



APRIL 2016



I hope the lambing and calving season has gone well for you and I do hope it will warm up soon. We are busy planning our late spring/summer programme with lots of training, peer support groups and events planned so watch this space for further information to follow shortly.

Cosmic Computer FREE Training – ‘Introduction to iPads’ Tuesday 3rd May at Cutcombe Market Canteen – 7pm -9pm (last two places available)

Cosmic, a digital agency based nr Honiton have successfully obtained funding from The Prince's Countryside Fund. Discover a basic introduction to how Apple's device can be used to shop online, use for business, keep in contact with friends and family, email and much more. The content will be led by your needs. iPads will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own. Last few places available. Complete beginners welcome.

Micro Farming Group - Show Preparation Evening at Ashwick Manor Farm, Dulverton TA22 9QJ, Monday 9th May at 7pm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs David Wallace

Richard Clark from Anstey, a show professional has shown sheep for many years and judged at different levels. I am delighted he will be joining us for an interactive session and to discuss the process involved in presenting your sheep for showing. Areas to be covered Breeding and Selection - Exmoor Horn / Devon Closewool Breeds, Halter Training ,The do's and don'ts, Show Day, What the judge is looking for? Followed by a question and answer session. There may be opportunity to see the Red Ruby Devon Cattle in the sheds (weather permitting as they may be out to grass). This event is open to all whether you show sheep or just want to learn more about the pre-show process through to show day. Peer Support Group Contribution: £5pp made payable on the night.

Exmoor Women in Farming Group- Visit to a Goat Milking Herd at Crosse Farm, Bishops Nympton nr South Molton EX36 4PB , Monday 16th May at 7pm by kind permission of Mr and Mrs David Verney and Family

The Verney family run Crosse Farm just on the outskirts of Bishops Nympton village. Farming 800 ewes, producing eggs for a high end supermarket from 12,000 hens , 200 acres of arable and most recently in July 2015 they decided to enter a whole new farming enterprise area purchasing 600 goats for milk production and goat meat. Join us to explore the milking parlour, the processes involved to supply milk and meat and the demand for the products worldwide. The new venture has been steered by the two sons who are looking at increasing their herd in the very near future. We will hear about the positives, highs and lows and the challenges faced. Peer Support Contribution: £5pp made payable on the night

Safe Use of Pesticides – Thursday 19th May at Molland Village Hall

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. For further information and booking please contact the office.

Safe Use of Rodenticides

From June 2016 the regulations affecting the use of rodenticides will mean that only people who hold certificates of competence in rodent control will be able to buy more than 1.5Kg of rodenticides at a time for professional use. There is, however, a derogation until December 2017 for those in farm assurance schemes with a rodent control requirement. For further information please visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/biocides/eu-bpr/rodenticides.htm> The network will be co-ordinating delivery of

the above training. We are currently obtaining quotes to ensure our members have the best deal. Further information to follow during May. To express your interest please contact the office or email.

Possible Joint Irish Study Trip with Dartmoor Hill Farm Project to the Irish National Ploughing Championships 20-22nd September 2016

One of Europe's largest Outdoor Exhibition and Agricultural Trade Shows including livestock and machinery exhibitions, with over 1500 exhibitors and 281,000 visitors last year. The study trip will also include visits to innovative Irish farms, giving you a great chance to get some time looking at different practices, sharing ideas and to get some well-earned time away from your home farm. Working with Dartmoor we are assessing potential demand. The earlier we book flights and accommodation the cheaper it will be. If you are provisionally interested please contact the office asap and we will start to look into costings. See show website for further information <http://www.npa.ie/>

Industry News - Compulsory Dog Micro Chipping

From 6th April 2016 it is compulsory for owners to ensure their dog is microchipped including farm dogs. You must make sure your dog is fitted with a microchip by the time it's 8 weeks old. You can be fined up to £500 if your dog isn't microchipped. You're responsible for keeping your dog's microchip information up to date, eg if you move house. Free Microchipping is available at The Dogs Trust, Ilfracombe 01271 812 709. For further information <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/compulsory-dog-microchipping-comes-into-effect>

Exmoor Hedgelaying 2015/2016 Competition – Poster attached

Hosted by The Exmoor National Park Authority, The Exmoor Trust, Somerset and Devon Hedge Groups. Prizes to be won for farmers, landowners and contractors on Exmoor who carry out good quality work on hedges for the benefit of farming, wildlife and the landscape. **Class 1:** Best laid Exmoor hedge, Open Class. **Class 2:** Best laid Exmoor hedge, Novice Class. Entries by Monday 6th June 2016. See poster attached for information and entry form.

Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctioneers

We are delighted to secure our first sponsor. Many of you will be very familiar with Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctioneers and we thank them kindly for their sponsorship and continued support. More information to follow in our next agri - update.

To book on any of the above events please contact the office on 01643 841455 or email KWilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk