.

Are you looking to complete your NPTC Level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Transport of Animals by Road (short journeys) This is for anyone who transports animals as an economic activity on journeys over 65km in distance and up to 8 hours in duration. You have up to an hour to complete the assessment in the form of a multiple choice paper of 27 questions (21 correct answers required to pass). Cost: 1 species: £105 (Please note that sheep and cattle are classed as 1 species) and 2 species £125 (species listed below). Species: Cattle and Sheep, Pigs, Sheep, Cattle, Horses, Goats, Poultry, Game birds. Please register your interest admin@ehfn.org.uk .

Safe Use of Sheep Dip

Venue: Stogumber area **Date:** Wednesday 6th July 2022 **Time:** 10am-2pm **Cost:** £120

We have received a number of enquiries regarding the above certification. If this is of interest to you and you would like to find out more. Please contact the office. Unit 1 Initial Practical Assessment is carried out on a one Candidate to one Assessor basis, using oral questions in the vicinity of a sheep dip. Unit 2 Written Paper, involving the completion of a computer based multiple choice question paper, is an assessment of the fundamental job-related knowledge which candidates are required to have in relation to the safe use of sheep dips before, during and after dipping. In order to pass the assessment for the Unit 2 Written Paper, Candidates must obtain at least 32 marks out of the maximum 40 marks (80%). Unit 3 Practical Dipping is a practical assessment involving the dipping of sheep and the candidate's ability to use, store and dispose of sheep dips safely. Candidates are actively encouraged to complete Unit 3 of the assessment although it is optional. Please register your interest admin@ehfn.org.uk .

Other Interest



🍀🍀 33 ACRES OF MOWING GRASS IN WIVELISCOMBE 🍀🍀

→ Available by tender

📅 Tenders to be received by 22nd June, 12noon

☑️ Click to view full details: [original \(cimpress.io\)](https://original.cimpress.io)

Next Sheep Sales - Blackmoor Gate—Monday 20th June at 11am or Cutcombe – Wednesday 22nd June at 2pm



The Addington Fund is running a trip to **Lundy Island**, off the North Devon coast, on **Sunday 17 July**. It's aboard the Oldenburg, which will be sailing from Bideford, embarking at 8:30am and returning at 8:30pm, allowing plenty of time

to explore the island. In case of inclement weather, there will be a tour of the lower reaches of the Taw and Torridge and a day in Clovelly.

For tickets and all enquiries please email Trevor Glasper on info@glaspers.co.uk or call on 01297 680218. Prices: £50 for adults, £40 for children 16 and under.

Ticket numbers are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. (poster attached)



Rural Enterprise Exmoor is full steam ahead with the next phase of the project. The vision has been launched and we are working together with stakeholders and local businesses to start contributing to the future economy. During our previous social media campaign #wearexmoor, we found businesses were benefitting from a personable approach to support so, Kerrie has come back on board to deliver this.

FREE 1-2-1 business support tailored entirely to your business for your benefit and it all starts with a phone call or a chat over a cup of coffee.

- Are you struggling with streamlining the paper work side of your business?
- Are you looking to collaborate with other local businesses?
- Do you have a project idea you would like advice on?
- Would you like to find out what grants are available for your business?
- Would you like to diversify into a different sector?
- Anything at all, we will do all we can to support you. If we can't, we will signpost and connect you with experts that can!

Get in touch with Kerrie 07547550842 threeatop@outlook.com Instagram, Twitter or Facebook @ruralentexmoor

We will also be running a variety of workshops, compiling a business toolkit as well as publishing our Exmoor business directory. Please do sign up following the link on social media. **ITS FREE!** Watch this space for more of what we can do to help you! Let's work together.



Exmoor Rural Health Hub

The Health Hub will be operating from The Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross on the following date: **Wednesday 22nd June** between **11.30am -3.30pm**. 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

Sam Blunt Bespoke Butchering

Bespoke butchering service for farmers and smallholders. Whether you are looking to set up a farm shop or just fill your freezer, we can tailor a cut sheet to fit your needs perfectly.

I work from an EHO approved unit on the Blackdown hills. With over 12 years experience in the trade, you can guarantee the highest quality of work.

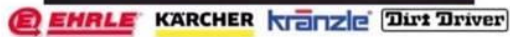
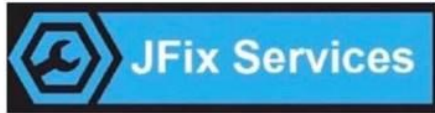
Please give me a call on 07572879560 or email me at samblunt@hotmail.co.uk if this service is of any interest to you.

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.

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