Bodmin Moor Healthy Livestock Update

BMLI have completed its recruitment of producers into its Healthy Livestock project, with 115 active producers all benefiting from herd and flock health activity. A huge vote of thanks should be passed to all participants and vets that have been active through these harsh winter months. As we have managed to catch up with our work and exceed our targets. With less than 6 months left of activity, we are now in the final stages of analysis and starting the procedures to close the project.

All active producers within the Healthy Livestock Project will receive a letter outlining their outstanding activity, including activity completed and the time left available with their vets. BMLI would like to thank those producers that were interviewed by the SWHLI Knowledge Exchange Hub, as this research and analysis is extremely important towards measuring the impact of the project.

BMLI would also like to thank those farmers who have been involved with the interviews Countryside and Communities Research Institute (CCRI) and have conducted into the evaluation of the South West Uplands Initiative. CCRI have been reviewing our activity over the last 3 years, having completed 3 reports into our delivery.
We are all thoroughly fed up now. It is April and the East wind is cutting through us. Those who have turned out are worrying about grass re-growths and the lambs are seeking shelter against their mum. As April is an ever changing month, it is sure things will improve for the better and the grass will start to grow.

When it does warm up we will be trying to fit lots of jobs into a narrow window, so we must try and check we don’t miss anything.

**Vaccinations**

Although we send out reminders in good time, we know you are busy and sometimes forget. So make sure that animals already in a vaccination programme have their annual booster for Leptospirosis, BVD and IBR at the right time. If you go over the recommended interval, you will need to restart with a primary course of two injections a month apart, for BVD and Leptospirosis, and you don’t want that extra cost and inconvenience.

We are still waiting to hear about the Schmallenberg vaccine, but hopefully it will be available shortly, and we will be able to advise on its use when it arrives. At the moment we are encountering many deformed and stupid calves on farms and can only hope this does not go on right through the spring calving season.

**Trace element boluses**

I don’t think we have ever tested so many herds and flocks for trace element status as we have in the last year. This has confirmed deficiencies already suspected and revealed farms with problems that were unappreciated before. The consequence of these deficiencies varies with the elements concerned. Prevention by slow release bolus is often the most practical control method; again a job to sort out before turnout. A warning to all sheep farmers, don’t put copper boluses into your animals, unless deficiency is confirmed by blood or tissue samples. Copper bolusing of sheep is killing them by poisoning in flocks in the area.

**Records**

If possible try and keep some records of production. This may be weights of animals at turnout, so you can measure subsequent growth rates. Which group of cows went with, which bull, and when you swapped bulls if this happen’s later; this will help if you run into fertility problems at scanning. It could be the date stock was moved from one pasture to the next; this may help in parasite control plans to avoid worm ridden pasture.

**Fluke control**

If you have housed cattle that you have not treated for fluke, or treated at the point of housing, you probably have carried a lot of fluke through the winter. It makes sense to dose them and clear out the fluke before turning out and adding further contamination to the pasture.

**Nematodirus warning**

Nematodirosis is a problem when egg hatching in a late cold spring coincides with lambs beginning to graze. Adult sheep are not affected.

We are expecting a massive hatch of nematodirus worms when spring finally arrives. This is a sheep worm that only affects lambs. The eggs from last year’s worms are very hardy
and lie dormant on the pasture. Once they have been shocked by cold weather they are primed to hatch when the temperature rises. So this year they have had a long cold spell to prime them and it looks likely that spring will come suddenly and many eggs will hatch at once. The large number of worms produced can infect and overwhelm lambs from 4 weeks of age. Signs will be dead lambs and black scour. Fortunately an ordinary white drench will be effective against this worm – but be on your toes and ready to treat your lambs at the first sign of trouble.

The best control method is to avoid grazing lambs on pasture used for young lambs the previous year, or ideally the previous two years.

If this is not possible, and March and April are mild allowing early hatching, then February and early March born lambs may need an anthelmintic drench before the end of April. Colder (or very dry) weather over this period may make this early drench unnecessary, although anthelmintic cover may be needed in the following weeks, when greater numbers of lambs will be grazing, and therefore at risk.

Benzimidazole (Group 1) wormers are usually recommended for Nematodirus prophylaxis, although a case of benzimidazole resistance in a UK Nematodirus battus population has been reported.

Using faecal egg-count monitoring to time Nematodirus treatments is risky, as the disease is mainly caused by worm larvae, and significant damage can occur before eggs appear in the faeces.

Nematodirus battus egg (large egg to left) from a lamb’s faecal sample. Early indications are that incidence of disease this year may be high.

I hope that by the time you read this we are basking in spring sunshine!

Tim Bebbington, Castle Vets, Launceston

BMLI Farm Focus Trip to Northern Ireland

A group of BMLI producers are travelling across the Irish Sea at the end of May to visit a host of progressive farms. The group will be guests of the Department of Agricultural and Rural Development, the contact; Neville Graham has identified 4-5 farms to visit over the two day trip.

BMLI are also planning a trip to Scotland at the end of September. A list of progressive farms has been identified by SAC Consultants. The aim of this activity is to promote learning of how other upland areas maintain sustainability and farm profitably. There is also the opportunity for those participates that seldom leave their farms for any length of time to learn from one another. If you would like to be involved in the Scotland trip and you are involved in the Healthy Livestock Project, please contact BMLI to book your place.
For the BMLI Healthy Livestock project to continue to be effective at managing the prevention of endemic disease, Bio-security is crucial in mitigating these highly infectious conditions.

Johne's disease, Bovine Viral Diarrhoea Virus (BVDV), Salmonellosis, Bovine Tuberculosis, Leptospirosis, and Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR) are just some examples of infectious diseases that can be introduced onto your cattle farm and severely affect its financial viability. Preventing them entering your farm and, once they've entered, minimising their spread can save significant amounts of money.

What is bio-security?

Bio-security - reduces/prevents the introduction of new diseases onto a farm from outside sources.

Bio-containment - reduces/prevents the movement of infectious diseases once they are on the farm.

Bio-security is your first line defence which prevents new diseases entering your farm; bio-containment measures aim to limit the spread of disease within your herd and hence financial losses following introduction of disease onto your farm once bio-security has been breached.

Disease spread

Infectious diseases can be introduced onto your farm by:

- The introduction of diseased animals
- The introduction of animals incubating disease
- Introduction of apparently healthy animals that have recovered from disease but are now carriers
- Vehicles, equipment, clothing and footwear of people (veterinarians, contractors, other farmers, salesmen, service personnel) who move between herds
- Feedstuffs, especially high risk feedstuff which could be contaminated with faeces
- Contaminated water (surface water, streams and rivers etc.);
- Manure handling especially by outside contractors and aerosolized manure and dust
- Other species such dogs, cats, wildlife, rodents, birds and insects.

Fig 1: The animal on the left was a bargain at a dispersal sale. As a persistently infected animal it has now introduced BVD into your previously closed herd.

Fig 2: These cows looked good when purchased one year ago - now the cow in the foreground shows signs of Johne's disease.
The same cow pictured three months later - the potential for disease spread has been and remains enormous.

**The Key Principles of Bio-security**

**Select** all necessary purchased animals from known sources and health status equal to or higher than your own to reduce the risk of infection.

**Strict isolation** prevents contact between animals after arrival on farm and reduces the risk of spread of infectious agents.

**Movement control** includes all vehicle, animals, and people traffic that could introduce infection onto your farm.

**Sanitation** addresses the disinfection of materials, people and equipment entering the farm and the cleanliness of the people and equipment on the farm.

**Selection of purchased animals**

Know the health history of the herds from which cattle are purchased.

1. Know the health status of animals brought onto your farm.
2. Never bring in animals without knowing their vaccination history.
3. Limit purchases to maiden heifers and bulls.

Is this a suitable water supply?

There was no mains/piped water supply to this field.

**Isolation**

Quarantine all new arrivals for at least 30 days.
Cattle must not share community pastures/common grazings
Cattle must not share fence lines with neighbour’s cattle.
Do not use hire bulls from other farms

**Movement control**
Record all visitors to your farm both human and domestic animal

**Sanitation**
Attempt to prevent manure contamination of feed and equipment used orally.
Use different equipment to feed and to clean pens or completely clean between use.
Routinely clean and disinfect feeding equipment and cattle handling equipment.
Never step in the feed bunk.
Transport animals in clean vehicles.
Loading area is located at the perimeter of the farm.

**SPECIFIC DISEASE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Johnes’s disease (Paratuberculosis)**
Johnes’s disease (Paratuberculosis) is a chronic enteritis of adult cattle and sheep caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP). The main signs in cattle are progressive weight loss and chronic diarrhoea.

**Control**
- Blood testing and/or faecal examination may be done every 6-12 months with slaughter of positive cases. Two consecutive herd negatives may indicate eradication.
- Rapid culling of diseased animals.
- Minimise faecal contamination of food, water and pasture e.g. by raising feed and water troughs, strip grazing, use of mains/piped water rather than surface/pond water, avoid spreading yard manure on pasture, maintain good hygiene in buildings/yards and calving boxes in particular.
- Calve animals with a history of diarrhoea in isolated accommodation
- Separate newborn calves from dams at birth and rear by bucket with artificial colostrum/milk (only possible for dairy calves).
- In affected dairy herds, do not feed pooled Colostrum
- Do not feed waste milk to calves
- Do not raise calves from known infected dams as breeding replacements.
- Re-stock only from accredited herds, especially bulls.
- Vaccination has been used as an aid in the control of Johnes in many countries and can be imported into the UK under license.

**Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD)**
Many herds have BVDV present within their cattle where disease/losses are partly, but poorly controlled by persistently infected (PI) calves acting as “natural vaccinators” of the herd. When most adult animals in the herd are immune disease losses are not so obvious to the farmer. However, this situation is not optimum as the disease will still be present and there are ongoing losses which can be catastrophic if naïve breeding females are introduced into the herd.

BVD can be controlled by initial vaccination which comprises two doses 3-4 weeks apart before first service followed by booster vaccination at 12 months’ intervals. If all breeding females are vaccinated then this will control disease by preventing BVD infection of the developing foetus during pregnancy and production of PI calves.

BVD eradication is possible following whole herd blood testing and elimination of all PI carrier animals. If farmers go for eradication then strict herd bio-security measures must be maintained to prevent re-introduction of virus infection as the herd will soon become naïve and fully susceptible to infection.
**Tuberculosis**
- Avoid introducing potentially infected animals by maintaining a closed herd.
- Pre-movement testing
- Double perimeter fencing

**Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis**

**Salmonellosis**
Management / bio-security measures that will reduce the risk of Salmonella infections in cattle include:
- Avoid introducing potentially infected animals by maintaining a closed herd.
- Quarantine all introduced stock for at least four weeks.
- Source new stock from other farms with high health status and not markets.
- Avoid shared bulls and communal grazing areas.
- Isolate sick animals in dedicated isolation boxes and not calving boxes.
- Clean and disinfect buildings between occupancies. Provide good drainage and waste removal.
- Maintain good fences to prevent straying of neighbouring stock.
- Protect all feed stores from vermin including birds.
- Only spread slurry on arable land wherever possible. Leave all grazing land at least three weeks after spreading slurry.
- Insist visitors have clean boots and disinfect before entering and leaving the farm premises.

Consider herd vaccination where the problem persists despite the control measures listed above.

**Control measures available for cattle farmers**

**Closed herd with secure perimeter**
Prevents introduction of all diseases with the exception of exotic diseases such as Bluetongue and Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) with arthropod and airborne vectors, respectively.

**All replacements purchased from herd of known disease status**
Prevents introduction of specified diseases e.g. tuberculosis. Such control relies upon a very robust testing and monitoring...
programme. Very few such herds exist for many diseases e.g. Johne’s disease.

Bio-containment measures reduce/prevent the movement of infectious diseases on the farm.

Vaccination of all purchased stock can be used to control
- Bluetongue,
- FMD (Government policy decision),
- Johne’s disease,
- BVD,
- IBR and other respiratory viruses,
- Leptospirosis,
- Salmonellosis.

Conclusions
- Maintain a closed herd wherever possible using artificial insemination to introduce new genetics where necessary. Oestrus synchronisation programmes can be very successful in groups of beef cattle especially heifers.
- Many diseases can be effectively controlled by vaccination.
- Isolate all purchased cattle for at least one month following arrival on the farm.
- Maintain perimeter fences.
- Finally, there is no such thing as a bargain - if the deal at the market or dispersal sale looks to good to be true then it is!

Bull Fertility & MOT

This is the time of year for spring calving herds to be talking to their vets and thinking about testing the fertility of their bulls.

Semen production takes ten weeks, so MOT your bull now to ensure he is ready to go to work when the breeding season starts. He should be fit not fat, and have a body condition score of 3.5 at the start of the service period to ensure his optimum performance.

Bull fertility is key to maintaining a compact calving period, maximising the value of the calf crop and overall herd profitability. While few bulls are infertile and therefore incapable of getting a cow in calf, many are sub-fertile and produce fewer calves than a fully fertile bull. Check scrotal tone and size, as testicle size has a direct influence on daily sperm production and hence mating load. The testicles should feel firm with no lumps, softness or swelling. His penis and sheath should be free of sores, scars and abscesses. Four weeks before serving, ask your vet to check his semen quality.

For a bull to actively seek out cows for mating and mount them he needs to be physically fit, possess good locomotion and be free from pain or discomfort. More bulls are culled for problems with their hind limbs than for any other structural condition, so check his feet and legs carefully.
Cattle Health Schemes need Consideration

Scotland is well underway with its scheme to eradicate BVD, Northern Ireland is close behind and many other European countries have either national eradication schemes or monitoring programmes.

So with approximately 70% of English herds being positive for BVD, and no co-ordinated approach for control the problem isn’t going to go away.

While many herds have a good standard of health and improvements have been made by working with vets and using herd health plans and also farm assurance schemes we are still falling behind. If we as a country don’t keep up with these improvements by other countries we could find it difficult to compete with the rest of Europe. This is also echoed with the responsible use of antibiotics which is being discussed at the moment.

Many herds do vaccinate to help protect against BVD along with Leptospirosis and also IBR. But even with annual vaccination these diseases can cause problems. If the level of circulating disease is high the immunity provided by the vaccine may not be enough. This is assuming that the vaccine is administered correctly to the correct animals at the correct time.

Before embarking on a control plan for any disease it is vital to know the current herd situation. Any animals that are potentially posing a risk should be addressed and a robust control plan drawn up. This plan might involve regular testing which could lead on to gaining accreditation as a high health status herd.

Many breed societies especially are aware of the benefits of promoting high health status herds. Breeding stock can be sold as free from known diseases reducing some of the risks of buying in stock. And a premium price can be obtained when selling these animals.

Cattle health schemes are aimed at monitoring, controlling and ultimately eradicating diseases on individual farms. These schemes can also provide certification of accredited-free status of the four most important diseases affecting our cattle herds; BVD, Leptospirosis, Johnes and IBR.

You don’t have to have a pedigree herd or even be selling breeding stock to take advantage of the benefits of health schemes. Large commercial herds can use these schemes to maximise herd health just as effectively as smaller or pedigree herds.

Annual blood samples of selected animals are used to monitor the status of the whole herd; we would usually do this at a TB test to reduce the handling of animals. Advice on bio-security is given to help ensure that once testing is underway the chances of these diseases getting in are reduced. BVD accreditation can be achieved even if you are vaccinating against it. While there are several different schemes they all follow the same principles. Cattle Health Certification standards (CHeCs) is the self regulatory body for all of the health schemes in UK and Ireland, their website www.checs.co.uk shows what is required to begin working towards accreditation.

If you feel that a cattle health scheme is for you discuss the options with your vet. Even if accreditation isn’t an immediate goal you can still benefit from improvements in herd health.

Lesley Bingham, Westpoint Vets, Launceston
BMLI Benchmarking Report by ADAS

BMLI, in conjunction with ADAS has recently completed a Benchmarking Project, involving 10 farms throughout the BMLI area. All producers were actively involved in the Healthy Livestock Project, which formed a pre-requisite of the farmer's involvement.

The principle aims of the project were to conduct:

- A physical and financial assessment on 10 farms in the Bodmin Moor Area.
- Interpret the key information with regard to the strengths and weaknesses of each business.
- Readily identify the unit cost of production, as a function of the input costs e.g. feed, fertiliser, machinery, vet and med etc.
- Use this information to increase their cost/returns ratio in the short to mid term.

The data was collected over 6 months, analysing two years worth of accounts commencing from Oct 2010–Sept 2012, this analysis was then compared to information published by EBLEX and the Farm Business Survey.

**Main Findings**

1. In general, it was recognised that upland farm businesses held the Single Farm Payment as very important element of their business income.
2. Record keeping could be improved to assist in managing costs.
3. Higher than average fixed costs e.g. machinery.
4. Higher than average feed costs.
5. Higher than average forage costs.
6. There is a requirement for better awareness of soil analysis to determine nutrient requirements for optimum grass and crop growth would be beneficial on farms.
7. Fertiliser use was above average.
8. Greater emphasis on fertility performance especially in suckled cows.
9. Greater monitoring of daily liveweight gain to improve management.

**Conclusion**

Broadly speaking in conclusion the benchmarking project carried out by ADAS UK Ltd largely met the objectives set out by BMLI.

The main findings from the project were that there is a degree of importance on outside income (especially the Single Farm Payment) in order to remain financial stable. Higher costs were evident in certain cases – especially for machinery (including contracting costs). Along with this the cost of feed and forage (predominately fertiliser) were higher, compared with the FBS and EBLEX data.
HEALTHY LIVESTOCK SHEEP AND BEEF CONFERENCE

Working together to improve the disease status and profitability of south west farms

Tuesday 21st May at Trethorne Leisure Centre, Launceston PL15 8QE
Wednesday 22nd May at Sedgemoor Auction Centre TA6 6DF
10am - 4pm (Bacon bap on arrival at 10am)

Key speakers in farm animal veterinary practice and other industry specialists
Hear focus farmers' views and how the project has had a positive impact on their businesses, talk to proactive vets, discuss with other farmers and browse sponsor stands
Carvery lunch included
Free to attend

Over the past two years eighteen sheep farms and five beef farms have been working with the Healthy Livestock project. Join us to discover how targeted health planning influences both physical and financial returns to beef and sheep businesses. The day will give you practical advice to control topical and costly diseases and ailments based on the findings of our focus farms, such as lameness, worm control, fertility and calving patterns with opportunity for delegate discussions.

Conference Agenda
- Arrival, bacon bap, tea and coffee with registration
- Flock & herd health planning with Neil Sargison, Head of Farm Animal Section, Large Animal Practice, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
- The Focus Programmes - Achievements on the sheep and beef focus farms across the region
- The farmer and farm vet view point - How the focus farm project has impacted on individual farms
- Carvery lunch
- Implementation of SCOPS and control of lameness in sheep with Dr Clare Phythian, project sheep vet.
- Economics and production for the red meat sector in the South West - The next 10 years

To confirm your booking please contact Healthy Livestock on 0845 458 7458 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk
BMLI ICT Training Review

Microcomms were commissioned by BMLI to lead the ICT training course for beginners, through Jan-Feb 2013. A group of 8 farmer’s participants had showed interest to be involved in the training. The training took place at the Blisland Community Shop/Internet Café.

The course was split into 8 modules, lasting around 2-2.5 hours per module. The content was designed to give a good grounding into

- Computer operation
- Microsoft Office software
- Microsoft Excel
- Microsoft Outlook / Email
- Internet browsing
- Social Media
- Specific Farming theme

The first session was designed to evaluate each attendee’s ability into their use of IT.

The course attendance rate equated to 98.4%. This shows how it was valued by the participants.

Course manager, Simon Maycock explains:-

“The use of IT and the Internet is key for any enterprise, especially farming, with more and more business having to take place on-line. We have a mix of IT experience across the participants, with some people that have experience of internet, email and spreadsheets, with others who haven’t really used a keyboard before. Our objective is that the end of the course everyone will have experienced producing business documents, spreadsheets, emails and feel comfortable in accessing on-line resources. As well as providing training, we have also included access to our IT helpdesk. One of the farmers has already used this service as he was having problem submitting a grant on-line, and was up against a tight deadline. We remotely connected to his computer and sorted the problem within minutes. On the last course we were pleased to see one of the farmers, who had very little experience before the course helping other students out. There is a great bunch of people on the course, and we will be quite sad when the training is over not to be seeing them on a weekly basis. I hope that we have the opportunity to run a follow up session and see how they are getting on in 6 months or so.”
• The course highlights were the positive responses from the participants in the use of the helpdesk facility to resolve problems encountered.
• Seeing people that have never used a computer before helping their peers.
• The excellent team spirit that existed between all attendees – there was plenty of laughter throughout the sessions.
• The attendance rate was very high.
• That those people that didn’t have an email address now have one and know how to use it.
• A real interest into the variable benefits of the internet, such as You Tube, extract films into Health and Safety on farms.

If the budget allows BMLI would like to deliver a second ICT Training course through the late autumn months of 2013. If you are interested, please contact BMLI for more information.

**BMLI ICT Tablet Pilot Update**

The BMLI ICT pilot is now underway with the kick off training evening taking place in March. Since then the pilot farmers have been getting to grips with their new Android tablets and receiving 1-2-1 help to further set up and customise their devices including email and apps that help with data collection in the field.

Users have found the tablets useful so far and we are already seeing an improvement in IT skills across the board with an appetite for useful apps and finding new ways to apply the devices to farm and farm life management.

Some users have been exploring the social media side of the farming world, following the growing community of farmers with a voice online. For those that are interested joining the farming community on Twitter then a good place to start is the organised weekly chats from 8pm to 10pm Thursday, using the hashtag #AgrichatUK it is easy to follow the conversation or take part with recent #AgrichatUK’s attracting hundreds of farmers as well as, consultants consumers and organisations like Defra and the NFU.

Feedback on both tablets has been good so far with users finding the rugged features of the Getac tablet particularly reassuring when taking out the device out onto the farm. Plus points for the more commercial and less rugged Samsung include the access to many more farm specific apps through the Google Play store which the Getac does not currently have access to. The good news is that Getac have recently released a software update that will improve the performance of the device and allow access to Google Play. The helpdesk team are currently testing the upgrade and once tested we hope to bring this upgrade to the other Getac tablets soon.

*John Batchelor, Microcomms*
All Grass Wintering Moves North

Following a successful demonstration of an EBLEX sponsored trial on all grass wintering of pregnant ewes on Dave Sanders farm at Helland Bodmin, this project has been extended to a further six farms in the south of England, one in Wales and one in the north of England.

More than 6,000 ewes are involved in these trials and on all farms, so far (April), the farmers have reported good progress. The ewes in all situations have become very docile and used to being moved daily and there have been no major issues with fencing or gates. However it was necessary on all farms, other than Cornwall, to take ewes off for a period, due to heavy snow, usually this lasted for between 5 and 10 days and ewes were supplementary fed or put onto rough grazing during this period, then reinstated on the rotation.

The system depends on building up a wedge of grass in the autumn for grazing on a daily shift system from 25 days after ram turnout to a minimum of 10 days pre lambing (100-110 days). The theory is that the wedge plus re-growth should provide enough grass for an outdoor lambing, without the need for supplementary forages or concentrates. 2012/13 was a good year to extend this grazing practice, because if it works this year it will work in any year. Farms chosen for the project had in general dry soils and were in favourable grass growing areas, but a range of ewe genotypes – Mules, Romney crosses, Dartmoor etc were involved.

All the farms were visited and the amount of grass, number of sheep and hectares available estimated. From this and a guess at what the winter growth would be we calculated the number of ewes to be fed and the acreage to be used. Typically we are managing to winter sheep at around 8-9 ewes per hectare without supplementary feed. In order to do this you need between 2,000 and 2,500 kg of dry matter per hectare over the farm as a farm cover going into the winter. If you get reasonable grass growth then by spinning out this wedge of feed using daily shifts it is possible to have as much grass on the farm by scanning as you started with. This is because of good grass regrowth following the hard grazing where ewes are stocked at around 850 – 1,000 ewes per hectare. They are allowed to consume around 0.85 kg of dry matter per ewe per day for a 65 kg ewe. This is a lot less than they would eat given the opportunity, but it is as much as they need because in early pregnancy ewes should be on a maintenance diet.

The main effect of the hard grazing pressure is to improve the grazing quality for the next summer and to redistribute dung and urine onto the whole of the field so that it is more adequately fertilised. However it was found was then when fields were particularly wet and flat there has been some pugging damage, which may require a sward lifter to tackle, but the vast majority of the fields were
grazed without causing damage and have recovered remarkably despite a wet winter.

We are trialling new varieties of grass which have winter growth capacity including Matrix 70, which contains Festuloliums bred in New Zealand. On one farm where these grasses had been established using traditional methods grass growth was 40% higher at 14 kg of dry matter per day, although this could be partially a reseed effect.

**Conclusions**

Wintering ewes solely on grazed grass looks feasible on southerly farms for all of the winter and for part of the winter on northern farms. Whether grazing for part of the winter is worthwhile needs to be determined, but there are significant savings. For a full winter the reduction in feed cost compared to housing is around £15 per head per ewe and with removal of the need for making silage, major cuts in fixed costs are also possible.

*John Vipond, SAC Consulting Sheep Specialist*

john.vipond@sac.co.uk

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**BMLI Cross Compliance Event**

**Wednesday 6th March**

Ross Cherrington from the Westcountry Rivers Trust and Helen Eustice from Cornwall Trading Standards led this event. A decent group of BMLI producers assembled to hear the major items that require attention, if you are ever unlucky enough to be selected for a Cross Compliance inspection. Ross pointed out that approximately 1% of the farming businesses per year are selected for inspection. This rate of inspection significantly rose if a producer, for whatever reason, prompted Defra or Trading Standards to be aware of any non conformances. Those non conformances could as varied as obvious soil erosion on to the highway or ear tags missing in the market.

He provided some key headlines to be aware of, they were:

- Vet and Med records including batch numbers, animals treated & withdrawal periods.
- Timescales for letting BCMS know movements is 3 days, deaths 7 days.
- Linked holding movements still require herd book updates.
- All pesticides need recording including knapsack applications and rat poison.
- Buffer strips for fertiliser and pesticides are 2m from centre of hedge and 1m from top of watercourse.
- No spread zones for manures and slurries is now 10m from top of ditch etc with a risk map required showing 10m from all watercourses.
- Sheep and cattle must be tagged when moving between holdings including holding of birth & must be fully tagged before loading on to lorries or trailers.
- Regular entries into the Soil Protection Review, as a result of soil compaction, soil runoff or poaching.
Be aware of the Frailties of Finance
Brian Harvey, Agricultural Partner at Francis Clark LLP addresses a couple of issues regarding valuation of machinery for tax purposes and the potential tax implications arising on the disposal of equipment and sale and lease back arrangements.

What’s your machinery really worth?
I’m sure if asked, you could put a reasonable value on your tractors, combines, bailers and trailers however, a trickier question might be is what is your machinery worth for tax purposes, and the answer you might find is that they are fully written down and worth nothing!

Over the last 10 years purchasing machinery has generally been a good way to defer tax payments through gaining relief on the initial purchase through Annual Investment Allowance (“AIA”) and prior to that through First Year Allowances (“FYA”).

Whilst the amount of AIA and the rate of FYA have fluctuated the implication is that you may well have gained full tax relief on any machinery purchases and that you have a fixed asset pool of little or no value for tax purposes.

The implication is that selling a piece of machinery now is likely to create a “Balancing Charge” or taxable profit on sale; i.e. if you traded in a tractor for £30,000 on which you claimed full AIA in prior years your taxable profit will have increased by £30,000.

If you’re trading in a piece of machinery as part of a part exchange you are likely to get AIA on the new machine and effectively you will get AIA on the net spend.

However, there are instances whereby we see machinery sold and not traded in, such as where there is an insurance claim or where a farm has decided to change direction and perhaps sell the combine or forage harvester. In recent years machines have retained their value well and all too easily the selling of equipment can give rise to a substantial and unexpected tax bill.

Sale and lease back
Linked to this, another issue that we are becoming increasingly aware of is the opportunity for a farmer to enter into a sale and lease back agreement, whereby you effectively relinquish ownership of the machinery to a finance company who will then lease the asset back to you over time at a price!

On the face of it, in difficult times where cash flow is tight this might seem to be a very attractive opportunity to release this equity (sell to a finance company), take the cash to tie you over and to pay off some of those other bills.

The issue here is that whilst the specific piece of machinery might not ever leave the farm you have disposed of it, and potentially with a tax written down value of £nil as explained above, releasing the equity creates the balancing charge.

In the example of the £30,000 tractor sale, other things being equal a sole trader basic rate tax payer could expect to add £6,000 to their tax bill, and if they are liable to pay class 4 national insurance, an additional £2,700, whilst a higher rate tax payer could add upwards of £12,000 to their tax and national insurance bill and potentially also lose any Child Benefit that they are entitled to.

It is clear that these offers can be very appealing for some, and others may see it as their only option, but we implore you, to contact us, or your advisor to consider all the implications of these offers before signing on the dotted line.

Brian Harvey, Partner, Francis Clark LLP
Soil testing is ‘essential’ for healthy crops, Soils for Profit (S4P) Project survey finds

A study of soils sampled from farms across the South West of England has produced results that could help farmers increase yields and provide environmental benefits. The results give an invaluable insight into the nutrient status of soils across the South West, providing vital pointers to ways that farmers could further improve their productivity and also enhance their local environment. The sampling was funded by Natural England’s Soils for Profit (S4P) project with more than 1,680 soil samples collected from 338 farms over an eleven month period. The analysis has already helped to improve the technical advice that is provided free of charge during farm visits made by the S4P team.

One of the most important findings is that 45% of the soil samples had a pH value below optimum, meaning that the fields from which the samples were taken cannot be meeting their full potential and the effectiveness of fertilisers will be limited. A low soil pH can be detrimental to crops, restricting growth and development and impacting on yields. It can also have wider impacts on the structure of the soil and its nutrient balance.

Another key finding was that phosphate (P) and potassium (K) levels are low. Of the arable soils sampled, 27.6% had phosphate (P) levels and 20% potassium (K) levels below the target level. For grassland soil samples, the corresponding figures are 48.9% and 38% below the target index. This suggests that care needs to be taken in the application of fertilisers and manures to keep nutrient levels in line with cropping requirements and reduce the risk of wider environmental impacts.

A Soils for Profit spokesperson said: “Soil testing and nutrient balance is one of the basic building blocks of good crop husbandry. Considering that fertilisers typically represent around 30% of the variable costs of crop and forage production, soil testing is a cheap and effective management tool and is vital for accurately planning nutrient use. Soil analysis provides the kind of practical evidence that farmers need when making important business decisions. This in turn helps save money on expensive inputs and contributes to the protection of the wider environment.”

The Soils for Profit (S4P) project provides free on-farm advice and training to help farmers in South West England to manage their soils, manures and nutrients more efficiently. The offer includes a free analysis of five soil samples for farmers who haven’t previously received an S4P advisory visit, which can be used to inform the on-farm advice. For those farmers that have already received an advisory visit, there is the offer of a free follow-up visit to further review soil, manure and nutrient management on farm, and also be updated on grants and cross compliance changes.

For further information about the Soils for Profit Project or to arrange a free on-farm advisory visit, please call 0300 060 1244 or visit the S4P page on the Natural England website at http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/s4p. The team can also provide practical suggestions about other sources of support and grant aid, such as Defra’s Farming & Forestry Improvement Scheme (FFIS) and Natural England Catchment Sensitive Farming Grant Scheme.

Emma Harris, Natural England
Sheep South West 2013
Organised by NSA South West Region
Tuesday 11th June
10am - 5pm
By kind invitation of Michael & David Snell & family,
Moortown Barton, Knowstone, South Molton. EX36 4RZ.

Farm Tour
Competition
Seminars
Demonstrations
Shepherd of the Future - £1,000 prize fund
Student Shepherd of the Future - £500 prize fund

No Dogs on Site except Assistance dogs & those entered in the sale.

Admission - £12 Non NSA Members.
£6 NSA Members with current card & subject to conditions.
YFC members/Students £6 with current card.
Under 16 - Free.

Further information from Sue Martyn.
Tel: 01409 271385. Mob: 07967 512660.
Email: suem@nationalsheep.org.uk
Registered Charity in England & Wales (249255) and in Scotland (SCO42853).
Sheep scab remains a very significant health and welfare problem for the sheep industry. It reduces the efficiency of sheep farming and reduces profitability.

Sheep scab mite infestations cause intense irritation, to the extent that animals can become exhausted and debilitated from continual scratching and rubbing. The disease is highly contagious. The entire animal can become covered in scab within a matter of weeks, and itching can affect more than 90% of individuals in an infested group of sheep.

Ever since compulsory dipping was deregulated in 1992 the number of cases of sheep scab has increased steadily. It is estimated that between 10-17% of flocks are affected across the UK annually. Poor fencing and poor biosecurity, inaccurate diagnosis and inappropriate or ineffective use of the available treatments are all adding to the problem. The injectable treatments for sheep scab also treat sheep for internal parasites (worms) and integration of internal and external parasite control must be considered if further development of anthelmintic resistance is to be avoided.
FLOCK SECURITY

Keeping the disease off the farm is the first priority and producers must take all precautions to limit the chances of scab appearing on their farm.

- Maintain fences and gates to limit contact with neighbouring sheep
- Ideally have double fencing around the perimeter of the farm
- On common grazing work with other graziers to agree a treatment and control plan
- When buying sheep assume they have sheep scab and treat on arrival
- Keep new sheep in quarantine from the rest of the flock for 4 weeks to avoid spread of disease
- Any sheep arriving on farm should be treated the same – eg returning from tack, shows and sales
- Lorries and trailers and tags of wool can harbour the disease since the scab mite can survive off the sheep for 18 days and remain infestive
- Ensure that all contractors clean and disinfect equipment (handling systems, shearing equipment, scanners etc) before handling your sheep

DIAGNOSIS

Sheep scab is not always easy to diagnose so get professional help. A lot of time and money is wasted treating for lice when the problem is scab and vice versa. If sheep are itching then ask your vet to diagnose the problem. You will then get the best advice on which parasite you are dealing with and which treatment to use.

TREATMENT OPTIONS

Organophosphate dips

OP dips treat all skin parasites and are the most reliable. However they can cause adverse reactions in humans and can cause pollution of the environment. Protective clothing and footwear and a well maintained and leak proof dip bath, well sited away from watercourses, with adequate draining pens are essential.

To buy and use OP dips farmers need a ‘Certificate of Competence in the Safe Use of Sheep Dip (NPTC information@nptc.org.uk). Also if disposing of spent dip on farm an Environmental Permit is required from the Environment Agency (www.environment-agency.gov.uk). Farmers should be familiar with the Groundwater Protection Code: Use and disposal of sheep dip compounds (2006) www.defra.gov.uk

Dip concentrate should be used at the manufacturers recommended rate and the dip bath replenished accordingly.
OP dip products were developed for plunge dipping and not for use in showers. Showering is unlikely to kill all the scab mites on a sheep and may encourage development of resistance to OP, therefore must not be used for control of scab.

Pour-on and spot-on products are not effective against sheep scab.

**Injectable endectocides**

There is a wide range of injectable endectocides available but with only three active ingredients. Great care needs to be taken to follow the manufacturer’s instructions if scab is to be treated effectively.

The following steps must be followed:
- Weigh the animals so that the correct dose is administered (weigh and treat to the heaviest in the group)
- Inject in the correct site - subcutaneous (s/c) for ivermectins and moxidectin and intramuscular (i/m) for doramectin
- Inject all animals in a group in one session
- Check that all animals are treated by marking each animal as it is injected – missing one sheep can mean that the infection persists and reinfection of other sheep will happen quickly

When injecting subcutaneously it is important to lift a ‘tent’ of skin and inject into this, avoiding injecting into the muscle. This can require two people, one to hold the sheep and the other to inject, if mechanical restraint is not available.

It is important with some products (ivermectin and doramectin) to move sheep to a new field (that has not had sheep in the previous 18 days) after treatment to avoid immediate reinfection. Missing treating even one sheep or moving treated sheep straight back to the field they came from can mean that sheep are re-infested very quickly – needing further treatment at additional expense.

Treatment can sometimes appear to have worked but if not all mites have been killed it can be months before it is evident that scab is still present. In sheep that are re-infested, it takes longer for mite numbers to build up again, and lesions tend to be smaller.

It is important to note that the injectable endectocides also treat intestinal worms, but are not effective against lice or other skin parasites. Inappropriate use of these veterinary medicines can therefore contribute to further development of anthelmintic resistance.
### TREATMENTS FOR SHEEP SCAB 2013

Information correct as of January 2013 but always check the product datasheet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Chemical name</th>
<th>Use</th>
<th>Treatment for scab</th>
<th>Meat withdrawal (days)</th>
<th>Persistent protection (days)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organophosphate dips</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osmonds Gold Fleece</td>
<td>Bimeda</td>
<td>Diazinon</td>
<td>Plunge dip</td>
<td>Immersion in dip bath for 1 minute</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Up to 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paracide 62</td>
<td>Animax Ltd</td>
<td>Diazinon</td>
<td>Plunge dip</td>
<td>Immersion in dip bath for 1 minute</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>Up to 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Injectable endectocides</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cydectin 1%</td>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>Moxidectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 10 days apart to treat existing scab</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cydectin 2% LA</td>
<td>Pfizer</td>
<td>Moxidectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c at base of ear</td>
<td>One injection to treat existing scab</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dectomax 10mg/ml</td>
<td>Elanco</td>
<td>Doramectin</td>
<td>Injection i/m</td>
<td>One injection</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecomectin 1%</td>
<td>Eco AH</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ivomec Classic</td>
<td>Merial AH</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noramectin Multi Injection</td>
<td>Norbrook Labs</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panomec Injection for sheep cattle and pigs</td>
<td>Merial AH</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramectin Multi Injection</td>
<td>Norbrook Labs</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premadex 1%</td>
<td>Downland</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualimec Injection 10mg/ml</td>
<td>Elanco</td>
<td>Ivermectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 7 days apart</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>No persistent protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zermex 1%</td>
<td>Downland</td>
<td>Moxidectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c</td>
<td>Two injections 10 days apart to treat existing scab</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zermex 2% LA for sheep</td>
<td>Downland</td>
<td>Moxidectin</td>
<td>Injection s/c at base of ear</td>
<td>One injection to treat existing scab</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sheep Scab Training and Awareness Campaign
stampoutscab@adas.co.uk - Tel: 01432 820444
Cornish farm profitability benefits of R4F support
The benefits of a new automated dairy parlour on a Cornish farm are already being achieved within months of being operational.

Farmer Rob Tilly is already reporting improved profitability and animal welfare from the innovative new parlour he has at Bowgyheere Farm in Ludgvan, near Penzance. He credits the invaluable specialist independent advice he received through the Resource Efficiency for Farmers (R4F) service for making his plan become a reality.

R4F has a network of specialist independent advisers who provide free on-farm reviews and offer practical support and options to increase profitability through cost savings and the use of more efficient processes or renewable technologies in all farm sectors.

Sixth generation farmer Rob commended the advice he received from R4F adviser Ed Buckland as ‘invaluable’ particularly his guidance on a grant application and business case for the automated parlour.

Rob said there are real benefits from being open-minded and receptive to someone from ‘outside’ the business looking at your plans and giving options and practical advice to take them forward. He said: “It’s the old story that when you’re in it, you can’t always see it. I knew where I wanted to go and what I wanted to do, but Ed visited the farm and pointed out a lot of things that I hadn’t considered. He appraised our energy use and knew where we could make changes and savings.”

The investment in the new parlour will reduce electricity bills and energy wastage on the farm because it has a heat recovery system which uses heat drawn from the milk instead of electricity to warm the water. The facility also has a cluster flush disinfection system to sanitize the milking units between cows which should reduce spread of germs and improve the welfare of the herd.

Rob added: “It’s early days, but the parlour seems to already be having an effect and improving both the welfare of our livestock and our profitability. As we were starting afresh, instead of updating an existing facility, I wanted it to be as energy efficient as possible. Ed is very good at knowing where you can reduce costs through better use of resources, and he ensured our new parlour is as green as possible.”
R4F business manager Lyn Sandford said: “The R4F advisers give the farming community experienced and impartial advice and support they can trust – a fresh pair of eyes can be invaluable on a challenge or idea. In most instances ‘quick wins’ can be identified but we can also give clear direction so farmers can make informed decisions in the future. Farmers have nothing to lose – even if an adviser comes away saying they are on the right track and there’s nothing more they could be doing – which is rare – that would give reassurance.”

R4F is part of the Rural Focus service delivered by Peninsula Enterprise. The advisers carry out free detailed assessments of the amount of electricity, gas, fuel, oil and water used on the farms and how non-organic waste materials, like plastics, are managed and disposed of.

R4F - Free professional advice on how best to manage on farm resources, such as energy, water, air and non-organic wastes (e.g. plastics), more efficiently.

For more information about Rural Focus services visit www.ruralfocus.info or call 08456 047047 or visit www.ruralfocus.info

The Farming Community Network

CHARITY NIGHT

At Trehorne Leisure Farm

Friday 21st June at 7.30pm

Raffle, Auction, Buffet and Disco - £12 per ticket

In aid of Farming Community Network

(previously known as Farm Crisis Network)

For tickets please contact Fiona Berry on 01566 779750 or 07973 582538 or fberrynutrition@hotmail.co.uk

Caradon Hill Area Heritage Project are holding a Himalayan Balsam “Alien Invaders” information launch day on Tuesday 14th May 2013, 11:00 – 15:00

at Siblyback Lake, Common Moor, Liskeard.

You are invited to attend the project launch by South West Lakes Trust. You will be able to chat to representatives from South West Lakes Trust; Westcountry Rivers Trust; Environment Agency and Cornwall Council, for information and advice on how we are able to work together to tackle this menace.

Himalayan Balsam, although very pretty, is a growing problem in the area. Our native flora is being lost, especially along the river banks, and the lack of winter vegetation is causing soil erosion and increasing the risk of flooding.

This is a free event supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Lunch time refreshments will be provided.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 25th April 2013</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Sheep Dog Training &amp; Development of Working dogs:</strong> Venue: Clennek Farm, Bethany, Menheniot, Cornwall. Training programme to cover introduction of basic skills and progression to handling and driving sheep, shedding and penning. 10am – 2pm. Cost: £150.00 if eligible, £300 if not eligible + £12.50 if qualification desired.</td>
<td>For more information or to book your place, email: <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a> or call the Rural Business School on 0845 4587485.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 29th &amp; Tuesday 30th April 2013</td>
<td><strong>2 Day Beef Butchery – Fore &amp; Hind Quarter:</strong> Venue: Brian Etherington Meat Co. Ltd. Wheal Rose, Scourier, Redruth, Cornwall TR16 5DF. Breaking down a hind quarter and a fore quarter of Cornish Beef. 10am – 3pm. Cost: £92.50 per person if eligible, £185 if not eligible.</td>
<td>For more information or to book your place, email: <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a> or call the Rural Business School on 0845 4587485.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30th April 2013</td>
<td><strong>Johnne’s Awareness:</strong> Deliverer: Penbode Veterinary Group, Devon. This meeting is an opportunity to find out more about Johnne’s disease and how you will benefit from funding under the Healthy Livestock project.</td>
<td>To book your place please contact Penbode Veterinary Group on 01409 253418.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30th April 2013</td>
<td><strong>Sheep Parasite Control Awareness Meeting:</strong> Deliverer: Penbode Veterinary Group, Cornwall. This meeting is an opportunity for you to learn more about anthelmintic resistance, parasite control and how you will benefit from funding under the Healthy Livestock project.</td>
<td>To book your place please contact Penbode Veterinary Group on 01409 253418.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 30th April 2013</td>
<td><strong>BVD Awareness:</strong> Deliverer: Penbode Veterinary Group, Devon. This meeting is an opportunity to find out more about BVD and how you will benefit from funding under the Healthy Livestock project. 7.30pm-10pm.</td>
<td>To book your place please contact Penbode Veterinary Group on 01409 253418.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 2nd May 2013</td>
<td><strong>Youngstock Post Weaning:</strong> Deliverer: St Boniface Vets, Devon. This meeting will discuss rearing heifers post weaning to reach the optimum age and condition at calving, an understanding of the pros and cons of AI, Synchronisation and Natural Service and explain which preventative medicines and routine treatments are most effective for the major diseases. 10am-2pm.</td>
<td>To book your place please contact St Boniface Vets on 01363 772860.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 4th – Monday 6th May 2013</td>
<td><strong>DSC1 Deer Stalking level 1:</strong> Venue: Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PB. An introduction to deer stalking and management for farmers or land managers with a deer management problem, the course covers health and safety and safe gun use and considers the Large Game element of Wild Game Meat Hygiene requirement to meet the Food Hygiene regulations 2004. 9.30am – 4pm. Cost: £150 if eligible, £295 if not eligible.</td>
<td>For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Starting Monday 6th May -3 weeks spread through till March 2014</td>
<td><strong>BASIS Crop Protection Management:</strong> Venue: St Neot Village Hall, St Neot, Cornwall. Full 3 week Agronomy course covering soil management, crop health, weed identification &amp; controls, pest &amp; disease management &amp; nutrient management. Crop protection agents, application, transport &amp; storage; Integrated crop management. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £1,224 if eligible.</td>
<td>For more information or to book your place, please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 4587485 or <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wednesday 8th May 2013

**Introduction to Practices & Procedures of Risk Assessments:** Venue: BIP, Okehampton Business Centre, Unit 10 Higher Stockley Mead, Okehampton, **Devon**, EX20 1FJ. This course will cover the legal need and the process – identification of hazards. Risk identification, Risk rating, current controls, Improvements, plus a look at who is responsible, record keeping and ongoing reviews and analysis. 10.30am - 3.30pm. Cost: £20 if eligible, £40 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk.**

Thursday 9th May 2013

**Trailer Servicing:** Venue: Killibury, Egoshayle, **Wadebridge**, PL27 6EL. For those who wish to learn everything you need to service your agricultural trailer, horsebox and even boat trailer. This hands-on event will teach you tricks of the trade and boost your confidence and furnish you with skills that will save you money and keep your trailer road legal. 10am – 4pm. Cost: £45 if eligible, £117 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk.**

Friday 10th & Saturday 11th May 2013

**BWMB Advanced Shearing:** Venue: Cuttery Farm, East Allington, Totnes, **Devon**. Advanced shearing course designed for those wishing to take higher level seals. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944.**

Tuesday 14th May 2013

**Ground Care Machinery Servicing:** Venue: Killibury, Egoshayle, Wadebridge, **Cornwall** PL27 6EL. For those farmers and smallholders who wish to learn how to carry out servicing and troubleshooting on chainsaws, hedgecutters, strimmers, lawnmowers and associated machinery, this hands-on event will teach you exactly how and furnish you with skills that will save you money and time. Also open to non-farmers. 10am – 4pm. Cost: £35 if eligible, £91 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk.**

14th May, 7th June, tbc June, 1st October, 4th & 5th November 2013(exam 8th Nov)

**BASIS Foundation in Agronomy: Venue:** St Neot Village Hall, St Neot, **Cornwall**. Introduction to agronomy, plant and soil management, disease identification and nutrient management. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £432 if eligible. **For more information or to book your place, please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 4587485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk.**

Saturday 25th & Sunday 26th May 2013

**BWMB Beginner/ Improver Shearing:** Venue: Bowbeare Farm, Drewsteignton. Introduction to shearing, machine operation and maintenance. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944.**

Wednesday 29th May 2013

**Introduction to Beekeeping for Farmers and Smallholders:** Venue: Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Callington, **Cornwall**. Theoretical and Practical insight into the benefits and viability of keeping honey bees. To give a basic understanding of the honey bee, their impact on the environment /agriculture and caring for them. 9am – 3.30pm. Cost: £13.50 if eligible, £35 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 4587485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk.**

Saturday 1st June 2013

**Build your own Website:** Venue: South Yeo Farm West, Northlew, Okehampton, **Devon** EX20 3PS. How to create and maintain your own website. This course is designed for farmers and smallholders to promote their business via the web using simple web building tools. 9.45am – 4.30pm. Cost: £47.50 if eligible, £95 if not eligible. **For more information or to book your place, please call Debbie Kingsley 01837 810569 or email debbie@smallholdertraining.co.uk.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Date</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 1st &amp; Sunday 2nd June 2013</td>
<td>BWMB Beginner/Improver Shearing</td>
<td>Alfordon, Okehampton, Devon</td>
<td>Introduction to shearing, machine operation and maintenance. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4th &amp; Wednesday 5th June 2013</td>
<td>BWMB All levels Shearing Course</td>
<td>Home Farm, Sidbury, Sidmouth, Devon</td>
<td>All levels of shearing training, introduction through to progression and award standard. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 5th June 2013</td>
<td>BWMB Wool Handling</td>
<td>Home Farm, Sidbury, Sidmouth, Devon</td>
<td>Managing equipment and servicing machines for shearing. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 17th - 19th June 2013</td>
<td>Nutrient Management Planning</td>
<td>Duchy College, Stoke Climsland, Cornwall</td>
<td>FACTS qualified advisors update on industry related specification and guidelines, to manage the challenges of the Water Framework Directive, greenhouse gas mitigation strategies and soil protection, whilst improving farm profitability. 9am – 5pm. Cost £216 if eligible. More information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 18th – Wednesday 19th June 2013</td>
<td>Agricultural Welding</td>
<td>Killibury, Egloshayle, Wadebridge, PL27 6EL</td>
<td>2 days of hands-on agricultural welding tuition in ARC or MIG welding, ideal for beginners or improvers who wish to construct or repair agricultural items. Maximum of 3 learners to ensure high level of supervision &amp; training. 10am – 4pm. Cost: £85 if eligible, £221 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a></td>
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<td>Saturday 22nd &amp; Sunday 23rd June 2013</td>
<td>BWMB all Levels Shearing Training</td>
<td>Sowenna, St Wenn, Wadebridge, Cornwall</td>
<td>A course designed to develop knowledge or progress previous training at all levels of shearing. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944</td>
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<td>Saturday 29th June 2013</td>
<td>Charcoal Production</td>
<td>Bulworthy Project, Hensons Wood, Rackenford, Devon</td>
<td>Learn how to make charcoal in a metal ring kiln and gain a good overview of charcoal production. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £33 if eligible, £66 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please contact Silvanus on 01752 846400 or <a href="mailto:victoria.hughes@silvanus.org.uk">victoria.hughes@silvanus.org.uk</a></td>
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<td>Saturday 20th &amp; Sunday 21st July 2013</td>
<td>BWMB Beginner/Improver Shearing</td>
<td>Alfordon, Okehampton, Devon</td>
<td>Beginner/improver training at all levels to increase commercial skills at shearing. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £90 if eligible, £180 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please call Alison Gould on 01392 477944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th August 2013 - AM or PM</td>
<td>Gundog Handler Training – Taster Sessions</td>
<td>Tretinney Farm, St Endellion, Cornwall</td>
<td>PL29 3TS. For those farmers and smallholder who wish to learn how to train their gundog, this taster session offers an opportunity to enter the gundog training world and learn from an experienced professional what is involved in training a gundog, explaining the difference in animal/bird retrieval and dummy retrieval with an opportunity to begin training with your dog on the day. Either 10.30am – 12.30am or 1.30pm – 3.30pm: Cost: £9 if eligible, £23 if not eligible. For more information or to book your place, please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 4587485 or <a href="mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk">rbs@duchy.ac.uk</a></td>
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Tuesday 3rd September 2013

** Adding Value to Wool – Small Scale Home Processing & Spinning: Venue: Chasewater W I Hall, Chasewater, **Cornwall**, TR4 8PZ. This one day event is aimed at those farmers & smallholders who wish to add value to their fibre (wool, alpaca or other fibre) by home processing, carding & spinning their own wool on a small scale basis. 10am-4pm. Cost: £30.75 if eligible, £61.50 if not eligible. [For more information or to book your place, please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk](mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk)**

Monday 7th - 8th, 14th – 15th October 2013 (exam 18th October 2013)

** BASIS Soil and Water: Venue: St Neot village Hall, St Neot, **Cornwall**. Follow on course designed to develop knowledge in management of Soil & Water resources. This course is designed for advisors, farmer and farm managers to enable them to improve their skill and knowledge. 9am – 5pm. Cost: £288.00 if eligible. [For more information or to book your place please contact the Rural Business School on 0845 458 7485 or rbs@duchy.ac.uk](mailto:rbs@duchy.ac.uk)**

Please contact us at:
Rural Business School t: 0845 458 7485
Duchy College f: 01579 372335
Stoke Climsland e: rbs@duchy.ac.uk
Callington Cornwall PL17 8PB w: www.duchy.ac.uk/rbs

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** IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS: **

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** Farming Community Network**
Tel: 0845 367 9990 7am-11pm
Previously known as Farm Crisis Network

** Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute**
Supporting Farming Families
Tel: 0300 303 7373

** South West TB Advisory Service**
Tel: 01392 440706

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Please contact the team at: **BMLI**
Unit 4, Coldrenick Farm Offices, Helland, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL30 4QE
Tel: 01208 892803 / Mobile: 07528 983441 or
Email: edward.nancekivell@cornwalldevelopmentcompany.co.uk
Website: www.cornwallac.org

Disclaimer: This Newsletter only aims to provide some general information up to date as at the date of publication. Whilst every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, the Newsletter is not intended to be a definitive statement of the law or policy. The Bodmin Moor Livestock Initiative cannot accept any responsibility for information that is found to be inaccurate, misleading, or out of date; nor for any loss or damage arising from the use of information in this Newsletter.