



OCTOBER 2016

New Sponsor – NATWEST

We are delighted to inform members that Natwest are now a key sponsor of the network. "We're delighted to sponsor the Exmoor Hill Farming Network, and look forward to working with them to help and support the local farming community said Sam Curtis . Director Business Banking. Our first co event will be arranged for the New Year.

Events

Beef SW – Wednesday 9th November 2016

Don't forget Beef South West will take place at Westpoint, Exeter. Organised by the National Beef Association South West. The Network and Dartmoor Hill Farm Project will be in attendance. We would be delighted to see you. For further information please visit <http://www.beefsouthwest.co.uk>

Lamb Grading / Ewe Condition Scoring Event – Wednesday 16th November 2016 (see attached poster)

A two hour interactive and practical session. The aim of the event is to provide advice on the selection, grading, weights and preparation of lambs for selling. Looking at ewe condition scoring - why is it important and what should you be looking for? **Guest Speakers:** Steve Hamilton, Divisional Manager (South West) for the Meat and Livestock Commission and Mike Glover, sheep specialist and farm veterinarian from Torch Farm Vets, South Molton. Kindly hosted by Dave Knight at Wydon Farm, Minehead. Two sessions arranged for 12pm-2pm or 2.30pm -4.30pm.

Your Future on Exmoor.... Have your say? Thursday 17th November at Withypool Village Hall at 7.30pm (see attached poster)

Come along to an evening and put forward your ideas on what you want the future of farming and associated schemes to look like on Exmoor. We would like to gather your views and get them to local, regional and national policy makers to help inform the future direction of Agricultural Policy. You know your land and your farming business, so take this once in a lifetime opportunity to have your say on the future of farming on Exmoor! Professor Janet Dwyer from the University of Gloucester (Countryside and Community Research Institute), along with industry experts will be present, and will prepare a summary of views and ideas for circulation afterwards. Prof. Dwyer undertook the State of Farming Survey in Exmoor 2015 and is well respected across the industry. **OPEN TO ALL AND FREE TO ATTEND.** Refreshments, cheese and biscuits to follow after the meeting.

Exmoor Women in Farming Group Meeting – November 2016

A visit to Martyn Bakers Livestock Transport and his new Collection Centre at Junction 27, nr Tiverton is currently being arranged, date to be confirmed. Further details to follow shortly.

Micro Farming Group – December 2016

A final meeting for the year is currently in progress.

CHRISTMAS REVIEW – Thursday 8th December 2016 7pm for 7.30pm

Join us at The Music Room, Woolhanger for a 4 course meal, overview of our network activities and confirmed guest speakers are Bryan and Liz Griffiths, beef and sheep producers from North Devon and runners up to the British Farming Award – Sheep

Innovation of the Year. Tickets: £24 per head. Invitation by email will be circulated next week.

Training

Safe Use of Rodenticides – Tuesday 15th November 2016 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 per person £129 (no VAT) To express your interest or to book please contact the office

Free IT Training available on Exmoor

We will be working with Cosmic to deliver **FREE** IT training on the Exmoor. If you are interested in a basic introduction to computers on a one to one basis, iPad training or Social Media. One/Two hour slots are available on Tuesday 15th November and Thursday 24th November at our office. This free training has been funded by The Prince's Countryside Fund. Please contact the office to register your interest.

Industry News

FWAG SW Hedgerows Project (see attached information)

The FWAG SW Hedgerows Project, in partnership with the Woodland Trust has officially started and the target is to plant 15,000 metres of hedgerow across the 6 counties of the South Western Region by April 2017. The Woodland Trust is offering an 80% grant on hedgerow trees and tree guards exclusively through the project. There is a minimum length of 100m and a maximum length of 1,500m per holding. The hedgerow species mix planted will be the 'standard mix' for lowland areas, and the 'South West upland mix' for upland areas, with both including 5% 'tree choice' for planting hedgerow trees approximately every 20 metres within the hedge, with the remaining trees planted across the rest of the site. The Woodland Trust will provide the hedging plants from their nursery using UK sourced and grown stock. Please contact FWAG SW on Tel: 01823 660684

CONNECTING DEVON AND SOMERSET – BROADBAND SERVICE

Connecting Devon and Somerset has committed to bringing broadband to everyone within the programme area. If you are not yet able to receive broadband speeds of over 2Mbps you may be able to get connected through the CDS voucher scheme. Connecting Devon and Somerset voucher scheme which can be applied for to fund the equipment cost if taking up the airband broadband service. The link below gives details. Closing date for applications 30th November. Scheme closes March 2017. For further information see link <https://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme/>

Missing, low and unexplained BPS common land payments (see attached information)

There are some considerable issues facing commons and uplands at the moment. The key issues are around payments in terms of the lack of them, the size of them and the lack of any statement to go with them. The NFU has been pushing Defra and the RPA on this but more evidence of the scale and scope of the issue is needed from the SW. Please contact your local NFU office to express your concern.

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

Key funders:



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