



Dartmoor
Hill Farm Project

INTERIM NEWSLETTER February 2017

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 6 & Tues 21 Feb – Telehandler Courses. One day training for experienced operators. **BOTH OF THESE COURSES ARE NOW FULL**

If you are interested in taking part in a similar course, please call us on 01822 890913 to let us know and if there is sufficient interest we will organise further courses.

Fri 17 Feb – Next Gen sheepdog training course commences. For more details see inside

Tues 28 Feb, 12.30pm – DWIF Event – Spring lunch at Endsleigh, Milton Abbot. £10pp. Limited places only. Please RSVP to the DHFP office by 17 Feb on 01822 890913 or email hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk

23 February - Introduction to Health & Safety for Farms, 10.30 – 2.30 DHFP Office, Princetown

A half day workshop specifically designed for farms. This gives you the basics of Health & Safety laws that affect your situation in just about every farming activity you're likely to encounter. You'll come away knowing what records you need to keep, in as simple and practical a way as possible - exposing facts from fiction.

Full Cost - £75 + VAT

Discount cost for DHFP Contribution Scheme members - £50+ VAT

Sat 4 March - 'On Farm Health & Safety' – times and venue tbc.

Also for those who are ready to put in to practice all that you learnt in the first Health & Safety workshop.... this follow-up session will get you started with your own version of written records for Health & Safety on YOUR farm, (only available for those who have completed the introduction session).

Full Cost - £80 + VAT incl lunch

Discount cost for DHFP Contribution Scheme members – Only £10 + VAT incl lunch



DUCHY of CORNWALL



Ancient Boundaries – Modern Farming

Work is under way on more walls, banks and hedges – the result of successful grant applications to the Ancient Boundaries Modern Farming project from *Moor than meets the eye*, the Heritage Lottery Funded landscape partnership covering part of Dartmoor.

The grants are intended to restore boundaries that have heritage importance but which also serve a function for modern farming - keeping them stock-proof and renewing gateways are two examples of the 'modern' aspect. So far the grant has been offered to 13 different projects on the moor. The grant scheme is now open until 17th February offering 50% or maximum of £2500.00 towards repair of hedges and stone walls within the MTMTE area. (Applicants will have to match fund the grant they are awarded). Please ring the office to check if the boundary you are looking to restore falls within the *Moor than meets the eye* area and to request an application form.

The Ancient Boundaries Modern Farming project runs until summer 2019 and is part of the *Moor than meets the eye* Landscape Partnership Scheme. The Scheme is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and is helping people discover the Dartmoor Story. More information can be found at: <http://www.moorthanmeetstheeye.org/>

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Contacts

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Find us on Facebook

Contributors Meeting

The DHFP started the Contributor's Scheme on 1st September 2016. The aim is not so much to gain financially, but to demonstrate the support the project has across Dartmoor. Although slow to start it is growing in the number of farm businesses signed and we are adding to the benefits that we can offer to contributors who support us.

An evening was held recently to thank those who had contributed to the scheme and to outline the future of the DHFP with the Princes Countryside Fund. There were some points that came out of the Q & A following this presentation which we will look at further in the coming months. Matt Cole gave a really interesting account of how the Lambing Live Week held on their farm has grown and developed over the years. He commented that not only do the public find the main event of lambs being born fascinating, but it also gets people of all ages onto the farm and opens their eyes to many aspects of the industry and the people who work in it they may never have considered before.

The Forest Inn offered warm hospitality and a wonderful supper which was enjoyed by all.



DHFP was able to offer goodie bags which included, amongst other items, pens from Westpoint Farm Vets, Burts potato chips and a bottle of Jail Ale. Along with this was a list of discounts from suppliers which included 10% off services and parts from MST for a year, 10% off at DNPA Visitor Centre shops, 10% off Dartmoor Brewery Jail Ale products (great if you are having a large event or function) and Cornwall Farmers Tavistock are offering Gold membership with lots of buying advantages to all our contributors. A huge thank you to all the sponsors!

Farm Events

A suggestion at the contributors meeting was that farms should support each other in promoting other farm events on the moor.

We have lambing live at Greenwell in March, and four Saturday afternoons with farm walks, lambs and cream teas at Tor Royal farm in April and there must be many more open days and events happening on-farm over the spring and summer months.

We would like to provide a link between farms and support these initiatives to engage the visitors and share the passion and key messages of farming with them. Please send through details of your forthcoming events so they can be added to the list and be promoted at other farm events.

Maybe you haven't considered holding public events before? Are you interested in hosting farm walks and talks? Have you got something specific on your farm that you think would be beneficial to share? Would you like to take part in Open Farm Sunday? Get in touch to discuss these and other possibilities.

Diaries

With so many more sporting events and leisure pursuits being put together by a variety of different organisations on the moor, it is becoming increasingly difficult for rural inhabitants not to have their work or way of life disturbed at times by visitors. Last summer we gave a number of farmers a diary in which they could record their interactions with the public on their land, as well as the time it took them to deal with these incidences. We recalled these in the autumn and analysed the information recorded; the main grumbling points came down to a lack of education in agriculture, livestock and the rural way of life.

Some of these problems can be sorted in a quick and inexpensive way such as better signage, but there are others which are maybe going to take collaboration between farmers, the National Park and particular organisations.

Please let us know if you would like a diary to note down your conversations or findings. Maybe you don't want to spend the time doing this over a period of weeks but perhaps there are a couple of instances where an aggravating experience has taken up your time, or even your money, in repairs. If you have any comments regarding people being on your land that you think could be relevant to this research, we would love to hear from you and also see any pictures you may have to illustrate the problem.

We are hoping to use this data to talk to a number of different people to investigate where, in some cases, simple solutions could be put in place to improve relations between moor users and the farming community.

Code of conduct

We are also part of a group devising a Code of Conduct for the Moor which will act as a guide for event producers, holiday makers, sports people and other moor users to follow. We will be drawing from the diary data, meetings and conferences with the National Park Authority and relevant parties. Engaging with Dartmoor tourist and leisure providers we will aim to distribute the information in a variety of mediums.

Next Full Newsletter

The next full newsletter will be out in March 2017. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to include, or if you would like to take out an advertisement. Please call 01822 890913 for more information.

Let us Know

We would be very grateful if you could email us with suggestions of events/training you would like to do or areas we could look at that you feel would be beneficial to you and your business, and to Dartmoor farmers in general. Email us at:

hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk

DHFP Training Co-Ordinator Opportunity

We are looking for an experienced training co-ordinator to join our team at Princetown. Please follow this link to the DNPA website for full details:
<http://www.dartmoor.gov.uk/aboutus/au-jobvacancies/job-pages/hfp-training-coordinator>

IT Training

We are planning a number of one-to one IT training sessions during Late April/early May. Look out for information in the next full newsletter.

Healthy Livestock Planning - Free Blood Testing – Bvd

Six vet practices that serve Dartmoor farms have come together to seek funding to deliver a range of research based offers to their customers. We are facilitating this and if you use a veterinary practice which hasn't mentioned this opportunity, please let us know.

Over the next two years we hope to be able to address several diseases in some way. These include, but aren't exclusive: BVD, scab, mineral and trace elements, barren ewes, antimicrobials, liver fluke, worm resistance.

It was decided to work on BVD first to try and build a picture of what is happening on Dartmoor. Funding has been secured for this year and potentially for next year for those who take it up from boehringer-ingelheim, so a clear two years will raise the BVD free status and therefore can be used as a marketing asset.

The offer is for up to 10 blood tests from cattle agreed by your vet as appropriate to test. This can be done at TB test. The cattle should have grazed the commons. The vets have already started offering farmers this opportunity.

If you give Homeopathic medicines to the cattle, we are informed it will not have an effect on the blood test. If you are already vaccinating, you can still take up the offer, discuss with your vet..... as there can still be a PI present.

Sheepdog Handling Course

The aim of this course is to provide training opportunities for Dartmoor's Next Generation using the skills of two local sheepdog trainers and breeders. Both have worked with dogs since small boys and along the way have won numerous awards, including English National Champion 2016.

The four sessions will cover early days of the young dog; gathering; shedding; penning; driving; polishing the faults and then culminating in a competition!

If you are a Dartmoor Next Generation farmer please call to book your place (these are limited). You can attend without a dog but you still need to book.

Cost £10 per 2hr session. 4 sessions paid at the start will give you the opportunity of a 1:1 session for free.

The first session will take place on 17 February, 2.00pm – 4.00pm, followed by further sessions in May, June and July. We will then run a 'One Dartmoor Man and his Dog' competition in the autumn.



The Farming Community Network

Helping farming people through difficult times
Open 7.00am – 11.00pm every day of the year

0845 367 9990

chris@fcn.org.uk www.fcn.org.uk

ARC – Addington Fund

Supporting Britain's Farming Communities

02476 690587

enquiries@arc-addingtonfund.org.uk

www.arc-addingtonfund.org.uk

Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution

Supporting Farming Families

General Enquiries: 01865 724931

Welfare Enquiries: 0300 303 7373

info@rabi.org.uk www.rabi.org.uk

The Samaritans

"Talk to us if things are getting to you"

24 hours a day, 365 days a year

UK: 08457 909090

www.samaritans.org

Rural Payments Helpline

03000 200 301

Mon – Fri 8.30am-5.00pm



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