



MARCH 2017



EVENTS

Micro Farming Group Meeting – Wednesday 19th April 6.30pm-8.30pm at West Somerset Community College Farm Unit

We are delighted to support our local college farm through a visit to the farm unit for an interactive farm walk and to share experiences and challenges of running both a farm and an education facility. Booking is essential by Monday 17th April. Peer Support Contribution: £5pp.

BVD Awareness Event – Wednesday 26th April 2017 at 2pm-4pm.

Join Exmoor Farmers Livestock Auctions and EHFN for an interactive BVD discussion and farm tour by kind permission of Mr and Mrs David Wallace at Mounsey Farm, Dulverton. Join us to discuss the disease and how you can become BVD free bringing in industry experts including local vets and AHDB. All are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be provided and further information will be circulated shortly. **SAVE THE DATE**

TRAINING

NPTC level 2 Certificate of Competence in the Transport of Animals – Friday 28th April 2017

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). We are holding the computer based assessments at Exmoor Hill Farming Network Office, Cutcombe Market. **Time:** 11am (1 hour to complete). **Cost:** 1 species: £ 73 and 2 species £ 93 (species listed below). **Species** (Please note that sheep and cattle are classed as 1 species): Cattle and Sheep, Pigs, Sheep, Cattle, Horses, Goats, Poultry, Game birds. To book please contact the office.

Safe use of Rodenticides – Thursday 11th May, 9.15am-3pm at Molland Village Hall

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. **Cost:** £129 per person (no VAT). To express your interest or to book please contact the office.

APPRENTICESHIP OPPORTUNITY

Field Services Apprenticeship or Training Placement with Exmoor National Park Authority (see attached poster)

Would you like the opportunity to improve your employability in countryside management whilst working in some of the most beautiful spots of Exmoor?

Whilst working with highly skilled colleagues, the Apprenticeship will provide a learning opportunity for those seeking a paid position within practical estate/countryside management. The Authority will provide a supported, tailored placement with learning and development opportunities including the opportunity to build a portfolio of nationally recognised certification. You will need to demonstrate a

practical aptitude, willingness to learn and to work hard, and a real interest in the countryside and the National Park. Hours: 37 hours per week. **INTERESTED?** To apply, please contact the Dan Barnett (Access and Recreation Manager) at the Authority on: DJBarnett@exmoor-nationpark.gov.uk or 01298 322 297. **Closing Date:** 24th March 2017

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Lambing HELP/ Assistance Required

The Network has been approached by a few members looking to gain experience or employment during the lambing/calving season. If you are looking for an extra pair of hands during this busy time, the EHFN would be delighted to assist. We are able to circulate an advert to our email database of over 500 members, feature on our website and social media. We ask for an admin fee of £20. If this is of interest please contact the office to discuss further.

COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP 2017 – information attached

The Countryside Stewardship 2017 application round is now open for the Hedgerow and Boundary Grant and Mid-Tier applications.

If your UELS has expired or expires in 2017 then now is the time to start planning a **Countryside Stewardship scheme application**. Closing dates for applications depend on which grant is being applied for. Please see the attached information regarding the different grants and schemes that are available and how to apply. **Woodland Grants** are also available including the creation, management or improvement of woodlands. If you have any further questions on any of the schemes/grants available please contact Adam Lockyear from FWAG on 01823 660684 or email: Adam.Lockyear@fwagsw.org.uk **Note:** Natural England will be offering a range of events during 2017 for UELS agreement holders with expiring agreements in 2017.

Staff Holidays

The office will be closed from 28th March – 5th April 2017. If the matter is urgent please contact the Network Officer on 07970795808.

To book on any of the above courses or for further information please contact the

office on 01643841455 or email KWilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk

