

January 2018

South West Uplands Conference Wednesday 24th January 2018 – invitation attached.

The NFU, in collaboration with partners, is delighted to host the South West Uplands conference. This conference will provide an opportunity for upland farmers to explore future opportunities for their businesses. This event is free to attend and aimed at upland farmers on Bodmin, Dartmoor and Exmoor. The event will be held at Westpoint Centre, Clyst st Mary, Exeter 10am-3pm with lunch provided.

Exmoor Women in Farming Group Meeting - Monday 29th January 2017

Time: 7pm -9pm **Venue:** The Anchor Inn, Exebridge nr Dulverton TA22 9AZ **Peer Support**

Contribution: £5pp

Guest Speaker: Jilly Greed – Suckler Beef Producer and cofounder of Ladies in Beef **Website:** <http://www.ladiesinbeef.org.uk>

Jilly Greed is a 4th generation farmer, farming in partnership with her husband Edwin and son George at Thorverton near Exeter, on a 600 acre family farm in the floodplains of the River Exe and Culm.

The focus of the business is grass based suckler beef and zero tillage arable, with a mid-tier Countryside Stewardship Scheme and other farm diversification. Co-founder of Ladies in Beef and the flagship Great British Beef Week, Jilly is an active and passionate campaigner for a sustainable suckler beef industry. She also sits on the national TB Eradication Advisory Board and is very aware of the devastating impact of tb breakdowns on family farms. Jilly is also managing director of One Voice Media & PR, the longest established marketing and PR company in Exeter, founded nearly 30 years ago. With a team of eleven, One Voice has extensive experience in a wide range of sectors including food and farming, retail, b2b, tourism, property development, exhibitions and events. Booking essential for 29th January.

EHFN and NFU Exmoor Funding & Advice Event (invitation attached)

Date: Monday 5th February 2018 **Venue:** Exford Village Hall **Time:** 2-4pm

Quenton Steele, RPA Rural Development Manager will be explaining the rural grants currently on offer from the RPA. After which, representatives from NFU, EHFN, The SW Growth Hub, Clarke Willmott LLP and others will be available to talk to if you would like one to one advice for your business on a range of issues - from grant funding to employment law. Further representatives attending from Natwest, Adam Lockyear- FWAG (Headwaters of the Exe Project), Heather Harley- (Farming and Land Management) Exmoor National Park Authority. Free to attend and refreshments will be provided. Booking essential for catering purposes.

EAT EXMOOR (invitation attached)

Eat Exmoor Food & Drink Trade Show that is taking place on **Wednesday 7th February 2018** at the Beach Hotel, Minehead.

We hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend this **FREE** day – aimed at and designed for all those working in the hospitality and catering trade. As well as a chance to meet lots of local food and drink producers from Exmoor and sample their produce, there'll be a series of free talks and inspiring and useful cookery demonstrations in the hotel's modern theatre-style kitchen restaurant. The talks will be short and informative and will occur throughout the day, which runs from 10am to 4pm, so you can drop in at any time or come for the whole day! Further information available from Katrina Munro - **ENPA Economy Project Officer** on 01398 322236

Save the Date - Tuesday 13th February 2018 - Genus ABS Beef AI Evening at The Sportsman Inn, Sandyway – 7.15pm for 7.30pm start

Hear from Arwell Owen Beef Genetics Manager UK and regional representatives about the opportunities available for your beef herds. Further details to follow shortly.

Training Courses

Please contact the office if you are interested to complete Safe use of Pesticides, Rodenticides or Emergency at Work First Aid courses running during February. (subject to sufficient interest)

Latest News

Exmoor's Hedgelaying Competition Runs Again!

Exmoor National Park Authority is pleased to announce the launch of the 2017/18 Exmoor Hedge Competition.

The competition is aimed at the landowners, managers and contractors who actually carry out the high quality hedgelaying work for the benefit of Exmoor's farming, wildlife and landscape. To be eligible to apply, all or part of the farm must be within Exmoor National Park and the hedge laid during the winter of 2017/18. There will be two classes, 'Open' and 'Novice' and the winner of each class will receive £200, 2nd place £100 and £50 will go to the 3rd place. The judges include members of the Devon and Somerset Hedge Groups, who are experienced West Country hedge layers themselves. The previous year's Open Class winners are also invited to join the judging panel. Work carried out during the autumn and winter months has resulted in a considerable transformation along many lanes and field edges, as once-shady, outgrown hedges are cut and laid. This traditional management is crucial in order to rejuvenate the hedgerows which are iconic features of the Exmoor landscape, reflecting our cultural heritage and supporting an incredible range of wildlife. The work is very skilled and provides employment for numerous people on Exmoor during the winter months. Susan May, Chairman of the Exmoor Trust said: "The Exmoor Trust is delighted to sponsor this competition again this year and encourages all hedge layers to enter." Heather Harley, Conservation Officer (Farming & Land Management) for Exmoor National Park said: "If you would like to enter the competition you have until 4th May 2018 to submit your entry form together with at least one photo of the completed hedge and if possible a photo of the hedge before work took place. For further information or an entry form please ring us on 01398 323665 or email hjharley@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk." The Exmoor Hedge Competition is being run by Exmoor National Park Authority and again has been possible through the generous sponsorship of the Exmoor Trust. www.exmoortrust.org.uk

Commercial Adverts

Masons Kings are Recruiting

Do take a look at Masons Kings website for further information regarding current job vacancies including a Gator Centre Coordinator, Agricultural Equipment Sales Consultant and Commercial and Domestic Turf Technician. See link <https://www.masonskings.co.uk/about-us/careers-masons-kings>

To book or for further information please contact the office on 07970 795808
or kwilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk