March 2021

There is a certain feeling of spring in air today. May we take this opportunity to wish our members a successful lambing and calving season.

Picture credit: West Ilkerton Farm

Training Update
We have been in contact with our regular training providers and confirm the earliest Trailer training and tests will resume at present is 12th April. We have a number of candidates awaiting from Spring 2020 being priority. We have a extensive backlog of training needs, due to lambing and calving we will not resume until later this spring. If you are not registered for a training course including chainsaw, trailer test, please get in touch. If you are in desperate need of a chainsaw course before the end of April please contact us. We will resume the Food Safety as soon as safe to do so and rely on government guidelines going forward.

Open Events
Countryside Stewardship and E.L.M Event Series with Exmoor Hill Farming Network with Survey link, Help us to help you.

As part of protected landscapes’ (AONBs and National Parks) ongoing engagement with farmers Defra are providing additional funding to raise awareness of Environmental Land Management and opportunities under Countryside Stewardship. On behalf of the Exmoor National Park Authority and Quantock Hills AONB, FWAG and Exmoor Hill Farming Network (EHFN) will deliver a series of online workshops between now and March 2021. These events will be open to all landowners and managers from Exmoor, Quantocks Hills and the West Somerset Vale area.

These workshops will raise awareness of the Agricultural Transition Plan and development of the Environmental Land Management system (E.L.M.). With a number of changes to the Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme due to be announced in early February the workshops will also explore the opportunities in CS to generate an income through the provision of public goods during the transition period before E.L.M. is introduced. Click here to complete
the survey – you have until 5th March 2021. Your responses will help us to help you. This survey is a chance for you to have an input into the content and structure of future farm support schemes such as Environmental Land Management (E.L.M) and make them fit for purpose. This survey will take approx. 10 minutes and can be completed anonymously, or you can choose to add your contact details at the end. If you add your details you will be entered in a prize draw for a £50 voucher from Mole Valley Farmers about Agri-environment schemes. With this we will collect your thoughts on: the advice and support that you might want in the future, how collaborative working between farms can be encouraged and how you can be involved in the setting of local priorities and vision for the schemes. This will provide valuable feedback to Defra, EHFN, FWAG, Exmoor National Park Authority and Quantock Hills AONB and help support the development of our work.

Topics include:
Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant Scheme Workshop (Tomorrow, book your place now)
Future E.L.M. advice support and collaborative working

For further information and to register your interest to attend one or more workshops from the topics listed above please visit Environmental Land Management Advocacy Event Series with the Exmoor Hill Farming Network | Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West Limited (fwagsw.org.uk). Alternatively, please book via Katherine Williams (Exmoor Hill Farming Network) katherine@ehfn.org.uk /07970 795808 with your name, address, postcode and telephone number.

Peer Support Groups
Exmoor Women in Farming Group – Women in Agriculture Tonight

Topic: Women Entrepreneurs in the Agriculture Industry in England. Date: Monday 1st March 2021 Time: 7.30pm- 9pm Venue: from your own home Peer Support

Contribution: FREE to attend

As a member of this industry, as a female entrepreneur and someone who resides in England, we would like to hear about your experiences and observations. The benefits of participating in this research are sharing your thoughts and experiences with Defra so they can listen and learn; with the overarching aims of supporting the farming community throughout the agricultural transition period, helping businesses to prepare and make decisions, and targeting communications.

This research is being conducted by researchers at Newcastle University, commissioned by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The purpose of this research is to examine how women entrepreneurs in the agriculture industry are being affected by EU Exit and COVID-19, both now and in the future. This evening session will be run by Prof. Sally Shortall who grew up on a farm in the South of Ireland. Her mother was widowed at a young age and took over running the farm. Sally has brothers who farm. She is interested in the role women play in farm family businesses and would like to hear your views. Sally and her team will be conducting 15 interviews, 4 focus groups including Exmoor WIF and an e-survey across the England. Further to this we have been asked to circulate a voluntary survey which should only take 10-15 minutes of your time. https://newcastle.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/defra-women-in-enterprise-project Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85676077231?pwd=VkvcUM1UEtCU25GU0pKalNKcVYwUT09 Meeting ID: 856 7607 7231 Passcode: 658258. The project summary is available on request.
If you haven’t joined a Women in Farming Group meeting to date and would like to join this meeting, please do get in touch with us.

**Other Interest**
McDonald’s UK and The Prince’s Countryside Fund invite farmers to get Ready for Change Webinar

**Date:** Tuesday 9th March 2021 **Time:** 1pm-2pm.

McDonald’s UK and PCF are inviting dairy and livestock farmers in England to attend their latest webinar, delivered by Kite Consultants, on ‘Agricultural Transition – getting ready for change’. The free webinar will cover what’s happening in England under Defra’s Agricultural Transition Plan, what this means in practical terms for farmers, and simple next steps that farm businesses can take to prepare themselves. Kite will also be able to answer questions on the agricultural transition from farm businesses. Harriet Wilson, Agriculture and Sustainable Sourcing Manager at McDonald’s UK said: “**We know how critical the Agricultural Transition Plan will be to ensure the sustainability of our industry, which is why it’s imperative we understand what these changes will mean for farm businesses. By delivering this webinar with The Prince’s Countryside Fund, we hope to provide farmers the opportunity to ask any questions they may have on the plan, and seek real clarity on next steps they may need to take.**” Interested farmers can sign up at [www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/readyforchange](http://www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/readyforchange). The webinar is open to all livestock farmers in England, regardless of whether they have participated in The Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme.

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**Spring Newsletter view here**
[https://www.exmoorsociety.com/content/publications/spring-newsletter](https://www.exmoorsociety.com/content/publications/spring-newsletter)
NFYFC Shearing Courses

YFC Member Offer – poster attached

This course will enable you to work towards a Blue Seal. This two-day shearing course will cover all the essentials for a successful shearing season. This will include health and safety, use of shearing equipment, shearing demos and hands-on practice. **Cost:** £96 incl: VAT , normally £210. All courses will be held Covid dependent. To register your interest please contact Alison Gould (Regional Coordinator) **Phone:** 01647 24804 **Email:** AlisonGould@britishwool.org.uk by 31st March 2021.

Commercial Adverts

**New**

*General Help Required*

Part-time help required to help elderly couple in the Wootton Courtenay area. Work would include lawn mowing, gardening, some field and fencing maintenance, and building maintenance, with occasional handling of elderly retired sheep. Hours and salary negotiable. Telephone: 01643 841212 or mobile 07776474435

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**Seasonal Calving/ Lambing Help**

With the season shortly upon us, if you have an opportunity arising or would be interested in work. We do have individuals looking for work opportunities. Please register your interest with us (in strictest confidence). We are happy to circulate vacancies or services to our database of members. **A commercial advert fee applies.**

**For further information on any of the above. Please contact Katherine Williams on 07970 795808 or email katherine@ehfn.org.uk**