

Events and Training – August to October

7 th August (11 – 2.30 PM)	Ewe Body Condition Worksoop and sub clinical disease in sheep (Huccaby Farm). Joint workshop with AHDB's Lis King and Fiona Lovatt of Flock Health LTD. Lunch provided. Pls. book in advance
15 th August (9 - 4.30PM)	NPTC Sheep Dipping Course at Glen Iris, Sheepstor £174 Inc. VAT (contributor) or £218 non contributor (Inc. VAT). Training plus assessment all in one day to enable purchase and safe use of sheep dip on farm. In partnership with the Wool Board
17 th & 18 th August (9 - 5PM daily)	Newtake Dry Stone Walling at Fernworthy Newtake, Gidleigh £60 (Inc. VAT) – 2 day course with certificate of attendance
6 th September (6.45 – 9PM)	Talk on the latest updates on Cross-Compliance and the new Farming Rules for Water with Ross Cherrington from the Westcountry Rivers Trust . Food and refreshments. Pls book in advance
12 th September (10AM – 1PM)	Prime Lamb Selection and Performance with Peter Morris and AHDB. Looking at UK market trends, handling and selection and flock performance with the Dracup family. Lunch provided. Pls. book in advance
20 th September	Sheep Handling with Miriam Parker (Okehampton area tbc) Workshop looking at best practice in the design and handling of sheep with national expert Miriam Parker. Pls. book in advance
21 st & 22 nd September (9 – 4.30PM daily)	Introduction to Hedge Laying or Steeping (Scorriton) Two day course with a certificate covering all the key skills to lay or steep a hedge. £60 (Inc. VAT)
22 nd September (10 – 4PM)	Bee Taster Day at Buckfast Abbey Bee Department Introduction to Bee keeping with Clare Densley in the form of a taster day looking at the honey bee and managing an aviary. £10 (Inc. VAT)
23 rd October (9AM – 4PM)	Emergency First Aid Course with Steve Rose (Princetown) Certified one day course in emergency First Aid tailored to the agricultural sector. £39.60 (Inc. VAT)
31 st October (9.30 – 1PM)	Safe Use of Medicines Course with Castle Vets This course will cover the safe use of medicines ensuring compliance with schemes such as Red Tractor. £24 (Inc. VAT)

Call 01822 890913 to book or email hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk

A Message from the Chair



So at the end of July, we finally got the rain that we had all been waiting for. I just hope that it knows when to stop! Certainly from where I'm looking, Dartmoor has fared better than the South Hams, which looks particularly scorched and in dire need of a drink.

I wanted to use this Newsletter to remind you all of the importance of renewing your £60.00 (Inc. VAT) contribution towards the running costs of the Dartmoor Hill Farm Project. We are currently sponsored and supported by DNPA, Duchy of Cornwall Estate, Prince's Countryside Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Farmer contributions. The "Farmer Contribution" bit is important. It demonstrates we are willing to take ownership of our destination; that we are prepared to put our own hands in our pockets to contribute to the future viability of our businesses, rather than standing there with a begging bowl! It also makes it easier for us to apply for additional funding when the need arises, it demonstrates credibility and the fact that we are prepared to help ourselves. In addition, it's a really good investment. Due to the subsidised course fee for contributors, most Farm businesses that I have spoken to have recuperated the cost after just a couple of training sessions, to say nothing of all of the other advantages.

Examples of savings: Foot Trimming: £131 instead of £164
Telehandler: £178 instead of £222
Trailer test: £150 grant instead of £80 (one off)

Payment of £60.00 (Inc. VAT) is due 1st September and covers the Farm Business including working family members and regular employees. Call the office if you wish to make payment by BACS or Standing Order. Thanks for your ongoing support and fingers crossed for some late season grass growth!

Russ Ashford,
(Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Steering Group Chairman)



Bovine EID – A Note of Caution

In December 2017, the Animal identification and Movements of Livestock Team which is part of DEFRA, held consultations with all existing Animal ID Tag companies to discuss the standards that should be out in place for the compulsory roll out of electronic identification tagging for cattle in the UK.

DEFRA plan to implement bovine EID for 2019 which will be a major logistical challenge to bring into force a fully functional multi species database that can cope with EID. They have indicated they plan to consult with the industry later this autumn. One positive outcome should be a simplification of livestock movement reporting but the details are yet to be made clear.

A key part of the changes is that all cattle will have to tagged with a 'smart' distance readable reference number. The costs of changing over to the new system will be borne by the farmer and the NFU's advice is to limit tag orders to what may be required within the next 12 months. They will be holding a series of regional meetings for members over the autumn to help inform the industry's feedback to the consultation.

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project



NPTC Sheep Dipping Course

15th August – Sheepstor, Yelverton (9AM - 4.30PM)

This course is designed for farmers and their staff who require certification for the purchase and supply of chemicals for sheep dipping. It covers a number of areas from legislation to practical operation and will ensure you are competent and compliant with the latest standards.

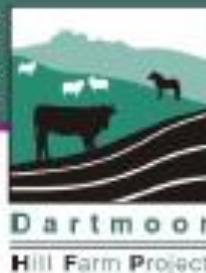
Training is around the kitchen table and on farm at the dipping site in a small group. This course is designed to achieve the certification in a single day and is run jointly with the Wool Board.

**Cost: £174 (Inc. VAT) for Hill farm Project Contributors or
£218 (Inc. VAT) for non-contributors**

To reserve a place please contact the HFP Office

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project
Old Duchy Hotel, Princetown, Yelverton, Devon PL20 6QF
Tel: 01822 890913 email: hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk
web: www.dartmoor.gov.uk/hillfarmproject [hillfarmproject](https://www.facebook.com/hillfarmproject)

The project is hosted by Dartmoor National Park Authority and also funded by the Duchy of Cornwall, the Prince's Countryside Fund and the Heritage Lottery Fund



Bovine TB – DEFRA Consultation on Delivery of TB Skin Testing

Defra is requesting views on proposals to enable veterinary practices to use para-veterinary professional Approved Tuberculin Testers (ATTs) to perform tuberculin skin testing of cattle in England. They are consulting on extending the use of ATTs in England so that private veterinary businesses also have the option of deploying them to carry out TB tests. The proposal explains that ATTs would have to meet a number of qualifying criteria and complete specified training including a new training module for ATTs and their supervising vets. ATTs would be employed by the private business but work under APHA as the competent authority.

You can respond in one of three ways by the **7th September**.

Online by completing the questionnaire:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/bovine-tb/extending-the-use-of-para-veterinary-professional/>

Email to bTBengage@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Post to: Defra, Cattle Measures Team, Area 5D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Lime Logistics – Your Views Sought?

A key barrier to productive grassland on Dartmoor is the acidic nature of the soil with PH values often struggling to reach optimal level. This is compounded by the high rainfall which makes it a constant battle to maintain the balance by periodically applying lime or sea sand.

What should be a routine task for a contractor is further complicated by the logistics of accessing land where narrow lanes, bridges or gateways provide an added challenge let alone the smaller field sizes. This thorny issue has been occupying the minds of a group of



farmers on the high moor who are looking to find practical solutions through collaboration. As part of the information gathering we have produced a short questionnaire with a view to understanding how widespread (or not) these issues are. If there is a recognised need then we will be supporting the group to identify new opportunities over the coming months.

The questionnaire will be sent out electronically in the first instance but if you would like to get involved do contact the office by phone or email (01822 890913 or hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk).

The Addington Fund Trustees Discretionary Fund

The Addington Fund Trustees Discretionary Fund makes grants to help farmers in England and Wales who are experiencing hardship (applications may be made at any time).

The Addington Fund offers short-term financial aid to farmers and farm businesses, when an emergency situation has or will create unforeseen additional expenditure. Its charitable objectives are the promotion for the public benefit of rural regeneration in areas of social or economic deprivation by a number of means. Funding is discretionary. There is no minimum or maximum grant level. Applications may be made at any time.

Further information and an application form are available on the Addington Fund website (details of the George Stephens Charity - a grant-giving charity that provides financial help to farm workers - can also be found at this link). Contact details for the Fund are:

Address: Sue English, The Addington Fund, 9 Barford Exchange, Wellesbourne Road, Barford, Warwick, CV35 8AQ

Tel: 01926 620135

Email: enquiries@addingtonfund.org.uk

Countryside Stewardship Updates

For those with Countryside Stewardship agreements in place on their land or common the following updates may be of interest:

1. Funding for farmers, woodland owners, foresters and land managers to make environmental improvements. Mid-Tier application deadline extended to **31 August 2018**. [Countryside Stewardship](#)
2. Four Wildlife Offers for Farmers: Application deadline extended to 31 August [Wildlife Offers: Countryside Stewardship](#)
3. Link to guidance for those finding it difficult to meet scheme requirements due to hot and dry weather conditions. [Countryside Stewardship](#)

Making Sure the Odds Stack Up?

For those lucky enough in this dry weather to have sufficient round bales to stack (!) it's worth reflecting on UK Health and Safety guidelines on round bale stacking. There have been a number of incidents nationally through poor practice. In particular where people have stacked bales outside on their ends as opposed to sides.



The industry best practice recommends:

- The safest method of stacking round bales is on their sides in a pyramid
- Stacking round bales on their ends can lead to unstable stacks because inconsistent bale density allows bales to settle and shift. Mould may also increase in bales stacked on end.
- Only consider stacking bales on their ends if they are to be stored within a building
- The maximum stack height of round bales should be roughly three times the bale diameter

Update on Upstream Thinking – Farmers in the Dart Catchment

For farmers in the Dart Catchment if you haven't already done so, now is the time to get involved with the Upstream Thinking project. The West Country Rivers Trust team are keen to hear from you as there is limited remaining budget for capital grants.

If you are interested in taking forward a project to improve water quality in your stream or river, please get in touch as soon as possible. Suitable projects include watercourse fencing and troughs, separating clean and dirty water in the yard, providing covered manure storage, and construction of sediment traps. Other ideas will be considered. Also available through

Upstream Thinking: advice visit to discuss cross-compliance concerns and the Farming Rules for Water, free soil sampling and interpretation, free disposal of out of date and banned pesticides, and drip tray for filling sprayers. All visits and reports are completely confidential. Please call Annabel Martin of Westcountry Rivers Trust 07805 773932 or email annabel@wrt.org.uk.

For advice on Countryside Stewardship and help with applications, OR to arrange to hire the soil aerator, please call Jo Garlick of Devon Wildlife Trust 07989 662540 or jgarlick@devonwildlifetrust.org.

Ancient Boundaries, Modern Farming – Application Window Open!

The application window for the next round of the Ancient Boundaries, Modern Farming grant is now open. This project enables farmers to apply for a grant of up to **£2500**, or **50%** whichever is least, to rebuild stone walls / hedges. Applications will be scored by a panel before approval. The criteria are:

- Visibility
- Heritage interest
- Involve young people
- Help with modern farming

All of the wall / hedge must be within the MTMTE area. There is funding for **only 2 applicants** for this final round. Please ring the office for further information and an application form.

Deadline: **20th August 2018** for return of application forms.



Looking Back – Training & Events Summer 2018

It's been a busy period for training and events over the summer with a number of ongoing courses plus new activities.

We held a day on Molinia Management in early June which provoked some lively views both at the workshop and in wider discussions on the moor. The format was a series of presentations looking at different perspectives from atmospheric inputs to grazing management and included a site visit to Shapley Farm near Moretonhampstead. There was a general consensus that Molinia is dominating on some parts of Dartmoor and perhaps it's time to re-visit prescriptions. A number of attendees continued the discussion with other bodies and an interesting day was held by the Dartmoor Association at Gidleigh Common in July. This included a number of Natural England representatives, commoners and landowners and looked at the current HLS agreement and in particular the impact of Molinia on archaeology.



The final workshop of this series focussed on Livestock Buildings with Jamie Robertson of Livestock Management Systems. Hosted by the Pollard family at North Bovey it was an excellent session looking at both new build and existing facilities with a view to maximising production and efficiency. Feedback from the day was very positive which also included contributions from Castle Vets and Tim Burston a financial expert with Lloyds Bank.



A number of planners were present and we hope this will feed into their local planning review and general understanding of agricultural applications. Jamie also learnt a thing or two from some wise Dartmoor farmers and is quoting their rainfall harvesting figures in an academic paper!

We ran a number of other events from planning surgeries to grassland identification and dry stone walling. An interesting session took place in early July at Corringdon Farm, South Brent with Peter Morris selecting finished cattle and looking at market trends. A group of younger farmers were in attendance and with the help of the hosts we were able to share grades and weights for the cattle handled on farm the following week. A key learning point was the need to constantly review and select cattle to ensure that returns were maximised against

changing abattoir specifications.

The Farmer Bee group continues to meet and visited Cornwall to look at the Black Bee project. It's hoped that we might host a few colonies of these bees in the future and most of the members on this course either have bees now or are in the process of acquiring a colony. The sheepdog trainees are also making good progress and the end of season trial is in early September under the watchful eye of Kenny Watson.

Any Eye to the Autumn – Up and Coming Events and Training

Livestock

We have a number of sheep focussed events running through August and September including a couple of joint ones with AHDB. These cover **condition scoring and sub clinical diseases** (Huccaby, 7th August) as well as **prime lamb selection** with **Peter Morris** at Broadaford Farm. The latter event will also look at performance monitoring and breeding which is a key feature of the sheep system run by the Dracup family. We are also holding an **NPTC dipping course** with the Wool Board (Sheepstor, 15th August) and plan to take a look at sheep handling with Miriam Parker in September.



We are holding an Animal in Transit course (short journeys) on the 26th September for anyone recently qualified in trailer training or needing this qualification. This will be followed in late October with a Safe Use of Medicines course which will address some of the new requirements for the Red Tractor scheme associated with injecting livestock.

Advisory

In September we have Ross Cherrington from the Westcountry Rivers Trust booked to give a talk on the latest updates on Cross-Compliance and the new Farming Rules for Water (Forest Inn, Hexworthy – 6th Sept.).

Other Training

We have a one day Emergency First Aid course planned for the 23rd October which will give certified cover for 3 years. This is designed to address lone working and major trauma injuries. There are also a number of heritage skills courses planned which includes stone faced earth bank repair and hedge laying. Other events are in the process of planning and will be covered in a training newsletter in the near future.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR regulations require us to contact everyone our database to ask if you are happy for us to retain your personal information for the purpose of participating in or supporting the HFP. We intend to do this over the next month as we also update our systems and improve the presentation of the newsletter and other materials using a system called MailChimp.

We apologise for having to add to a long list of requests that you have no doubt received but we value your support and engagement and hope you will bear with us. It will also ensure that we have up to date contact details in this ever changing world of technology

Mason Kings Support – Thank You!

We are delighted to have received a kind offer of support from Mason Kings who will be supporting the project over the coming months. The firm has been trading for over 30 years and is a major player in both the agricultural, commercial and domestic sector supplying a wide range of machinery and services.

We are very grateful to Roger Prior, Chrissy Amphlett and the rest of the team and are looking forward to working together on developing some events this winter.

Dartmoor Hill Farm Project Contacts

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sdodd@dartmoor.gov.uk

David Attwell, Training Coordinator **01822 890913** dattwell@dartmoor.gov.uk

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Princetown, Devon, PL20 6QF

Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, Dartmoor Hill Farm Project cannot accept responsibility for any inaccurate, incomplete or out of date information, or any loss or damage that may result from reliance on it. Inclusion of information should not be taken to imply recommendation or accreditation.

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email: hillfarmproject@dartmoor.gov.uk **facebook:** [hillfarmproject](https://www.facebook.com/hillfarmproject)



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