



March E-News



Defra Funding Announcements

The NFU Conference brought a raft of announcements by the Secretary of State. These include:

- Increasing a number of HLS payment rates in existing agreements.
- Capital Grants will be running for the 2025/2026 year and will be open for applications in the spring/summer
- Other announcements include Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) programme has been extended by a further year.

HLS Rate Increase

Capital Grants Update

Other Funding



Bluetongue Risk - Be Aware

The Bluetongue restricted zone has moved closer to Dartmoor following cases in Somerset and Devon during February. Vaccinations are available, although not subsidised this year. It is worth keeping an eye on the gov.uk page which lists the contact details if you suspect a case as well as updates on the restricted zone and requirements if moving animals across the zone.

South Moor Vets have produced a video covering a recent meeting with useful information - the meeting starts at 28:00. Click below to watch.

[gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)

[Bluetongue Video \(Youtube\)](#)



APHA Conference

We were recently invited to speak at the Animal Health and Plant Agency's national Ruminant Health Day in Plymouth. Our joint presentation with Ann Willcocks from Harford and Ugborough Commons Association covered key findings for the Healthy Livestock Project over the past three years. The conference looked at collaborative approaches in shared space grazing with some interesting speakers covering topics from tick borne disease and sheep scab to unexplained lamb losses in Scottish hill flocks. We also held a group session for staff and graziers in the three Landscape Recovery projects on Dartmoor exploring the opportunities to support animal health in scheme design.



Jam First 'me Ansome!

In February we hosted a visit from 25 Bodmin Moor Commoners organised through the Cornwall National Landscape Farming in Protected Landscapes Team. It was a particularly wet day on Dartmoor but we managed to visit three great farms and a common allowing discussion on topics such as mental health, animal health, commons governance and Molinia management. They clearly got a lot out of the day and were still in the Plume at 8PM in the evening suggesting a good time had by all! Many thanks to everyone who supported the visits and provided venues, food and a warm Devonian welcome.



Bracken Consultation

The James Hutton Institute have been commissioned by Natural England and others to develop a strategic management framework for bracken control. They have developed a questionnaire for farmers to gather information on current management approaches and to identify any gaps to help inform a new framework for sustainable bracken management. Click the button below to find the questionnaire.

Questionnaire



Sheep Discussion Group Colostrum and Lamb Immunity - Online Meeting

The Sheep Discussion Group have an upcoming online meeting with Tim Bebbington, a sheep specialist vet, discussing Colostrum and Lamb Immunity on Wednesday 12th March 6:30pm. Follow the link below to join the meeting on Teams.

Online Meeting



Livestock Worrying

Last month we hosted an event discussing dog attacks on the moor. DNA test kits are available in the event of an attack but require certain conditions to be effective. Should you suffer a dog attack contact Karla Mckechnie of Dartmoor Livestock Protection Society who holds the test kits. It is worth reporting any sheep worrying, even near misses to gain a full understanding of the scale of the issue.

Karla Mackechnie – 07873 587561



Finally, Team DHFP would like to wish everyone an easy and productive lambing and calving season

Mental Health Contacts

Helplines and help is always available to those in crisis - contact:

RABI 24hr Helpline: 0800 188 4444

FCN Helpline: 03000 111 999

Samaritans, Call: 116 123 or email: jo@samaritans.org

Contact us:

Russell Ashford, Steering Group Chairman
David Attwell, Land Management Adviser
Hazel Kendall, Dartmoor Farming Officer
Columb Anderson-Hague, Farm Support Officer
Office Telephone: 01822 890913

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