Headwaters of the Exe

(change of time for tomorrow’s event)

**Free Faecal egg counting drop in sessions –** **11am to 2pm** at Cutcombe Market with thanks to Exmoor Farmers on Wednesday 9th October – with Katie Bull, Veterinary Parasitology Research Technician, University of Bristol. FWAG and Katie will be on hand during the day to answer any questions and to help you conduct your faecal egg counts. Analyse a sample yourself by bringing a muck sample (a golf ball size amount is sufficient). Guidance will be provided to show you what to look for and once you have conducted an egg count someone will be able to check and compare your results. You will then be able to discuss these results with your vet to develop your worming strategy. See the attached flier for information on how to collect a sample.

Latest News

**Macmillan Coffee Morning**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning last week and a huge thanks to the Fuller family for hosting the morning for our farming community to enjoy. A grand total of £435.00 was raised for the charity very close to our hearts. A cheque presentation took place at last night’s steering group meeting, with coffee morning host Helen Fuller (left)

**EHFN Farming Related Quiz Night**

Over 100 people attended our social fundraiser last Friday evening at The Sportsman Inn, Sandyway. A huge thanks to Martin, Graham and Judith at The Sportsmans Inn for their tremendous support and carvery raising a grand total of £770 for network funds. Martin kindly put together the farming related questions and much fun was had by all!

Open Events

**Crystalyx and Tublyx Range and an introduction to The Beet Balancer Range** – see attached poster

**Date:** Tuesday 22nd October 2019 **Time:** 7pm for 7.15pm (prompt start) – 9.30pm **Venue:** The Sportsman Inn, Sandyway, South Molton EX36 3LU **Peer support contribution:** £5pp to include cottage pie (Gluten Free). David Woodcock and Dr Kenton Hart from Crystalyx and Bridgmans representatives will be in attendance.

**Setting up a Rotational Grazing System** – see attached poster

**Venue:** Oaremead Farm, Oare, EX35 6NU kindly hosted by Tom Burge and family **Date:** Thursday 24th October 2019, **Time:** 1pm-4pm

Join us for a farm tour to discuss the detail behind setting up a rotational grazing system. Tom and his family farm 1,500 Romney x Highlander ewes and 500 Scotch Black Faced ewes and a herd of 100 Hereford x suckler cows moving to an Aberdeen Angus x. He is in the ongoing process of installing a cell grazing system. James Daniels of Precision Grazing and Joanna Uglow of FWAG SW will cover a range of topics including:

• Setting up and managing a rotational grazing system, infrastructure, land capability and livestock
requirements

• Working with soil types, managing soils to maximise production and taking and interpreting soil samples
• Outwintering in a rotational system
• Use of different crop types including permanent pasture and swedes

Lunch will be provided, please let us know beforehand of any dietary requirements. Please ensure clean footwear is worn for biosecurity purposes. If you have a 4WD please bring it along for the farm tour.

Booking is essential for this free event: please contact Katherine Williams on kwilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk or phone 07970 795808

A chance to inform the design of the new Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS) on Friday 25th October.

DEFRA are in the process of designing and implementing a series of tests, trials and focus groups across the country to inform the development of ELMS which will start as Countryside Stewardship, Environment Stewardship and the Basic Payment Scheme end. ADAS, working with partner organisations, has been appointed by DEFRA to develop and analyse different ways in which farmers are paid to deliver environmental goods in the new ELM scheme. They are currently looking at the feasibility of different payment options in 5 case study areas in England, one of which is North Devon. To inform the work they want to engage with land managers with an interest in agri-environment and woodland schemes and want to learn from any potential experience of land management payments and discuss your views regarding future options for payments under ELMS. If you would like to join the meeting at Cedars Inn (Bickington Road, Sticklepath, Barnstaple, EX31 2HE) at 10:30AM on Friday 25th October then please RSVP to Hannah Adamson at Hannah.adamson@adas.co.uk or call her on 01902 271293. An agenda for the meeting (10.30 -12.30) is included in the attached flier, as is more information about ELMS.

Future proofing your business for profitable production – see attached poster

We would like to invite you to join us for an evening with David Pett, AHDB Knowledge Exchange, to learn about what Farmbench is, and how it can help you future proof your business with a focus on cost of production.

Date: Thursday 7th November 2019, Time: 7pm start Venue: Withypool Village Hall, TA24 7RH. Booking essential for catering purposes: please contact Katherine Williams on kwilliams@northdevonplus.co.uk or 07970 795808.

Peer Support Groups

Exmoor Women in Farming Group – October Meeting

Visit to Greendale Farm Shop and Beef Finishing Unit with Tom Chanter (Farm Manager)

Date: Friday 25th October 2019 Venue: Greendale Farm | Sidmouth Road, Nr. Farringdon, Exeter EX5 2JU Peer Support Contribution: £5pp (lunch is extra) Time: Leaving Exmoor at 12.30 arrive 1.30 for lunch. From 2.30 farm tour with Tom. Finishing around 4.30 and return to the farm shop for coffee and a look around at your own leisure.

Greendale Farm enterprise is farming circa 2000 acres of grassland and arable. This farming enterprise is finishing 3,500 cattle per year sourced regionally including Exmoor. Cattle are likely to be in the picking pens during our visit and Tom will run us through the specification required before the animal leaves the farm. The Business Park adjacent to the farm has a Anaerobic Digestor
this processes farm crops and livestock manure into bio gas and bio fertiliser. The bio gas is used to produce electricity for the business park, whist the bio fertilizers is used on the farmland. We will hear more about the beef finishing unit and see the AD during the visit. Cars to be arranged from South Molton and the Exmoor Area. We will pre order lunch before the visit. If you can let me know by Monday 21st October if you would like to attend and please have a look at the menu on the website below which we will need to pre order by Wednesday 23rd at the latest. Please send your orders over to me. Website: https://www.greendale.com/farm-shop-and-cafe/greendale-cafe/

Please ensure you wear appropriate footwear for bio security purposes.

**Morrisons Apprenticeship Transfer Levy – see attached information**

Morrisons have opened up apprenticeship transfer levy funds to support British farmers of the future. This is an exciting opportunity for young farmers to gain financial support to fund their studies. As long as they are aged 19 or over, embarking on an apprenticeship course, and working on a farm alongside their studies, they are eligible to apply. If you would like any further information, please see the Prince’s Countryside Fund website: https://www.princescountrysidedefund.org.uk/farm-businesses/morrisons-apprenticeship-levy

**Weekend Work Required**

We receive occasional enquiries for farm work opportunities at weekends. Please get in touch if you are looking for additional support at the weekends as we may be able to help. We currently have a 20-year-old placement student from Yorkshire looking for weekend work farming while working on a placement on Exmoor in the week to supplement income. *(on Exmoor until end of June, excluding Christmas and occasional weekends that can be set out straight away.)*

To book or for further information please contact the office on 01643 841 455 or 07970 795808

**Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Farming Community Network Contact Details**

Don’t forget about the valuable services these two charities provide to our farming communities in a time of need. For further information click on the links below:

https://rabi.org.uk

https://fcn.org.uk/

**Oare - Exmoor - Doone Valley - Estate Assistant/ Groom (www.oaremanor.com)**

Experienced Groom/Assistant Housekeeper required in rural location near Porlock, Devon EX35 6NX so must be a car driver. Working 5 days per week by arrangement (definitely Fridays & every other weekend). Looking after 5/6 ponies approx. 14hh/14.2hh grooming, exercise, mucking out, field maintenance, tack cleaning etc. Will also be required to assist resident Housekeeper cleaning and preparing Holiday Let cottage between guests departing and arriving so must be flexible in their approach to the job. Someone with initiative, knowledge of horse welfare/healthcare, common sense and sense of humour!
email - janer17@me.com with cv and for more information