

Spring Summer

Autumn Winter

**Cross Compliance:**

**SMRs = Statutory Management Requirements**

**GAECs = Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions**

# Farming Calendar 2017

## January

**1<sup>st</sup>** You must start following the rules in the cross compliance 2017 guide from this date. The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) 2017 year starts.

**1<sup>st</sup>** You can apply organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland and tillage land on shallow or sandy soils from this date if conditions are suitable and you adhere to the quantity restrictions for application of these manures. (SMR 1)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Beginning of the year for assessing the annual amount of livestock manure applied to your land. (SMR 1)

**16<sup>th</sup>** You can apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to grassland and tillage land from this date if conditions are suitable. (SMR 1)

## February

**1<sup>st</sup>** You can apply organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland and tillage land on all soil types from this date if conditions are suitable and you adhere to the quantity restrictions for application of these manures. (SMR 1)

**28<sup>th</sup>** End of the quantity restrictions for application of organic manures with a high readily available nitrogen content. (SMR 1)

## March

**1<sup>st</sup>** You must not cut or trim hedges or trees from this date, but you can carry out hedge and tree coppicing and hedge laying from 1 March until 30 April. Fruit and nut trees in orchards, or trees acting as windbreaks in orchards, vineyards, hop yards or hop gardens are not included in the ban. (GAEC 7a and 7c)

**31<sup>st</sup>** If you hold a water abstraction licence, expect to receive your annual bill (or first part charge if you hold a two-part tariff agreement) for the forthcoming financial year. (GAEC 2)

Swaling Ends **31<sup>st</sup>**

## April

**1<sup>st</sup>** You must not burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium on land, other than in upland areas, from this date. (GAEC 6)

**1<sup>st</sup>** If you hold a winter or all year round water abstraction licence (authorising abstraction outside the period April to October), the Environment Agency will make actual abstraction return forms available to you from 1 April. You then have 28 days to send your readings to the Environment Agency. (GAEC 2)

**16<sup>th</sup>** You must not burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium in upland areas from this date. (GAEC 6)

**30<sup>th</sup>** You must have recorded the number of 'specified' livestock kept on your farm during the previous calendar year and calculated the amount of nitrogen they produced. You must also record the number and type of livestock in a building or hardstanding during the previous storage period. (SMR 1)

Exeter Festival of South West Food and Drink **29<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May**

## May

**1<sup>st</sup>** You must not carry out hedge or tree coppicing or hedge laying from this date. (GAEC7a and 7c)

National Beef Association's 2017 Beef Expo **18<sup>th</sup>** (Warwickshire)

Devon County Show **18-20<sup>th</sup>**

## June

Royal Cornwall Show **8-10<sup>th</sup>**

National Sheep Association's Sheep South West **20<sup>th</sup>** (Tiverton)

## July

Mid Devon Show **22<sup>nd</sup>**

Yealmpton and District Show **26<sup>th</sup>**

Launceston Agricultural Show **27<sup>th</sup>**

Totnes and District Show **30<sup>th</sup>**

Woolsery Agricultural Show **31<sup>st</sup>**

## August

**1<sup>st</sup>** If you have been granted a derogation by RPA, you may be able to cut or trim hedges throughout August, to sow oilseed rape or temporary grassland. (GAEC 7a)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils except where crops will be sown on or before 15 September. (SMR 1)

North Devon Show **2<sup>nd</sup>**

Honiton Agricultural Show **3<sup>rd</sup>**

Okehampton and District Show **10<sup>th</sup>**

Chagford Agricultural and Horticultural Show **17<sup>th</sup>**

Holsworthy and Stratton Agricultural show **24<sup>th</sup>**

## September

**1<sup>st</sup>** You can cut or trim hedges and trees from this date. (GAEC 7a and 7c)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland on shallow or sandy soils. (SMR 1)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Start of closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to tillage land. (SMR 1)

Kingsbridge Agricultural Show **2<sup>nd</sup>**

**15<sup>th</sup>** Start of closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to grassland. (SMR 1)

**16<sup>th</sup>** Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils which have been sown with crops on or before 15 September. (SMR 1)

## October

**1<sup>st</sup>** You can burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium on land in upland areas from this date. (GAEC 6)

**1<sup>st</sup>** Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to tillage land on soils which are not shallow or sandy. (SMR 1)

**15<sup>th</sup>** Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen content (for example, slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) to grassland on soils which are not shallow or sandy. (SMR 1)

**31<sup>st</sup>** If you hold a summer water abstraction licence (authorising abstraction wholly within the months of April to October), the Environment Agency will make actual abstraction return forms available to you from 31 October. You then have 28 days to send your readings to the Environment Agency. (GAEC 2)

## November

**1<sup>st</sup>** You can burn heather, rough grass, bracken, gorse or vaccinium on land, other than in upland areas, from this date. (GAEC 6)

Swaling Begins **1<sup>st</sup>**

Beef South West Event **8<sup>th</sup>** (West Point, Exeter)

Farm Business Innovation Show **8-9<sup>th</sup>** (NEC Birmingham)

South Dartmoor Sheep Clear Period **12<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>**

North Dartmoor Sheep Clear Period **19<sup>th</sup> Nov – 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec**

**30<sup>th</sup>** If you have a two-part tariff agreement for your water abstraction licence, expect to receive your second part charge after 30 November. (GAEC 2)

## December

**1<sup>st</sup>** You need to carry out your annual inventory of sheep and goats. (SMR 8)

## Summer

The summer grass grows which allows grazing and cutting for hay or silage. The grass is baled into round, square or clamp bales, which are stored in a suitable barn.

The sheep are sheared and the wool is then sold (usually for less than it costs to shear the sheep).

Straw is bought in for winter bedding and feed. It is bought in because the moor has poor soil and climate conditions for growing crops such as corn.

Cattle and sheep have worm treatment.

Grass is topped to remove harder grass that livestock find less palatable.

## Autumn

The grass growth rate slows which means it can only be grazed, not cut.

The rams are put in with the ewes and the bulls in with the cows.

The Dartmoor Ponies are usually gathered up in a 'Drift' once a year and sorted out between the owners to be taken back to the farmstead, they are then branded. Foals born in the previous spring are weaned off the mares and sold at local markets in Chagford or Tavistock.

During the Autumn sheep are taken off of the North and South of Dartmoor at slightly different dates, this is to control sheep scab and are called **Clear Days**.

Cows are calved.

Last year's manure is spread as it is now well rotted.

General maintenance of farm

Livestock markets.

## Winter

If you are claiming BPS, CS, ELS, HLS, EWGS and WMG (Woodland Management Grant) then you have to follow cross compliance regulations.

The cows are taken off of the commons and housed in the sheds, these need regular care.

In some circumstances calves are weaned off of their mothers.

If any swaling needs doing it is done now. Nationally controlled burning takes place between 1<sup>st</sup> November and 15<sup>th</sup> April. On Dartmoor a voluntary code ends burning on the 31<sup>st</sup> March to allow for the ground nesting bird season.

Some sheep are returned to the moor and others are sent away for keep. The ewes are scanned to see if they are pregnant and how many lambs they are carrying.

## Spring

The grass starts to grow again, but it is still only grazed and not cut.

Lamb the ewes at home and then return them to the common. Foals are born and spring calving occurs.

Sheep are sent back to the common, marked with colours and they are leered to the area.

Fertiliser is spread to make the grass grow, muck is used from the sheds or artificial if not available.

Fields are rolled and stones picked up in preparation for harvest.

Medical treatments for the animals, lambs have tetanus, diphtheria etc...

### Other Dartmoor Farming Events:

- Lambing Live at Greenwell Farm usually in March
- Lamb walks with Justine and David Colton
- Farm walks upon request. Contact [hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk](mailto:hfp@dartmoor.gov.uk) for more Info.
- There are also Livestock Markets around Dartmoor these being Exeter, Holsworthy, Tavistock, Hatherleigh and Newton Abbot.

### Useful Links:

- Dartmoor commoners Council <http://www.dartmoorcommonerscouncil.org.uk/index.php>
- Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust <http://www.dpht.co.uk/>
- Dartmoor Pony Society <http://www.dartmoorponysociety.com/>
- Dartmoor Hill Pony Association <http://dartmoorhillpony.com/>
- National Beef Association <http://www.nationalbeefassociation.com/>
- National Sheep Association <http://www.nationalsheep.org.uk/>
- Cross Compliance Handbook  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/579836/Cross\\_Compliance\\_2017\\_rules\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/579836/Cross_Compliance_2017_rules_FINAL.pdf)
- Farm advice service <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/farming-advice-service>