Today, Exmoor Hill Farming Network celebrates its 1st Anniversary as a Community Interest Company, led by farmers for farmers. On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given to the Network this year in supporting our activities and services. It has been a challenging year for us adapting to the new normal and a change in our communication platforms, entering a whole new world of zoom calling. We are very thankful to the huge generosity and support provided by our funders, sponsors and donors for allowing us to continue our work during these testing times. Thank you to everyone who took the time to respond to our members survey where we will assess the results based on the feedback supplied and a top priority over the next few months is to secure the future of the Network long term.

New Sponsor

We are delighted to welcome AMC as a key sponsor from 1st February 2021. AMC founded in 1928, providing loans to farmers, land estates and rural businesses and is currently supplying 18% of UK Agricultural lending with 9 experienced Regional Managers including Exmoor born Lee Baker as National Sales Director, along with a large Network of over 280 Land Agents. You can find more about how AMC can help your farm business providing long term, committed, flexible loan type – Interest only and repayment and flexible interest type – fixed and variable and ongoing light touch support. Visit the website here Agricultural Farm Finance & Mortgages UK | AMC (amconline.co.uk) or contact Lee on M: 07793 670715 E: lee.baker@amcplc.com We look forward to working with them over the next few months.
Further Sponsorship Opportunities
If you are a business interested in supporting the EHFN and its database of 330 farming businesses. We would be delighted to discuss our sponsorship packages with you, don’t hesitate to get in touch by email or 07970 795808.

Open Events
Countryside Stewardship and E.L.M Event Series with Exmoor Hill Farming Network

As part of protected landscapes’ (AONBs and National Parks) ongoing engagement with farmers Defra are providing additional funding to raise awareness of Environmental Land Management and opportunities under Countryside Stewardship. On behalf of the Exmoor National Park Authority and Quantock Hills AONB, FWAG and Exmoor Hill Farming Network (EHFN) will deliver a series of online workshops between now and March 2021. These events will be open to all landowners and managers from Exmoor, Quantocks Hills and the West Somerset Vale area.

These workshops will raise awareness of the Agricultural Transition Plan and development of the Environmental Land Management system (E.L.M.). With a number of changes to the Countryside Stewardship (CS) scheme due to be announced in early February the workshops will also explore the opportunities in CS to generate an income through the provision of public goods during the transition period before E.L.M. is introduced. As part of the workshops attendees will be invited to complete a Questionnaire about agri-environment schemes. With this we will collect your thoughts on: the advice and support that you might want in the future, how collaborative working between farms can be encouraged and how you can be involved in the setting of local priorities and vision for the schemes. This will provide valuable feedback to Defra, EHFN, FWAG, Exmoor National Park Authority and Quantock Hills AONB and help support the development of our work. 10 workshops have been arranged covering 5 topic areas and duplicated to allow individuals to choose a convenient time to join.

Topics include:
Agricultural Transition Plan and the Environmental Land Management system THIS WEEK 03/02-04/02 book now
Countryside Stewardship in the Uplands
Countryside Stewardship in the Lowlands
Countryside Stewardship Capital Grant Scheme
Future E.L.M. advice support and collaborative working
For further information and to register your interest to attend one or more workshops from the topics listed above please visit Environmental Land Management Advocacy Event Series with the Exmoor Hill Farming Network | Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West Limited (fwagsw.org.uk). Alternatively, please book via Katherine Williams (Exmoor Hill Farming Network) katherine@ehfn.org.uk /07970 795808 with your name, address, postcode and telephone number.

Pre- Lambing Ewe Nutrition Workshop and Discussion via Zoom
Date: Monday 8th February 2021 Time: 7.30pm prompt start – 9pm Venue: From your own home via Zoom (log in details will be circulated to interested parties on the morning of 8th Feb) ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
Join us for an interactive evening with Jake Chisholm and Louise Hosegood, Feed Specialists from Harpers Feeds to discuss the impact on ewe health and flock profitability of correct feeding. A Quiz will be held with the chance of winning a £20 Harpers Farm Supplies Voucher, which can be used on their online store!

Areas to be discussed
- Why is Nutrition so important?
- Nutrition- feeding throughout pregnancy, nutrient value, supplement feeds, grazed feed
- Indication of poor nutrition and nutrition related diseases
- Calculate the energy needs as the ewe approaches lambing

Please register for the zoom log in katherine@ehfn.org.uk / 07970 795808

Huge thanks to Harpers Feeds and Harpers Farm Supplies for supporting EHFN to bring this event together, led by farmers for farmers.

Peer Support Groups
Exmoor Women in Farming Group – TONIGHT
Topic: General catch up with group members Date: Monday 1st February 2021 Time: 8pm – 9pm Venue: from your own home Peer Support contribution: £5pp. Join Zoom Meeting here https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82401568851?pwd=cXFaQ1NYNFN2bDd0dHFHZEIvUHI0UT09 Meeting ID: 824 0156 8851 Passcode: 580544. Please let us know if you attend to join.

Other Interest
The Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme is coming back to Exmoor - do you have a family farm business?
We are delighted to report Exmoor has been chosen to host another programme. Due to Covid 19 there has been a slight delay in running this programme from Autumn 2020,
however we are positive for a welcome meeting in the summer and a September 2021 start for the workshops.

The Prince’s Farm Resilience Programme offers family farm business skills training FREE from top agricultural consultants. Workshops include topics such as, business plans, practical cost saving, understanding your accounts, succession planning and more!

Please see the link below for more details www.princescountrysidedefund.org.uk/farmresilience For further details or if you have any questions please contact Charmain Dascombe (Local co-ordinator for Exmoor Area) charmainfrp@gmail.com or 07881 406306. Open to all members in the Exmoor and Greater Exmoor area.

Animal Welfare in Transport Consultation

Please join us for a briefing on the Animal Welfare in Transport Consultation and the measures it proposes which could have a significant impact on your business. Due to the recent response extension which is now the 25th February, we would like to invite you to join this meeting to hear about the NFU’s response to the consultation, and to help shape yours.

Tuesday 16th February at 7:30pm via Microsoft Teams Hosted by Somerset NFU County Chairman, Tom Kimber

Items up for consultation include a proposal to reduce journey times, increase headroom and impose rules on minimum and maximum air temperatures at time of transport. You can register by email south.west@nfu.org.uk or call 01392 440700. Joining details will be sent to you on the 15th February.

A consultation has recently been released by DEFRA reviewing legislation relating to the welfare of animals in transport.

Proposals include reducing journey distances, increasing headroom and imposing rules on air temperatures at time of transport. The consultation documents are available to view here Improvements to animal welfare in transport - Defra - Citizen Space, your feedback is important.

Deadline date: Extended until 25th Feb 2021

RABI The Big Farming Survey

Farming is going through some tumultuous changes at present and with some very uncertain times ahead of us as to what Farming will look like. In order to respond to that as a charity RABI has set up its BIG Farm survey where it hopes to get 26,000 respondents. in order to get that sort of number they have asked us to help which can be done one of three ways

1. Send for a written survey: FarmSurvey@exeter.ac.uk
2. online http://ex.ac.uk/BigFarmingSurvey
3. Complete the survey from the RABI website [www.rabi.org.uk/bigfarmingsurvey](http://www.rabi.org.uk/bigfarmingsurvey). The results will help inform how charities and how RABI responds

**COVID-19 – Scams**

It has been brought to our attention, some members have received very believable emails or telephone calls relating to their COVID-19 vaccinations. These members have been targeted with an email saying ‘due to their underlying health issues’ which sparked doubt as no underlying health issues known to date. Please don’t be fooled. For further details about how you will be contacted [How you will be contacted for your coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination - NHS (www.nhs.uk)](http://www.nhs.uk) Please be aware and protect your family members.

**Spotting a scam**

**The COVID-19 vaccine is free of charge on the NHS.**

The NHS will never ask for:

- your bank account or card details
- your pin or banking password
- copies of personal documents to prove your identity such as your passport, driving licence, bills or pay slips

If you think you have been a victim of fraud or identify theft, report it to [Action Fraud](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) on 0300 123 2040.

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**EXMOOR SOCIETY: THE MACEWEN ESSAY ANNUAL COMPETITION 2021**

An essay competition was launched by The Exmoor Society to mark its Diamond Jubilee in 2018 and the legacy of Malcolm & Annie MacEwen, whose Conservation and Research Trust is now managed within The Exmoor Society portfolio.

Criteria for submission of Essays:-

1. Theme: Exmoor’s Woodland Strategy
2. Title: Exmoor’s Future Trees: which species should be planted, where, how, & why?
3. Contact details: please provide The Exmoor Society with your full name and contact details (tel/address/e-mail) NOT on the essay itself, which will be marked ‘blind’ by assessors.
4. Eligibility: All ages BUT not previous winners!
5. Word limit: **1200 words** maximum, with up to **four** illustrations (diagrams/pictures as high resolution jgps)
6. Submission date with electronic copy **May 31st 2021** to The Exmoor Society, 34 High Street, Dulverton TA22 9DJ
7. Judging for clarity/originality by a Panel of The Exmoor Society will occur during early June.
8. Winning Essay will have a £500 prize and be published in the next year’s Exmoor Review
9. The Winner will give a brief presentation on their title at the year’s ES AGM in autumn.
**Commercial Adverts**

**General Site Labourer**
We are a local family run Engineering Business situated just outside Luxborough and we are looking to employ a General Site Labourer to join our busy team. Our work is varied, anything from garden railings to steel framed buildings, so we are looking for someone who is both enthusiastic with a good work ethic and happy to undertake whatever job is required of them. Our preferred candidate will have experience in the construction trade however someone who is punctual, able to use their own initiative and willing to learn will suit. Hours would normally be 8:00 till 17:00 Mon - Fri, however flexibility is essential. Visit our website for more details – [www.hensonengineering.co.uk](http://www.hensonengineering.co.uk)

**J Hunter Services**
Full time team member to join a small but expanding business on Exmoor! Jobs role is wide and varied, main skills to include:
- Hedging and fencing
- Digger work/Groundworks
- Tractor driving
- Chainsaw work
Tickets preferred however will put the right candidate through training. Full clean UK driving license is a must. Hours flexible dependent on time of year and pay will be based on experience.
For all enquiries, please contact Jack Hunter [hunterjack2705@gmail.com](mailto:hunterjack2705@gmail.com) or 07967778724

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**Commercial Advert Reminder**
We are happy to circulate vacancies or services to our 330 farming businesses / 565 individual members on the EHFN database. A £25 commercial advert fee applies for one month and the ad will feature on our website and facebook page too. Do get in touch if this is of interest.

*For further information on any of the above. Please contact Katherine Williams on 07970 795808 or email katherine@ehfn.org.uk*

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Katherine Williams, Network OfficerT. 01643 841455.  M: 07970 795808 Exmoor Hill Farming Network CIC, Cutcombe Market, Wheddon Cross, Minehead TA24 7DT Registered in England and Wales No. 20151981