

July 2019

Latest News

Countryside Productivity Scheme – Small Capital Grants Launched

Round 2 of the Countryside Productivity Small Grant Scheme is now open until **3rd September**, offering grants of up to £12,000 to support investments in improving animal health and welfare, resource efficiency and nutrient management. The scheme handbook is available at:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/814977/CPSG_Scheme_Handbook_Round_2_v1.0.pdf

To apply go to the online portal at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/countryside-productivity-scheme>

Key changes from the previous round:

Can I apply for Round 2 even if I applied in Round 1? Applicants who had Round 1 funding can also submit a new application to receive funding in Round 2. The total value of both applications must not be more than £12,000.

Annex 3 - Specification and Standard Costs. Twenty six new items have been added for Round 2 and these have been prefixed with R2. All eligible items and their specifications are listed at Annex 3 Specifications for some of the items from Round 1 have been updated. Please make sure you read annex 3 carefully.

Sending photos with your claim. Your claim must be supported with photos of each item purchased. Submit these with your claim. Examples of acceptable photos are shown at Annex 5.

Exmoor Hill Farming Network Countryside Productivity Scheme Demonstration Afternoon

The Exmoor Hill Farming Network is delighted to arrange the following Countryside Productivity Scheme Demonstration afternoon for our farming community – OPEN TO ALL.

Date: Tuesday 13th August 2019 **Time:** 2pm -7pm **Venue:** Cutcombe Market, Wheddon Cross TA24 7DT by kind permission of Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctioneers

Our main focus is to provide you with information on the eligible equipment available to assist your Beef and Sheep enterprises.

Adam Lockyear from Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG South West) will provide information on the scheme in the auction ring at intervals during the afternoon (followed by a question and answer session)

Heywood Catering will be operating the Market Café for all your refreshment needs.

Suppliers attending will be confirmed soon.

Latest News from Forestry Commission England - information attached

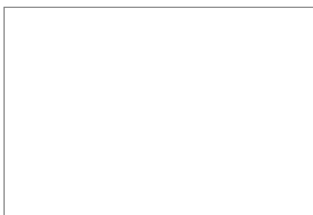
Are you thinking of planting new woodland on your land? Would you like to find out more about the economics of planting new woodlands and the grants and support available?

On **Thursday 18th July**, there will be a free workshop for landowners and agents at Grascott Farm, near Shebbear in North Devon, to look at an 80ha woodland planted nearly 20 years ago as part of the South West Forest scheme and which is now ready for first thinning. You will be shown round this mixed woodland – planted with Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and mixed broadleaves - with the owner, Sam Whatmore, and will hear about tree health, woodland maintenance, markets for thinnings and more. The morning will give you an opportunity to hear from Forestry Commission staff and others about grants and support available. A pasty lunch and hot drinks will be provided. A programme is attached for more details.

Steve Edmonds, Woodland Creation Officer for the South of England, has organised the day to give confidence to people who are thinking of planting woodland and may have questions on the economics or the practicalities. There are a range of grants available at present, depending on the size and nature of the scheme you have in mind, as well as support and advice to take your scheme from design to planting.

You will have the chance to find out about choosing the right species for your land and your objectives, how to protect young trees from pests and diseases, how to maintain a woodland and when to expect a return. It will also be a good chance to find contacts you may need within the woodland and forestry sector.

Booking is essential by emailing Kate Tobin kate.tobin@forestrycommission.gov.uk 0300 067 5870 (direct). This event is particularly suitable for landowners with larger schemes (over 10ha) in mind, although people with smaller schemes are still welcome to attend. Please let us know more about the size and nature of your scheme and your location when you book. www.gov.uk/forestrycommission



Towergate Insurance continues EHFN sponsorship

We are delighted to report Towergate Insurance have continued their sponsorship package. We look forward to working with them. For further information about the their services provided please contact the Taunton office on 01823 625546

Training

NPTC level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Transport of Animals

We are receiving increasing enquires surrounding farm assurance schemes requesting to see the above certification. If this course is of interest please contact us.

Date: Monday 5th August 2019 **Venue:** EHFN office, Cutcombe Market, Wheddon Cross **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: £ 84 (Please note that sheep and cattle are classed as 1 species) and 2 species £ 104 (species listed below). Species: Cattle and Sheep, Pigs, Sheep, Cattle, Horses, Goats, Poultry, Game birds. For further information and to obtain a booking form please contact the office.

Safe Use of Pesticides – Autumn 2019

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; PA4 – Granular Applicator and PA6 - Hand Held Applicator training. To register please contact the office for further information.

Free drop in faecal egg counting session on Wednesday 13 August Cutcombe Market. From 1.30pm – 4pm

These free sessions will be available to everyone. We will be able to analyse a sample for you or you can analyse a sample yourself. A golf ball size muck sample amount is sufficient. Guidance will be provided to show you what to look for and someone will be on hand to check and compare your results. Drop in at any time during the day but please book to let us know that you are planning to come.

Headwaters of the Exe Project Logic quad mounted weed wiper

If you are considering your options for grassland management this summer the Headwaters of the Exe project is able to lend farmers or contractors a logic quad mounted weed wiper for **FREE**. The aim of providing the weed wiper is to improve grassland weed control where farmers would otherwise use a boom sprayer. This will help to prevent acid grassland herbicides from entering the river to protect drinking water supplies and river wildlife. The weed wiper can be used to control injurious weeds such as creeping thistle (permitted also under ELS and Countryside Stewardship), or for the control of soft rush (not permitted with ELS and Countryside Stewardship). If you wish to borrow the weed wiper contact Anne May on anne.may@fwagsw.org.uk or telephone 07557 054162. Priority usage, initially, will go to farmers within the Headwaters of the Exe catchment .You will need to agree that you hold the certificates required to operate the weed wiper and that you will collect and return it from the ENPA Exford depot. Alternatively an appropriately qualified contractor can use the machine on your behalf subject to the same terms .If you want to obtain the PA1 *Safe handling and application of pesticides* and PA2F *Safe application of pesticides using weed wipers* certificates required the EHFN can organise training. Cost of PA2F (only) training is £200 (no vat). The training and assessment is completed in one day. Please contact EHFN to discuss further if this is of interest. **We have interest in running a course please get in touch if this is of interest to you.**

Peer Support Groups

Exmoor Women in Farming Group - August 2019

A summer walk breathing in our beautiful Exmoor landscape from Landacre Bridge car

park finishing at Withypool Bridge with a bring and share picnic. We will follow the River Barle for a scenic walk. Walking one way to Withypool.

Date: Monday 19th August 2019 **Time:** 6.30pm – 9.30pm **Peer Support Contribution:** £5pp Walk is approx. 1 hour Please save the date for now and further information to follow nearer the time.

Open Events

Exmoor Coastal Streams Facilitation Fund Habitat management for bumblebees and bats event

Date: Monday 22nd July 2019 **Time:** 1pm-4pm **Venue :**County Gate car park, Countisbury. We are delighted that Daisy Headley of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Anna David of the Devon Greater Horseshoe Bat Project will be joining us to share their knowledge. This event is kindly hosted by George and Maeve Halliday. Please wear suitable footwear and clothing. Refreshments will be provided. Join us for a walk through a variety of habitats including moorland and permanent grassland with spectacular views over river and woodland habitats. We will be discussing how to best manage these habitats for bats and bumblebees, as well as other wildlife. Bumblebee and bat ecology and habitat requirements will be discussed and we will look for and identify bumblebees and dung beetles during the event. We will also discuss the use of faecal egg counting and the effects of anthelmintics on wildlife and habitats. Further information is included on the attached flier. **Booking essential:** kwilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk or **07970 795808**.

AHDB Beef and Lamb Talking Sheep 2019

Date: Tuesday 30th July 2019 **Time:** 10am -4pm **Venue:** Bicton College, East Budleigh Budleigh Salterton EX9 7BH. Join AHDB Beef & Lamb at 'Talking Sheep 2019'. A one day technical sheep event kindly hosted by Walford Campus and in collaboration with industry partners.

The day will be interactive and will cover a range of sheep related topics. There will plenty of opportunity to ask questions and relate the talks to your farming business.

Full agenda:

- Ensuring a sustainable and profitable business – David Pett, AHDB Beef & Lamb, Sarah Baker, AHDB and Adrian Coombe, Dunpath Farm in Cornwall
- Grassland and soil management – William Fleming & Helen Mathieu, Germinal
- Lamb management – lamb worm control, Tim Bebbington, SWISH/Castle Veterinary Group
- Lamb selection at slaughter – how to optimise income by Peter Morris, Agricultural consultant
- Ewe & lamb health – using vaccines effectively, MSD Animal Health
- Flock replacement policy – research from Challenge Sheep project looking at ewe longevity and flock productivity with Hayley King, AHDB Beef & Lamb

EHFN will be in attendance along with other partners. For further information or to book your place please visit <https://ahdb.org.uk/events/talking-sheep-2019-devon>

Save the Date- Dunster Show – Friday 16th August 2019

We will be present at Dunster Show again this year. Please come and find us on Avenue A1-11. We will have a 'Roast Dinner' Hamper prize draw on offer. We hope to see many of you there. Website: www.dunstershow.co.uk

NEW GUIDANCE AIMS TO KEEP EXMOOR FAMILIES FARMING

Exmoor National Park Authority is inviting comments on new guidance into how new homes for rural workers and farming families in the National Park can be applied for, as part of a public consultation running for six weeks until 18th June 2019 (*extended until Wednesday 31st July 2019*).

The draft "Rural Worker and Succession Farm Dwelling Guidance" applies to those working in land-based businesses in the National Park, such as farming or forestry, and is supplementary to existing national guidelines as well as those set out in the Local Plan for the National Park.

Nationally, homes in the open countryside are only permitted in exceptional circumstances, such as needing a full-time worker permanently on site to tend livestock. Local planning policy further recognises that maintaining the fabric of Exmoor's farming community is intrinsic to conserving the distinct landscapes and habitats of the National Park, along with the centuries-old farming practices that help sustain them. For example there is extra flexibility to help older farmers retire and a younger generation to take on responsibility for the farm business, or for larger dwellings to be applied for if the scale or nature of the enterprise demands it and the need can't be met through alternative arrangements. But equally the rules are necessarily stringent around the impact of any new dwelling on the landscape to ensure they are sensitive to the unique character and scenic beauty of the National Park. These new guidelines are intended to help balance these two obligations.

Robin Milton, Chairman of the National Park Authority, said: "This is an important document for Exmoor and its communities to ensure there are opportunities for new housing where it is essential to working people being able to live locally and to conserve and enhance this beautiful area. It is intended to help applicants and all those involved in planning for farm dwellings in the National Park and we would love to hear people's views." Martin Dewdney, Chairman of the National Park Authority Planning Committee, added: "If adopted this document will form part of an extensive toolkit on offer to help with these kinds of planning applications that also includes regular planning surgeries and free pre-application advice. As the Local Plan is already adopted, it won't form part of the consultation, but we warmly welcome any comments focused on this latest guidance." The draft guidelines and comments form are available from the planning policy section of the Exmoor National Park Authority website and as hard copies at the following locations: National Park Centres in Dulverton, Dunster and Lynmouth, Lynton and Porlock libraries, Exmoor House in Dulverton and West Somerset and North Devon Council Offices in Williton and Barnstaple. The consultation documents can be found at: <http://www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk/planning/planning-policy/rural-worker-and-succession-farm-dwelling-guidance-consultation>

To book or for further information please contact Katherine Williams Network Officer on 07970 795808