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The herd at Ennis Barton
Picture by Brian Jennings

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**Please submit your small ad
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Please remember to quote your membership

number when placing an advert.

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Please recycle this newsletter
or give it to a friend

Company Founder - John James MBE

Chairman's letter

Last month I mentioned the fact that as an industry in the UK we are not very good, and certainly not as good as we need to be, or can be, at successfully selling factual positive messages. Recently a broadsheet did an article, essentially about how milk containers depicting cows grazing grass was a misrepresentation. Interestingly, this particular article was carried in January.

What percentage of milk is, or ever has been, produced from grazed grass in the winter months? Historically, cows have, in the main, been housed in the winter months. That housed period has traditionally been anything from four to eight months, depending on farming system, calving pattern, soil type, infrastructure and such. More recently, some businesses looking to maximise milk production from grazed grass, have prolonged grazing to an extent through the winter months, but in truth the total amount of milk produced from grazed grass in January is exceptionally small.

Putting to one side my thoughts about how little milk is produced from grazed grass in January, what such an article does is to try and detract from the fact that the vast majority of milk produced in the UK is consistently produced to a very high standard. Examples of exemplary stockmanship and attention to detail can be found over a wide range of production systems. This not about scale either, there are fantastic examples of excellence in both large and small businesses. The management and the relevant skill sets of the individuals working in any production system will dictate the standards, not the style or the size of the operation.

The argument about producing milk from grass if taken to the absolute extreme - and admittedly it is the extreme - if every dairy farming business look to maximise milk from grazed grass through spring block calving systems would mean there would be little or no fresh milk available through December and January and limited fresh milk produced in November, February and March. We are very fortunate that we have 60 million or so people who live in this country, of which a significant proportion look forward to fresh milk every day of the year. Generally, agricultural produce from all enterprises in the UK is the result of some very good management and production techniques which regularly deliver consistent quality which are comparable or better than anywhere else in the world. That is the positive message our consumers need and deserve in return for their loyal support.

As we now move into February, workload on some farms begin to increase, spring block dairy herds are starting, or are in the middle of calving and lambing will be happening in earnest on some units. This is a key time where stakes are high, the hours are long and the weather can impact hugely on the challenges and workloads. The weather dream ticket is relatively dry and not too cold. The survival rate of animals born outside is impacted greatly in cold rainy periods, where body temperatures are compromised by the wet. On a sensibly cold day, providing it's dry, survival rates are usually good. Where space allows, maternity units are inside and new born lambs are only moved outside when they are stronger and less vulnerable. At busy times, twenty four hour supervision is in place to cope with the vast numbers of births, provide assistance where required and reduce issues such as mis-mothering.

In early spring grass growth is a particular key focus for freshly calved cows and ewes and lambs. Much of this grass would have been set up in the autumn, by planning for early spring requirements. At the recent 'Positive Farmers Conference' held in Ireland, there was a paper where the objective was to target growth of 18 tonnes/dry matter per hectare of grass. There are massive variations on the potential for that to happen, but in better situations that is the goal. On poorer soils with lower rainfall, it will undoubtedly be less. The interesting part of this is that despite the enthusiasm and passion for growing as much grass as possible, a lot of the potential is being curtailed by poor soils; soils where the pH, phosphate and potash levels are low which really impacts on the capacity of the soil to produce to its optimum. The message was a familiar one - address pH first and sample soil regularly. The cost of soil sampling is miniscule compared to under or even, God forbid, over fertilised soils and the returns are considerable. Irrespective of the site, the potential to improve productivity through better soil management can be enormous. Increases of 0.5 or one tonne DM/ha in growth can be quickly achieved. As we face a particularly challenging period of low milk prices, the opportunity to improve grass growth for grazing or ensiling through better soil and manure management will represent a very sound investment.

Finally, in this Newsletter is the summary version of the annual accounts for Mole Valley Farmers for the year ending September 2014. It has been another very solid period for your



Graeme Cock
Chairman

company again this year. The business has been able to achieve growth while making considerable ongoing investments in the business to help facilitate its future success. In keeping with past years, this summary version includes the Chairman's, CEO's and financial reports. Andrew Jackson's operational report provides a very comprehensive insight to the depth and complexity of your business and it is well worth spending a moment or two to read this.

The fifty fourth AGM will be held at Holbrook House, Wincanton, Somerset, BA9 8BS on Thursday 26th March 2015, commencing promptly at 10.30am. Coffee and tea will be available prior to and the meeting will be followed by a light buffet lunch at 12.30pm. We are continuing with the theme of holding the AGM at different locations which gives the opportunity for those who are unable or unwilling to travel greater distances to attend.

We encourage and very much look forward to seeing a good attendance. Alternatively, the Farmer Shareholder evenings take place in February at all Mole Valley Farmers branches. These are generally very well supported, where members are able to enjoy a social gathering where additional discounts are available with some light refreshments, tastings and banter with friends and neighbours.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Graeme Cock".

Feeding for now, planning for the future

Dr Robin Hawkey, BSc (Hons) PhD, Senior Nutritionist



Over recent months, milk price has dominated most conversations. Through this winter feed price volatility, silage quality and the introduction of the Basic Payment Scheme have also added uncertainty to the dairy sector. However, despite all of these issues, the cow remains largely unchanged although the genetics of many herds have evolved over several generations. The cow's physiological, metabolic and nutritional requirements, specifically in early lactation, are relatively constant. Whilst costs need careful evaluation, it is vital that the cost structure is understood and that output and longer term production potential is not compromised.

Establishing clear objectives is vital when constructing rations, but be careful to not set too many objectives, just one, possibly two, that can be realistically achieved. Such objectives might simply be from....

- More yield
- Better quality
- Less cost
- Increased forage utilisation
- Reduced workload (simplicity)

Feed is a variable cost and care is needed in drastically reducing feed rates, particularly in early lactation, as not only will output be compromised but reduced fertility will have consequences later in the year when hopefully farm gate prices may have improved. Reducing feed rates needs careful thought this year especially as forage may have less capacity to support production.

When thinking about feed rates, careful consideration needs to be given to stage of lactation. Freshly calved cows underfed now will not peak as well, will have less potential to

Average silage quality comparison 2013 / 2014

	2013	2014
Samples	1609	1762
Dry matter %	33.8	32.9
Crude protein %	12.8	13.1
NDF %	45.9	46.7
Energy (MJ/kg DM)	11.46	11.06
Assume 12kg forage dry matter intake, on an energy basis, 2014 silage is worth approximately one litre less than 2013.		

exploit spring grazing and the potential of the whole lactation will be compromised.

It has never been more important that the efficiency of feed utilisation is optimised, some key areas include the following:

- Adequate feed space and cubicles for early lactation cows
- Consistent, fresh feed presentation
- Regular 'pushing up' of TMR
- Correct calibration of concentrate feeders
- Ensuring regular reallocation of feed rates
 - o Freshly calved cows supported, with appropriate 'lead feeding'
 - o Staler, later lactation cows challenged to utilise more from forage

Lead feed feeding, especially in predominantly TMR fed herds, very much depends on the structure of the group, i.e. how many days in milk, all year round or block calving. The degree of lead feeding might well change

through the year. Similarly, ration construction needs to be considered with respect to grouping dynamics – the requirements of freshly calved cows are very different to cows in later lactation and accurate rationing to supply correct levels of metabolisable protein across the herd will promote healthy cows and cost effective production.

As TMR / PMR based systems inevitably under or over feed some cows in the group, some farms are currently considering larger groups fed less via the mixer wagon but with a greater emphasis on parlour / out of parlour feeders to target greater feed accuracy and reduce cost.

With the current milk price, it is also worth considering the cost and benefits of ration components. For example, is the correct mineral being fed at the correct rate – when was the last time the mineral profile was addressed? (see page 5). Other products such as protected fats and proteins, yeasts and buffers all have a proven nutritional basis (based on considerable research and on farm experience), but are the correct products being utilised to address the main objectives on your dairy unit?

As this year progresses, it is also crucial to monitor performance, assess what impact changes have made and if objectives are at least heading in the right direction.

Plan - Implement Monitor - Evaluate

Finally, ensuring good communication of plans and objectives, both with farm staff, but also with your nutritionist, vet and forage specialist, will ensure everyone is working together towards clear goals and importantly, appreciate the impact of the milk price and the rationale of decision making.



Contact your nutritionist or Farm Sales Specialist for advice or call the FeedLine on 01278 444829

When was the last time you checked your ration mineral balance?

Nutri-LINK mineral check



John Lawrence, Mineral Supplements Technical Manager

Regular readers of this page will be only too well aware that I raise this topic from time to time! I cannot emphasise enough just how important it is for you to check the mineral balance of your ration and its suitability for your herd's level of performance, your system and the mineral footprint of your farm.

Just before you flick over the page, this does not necessarily mean that you will need a higher specification mineral ... it is all too common that some elements of the mineral will be too high and should be adjusted both to save you money and to correct the supply to your herd. Copper would be a typical case in point, it is very common to discover that a herd is overfeeding copper when all sources are taken into account.

Dairy cake, boluses, minerals, blocks and the ration itself all contribute to this and the combined contribution can often be well in excess of safe limits. Unfortunately, I spend a quite a bit of my time helping farmers to try to manage their way out of excess copper situations which, believe me, is a lot more complicated and expensive than just reducing the level of copper being fed!

Phosphorus would also be a regular classic case of either way too much, or occasionally, far too little, being supplied. Whilst the majority of modern-day rations are considerably higher in phosphorus than those of 20 or 30 years ago, this is still an important element to get right. Too much will be costing you a lot of money (approximately £25 per 1% on your mineral label per tonne of minerals). On the other hand, phosphorus is an important precursor to the efficient utilisation of energy in the diet. Energy is one of the most important factors to ensure good fertility. It is likely to be one of the most expensive components of the ration to feed so ensuring that it is utilised effectively is very important.

Different feed components in the ration can make a significant difference to the level of phosphorus being supplied. Typically, feeds such as Trafford Gold, maize gluten or rape would be very high in phosphorus so rations with significant contributions from these feeds could potentially require a low phosphorus (but high calcium) mineral to balance it, whereas rations based around grass silage, sugar beet or fodder beet are likely to be low in phosphorus but high in calcium so will require a completely different mineral to balance them.

Obviously, there are many situations which are in between these more extreme examples and may need to take account of very low vitamin E levels for example, from treated grains, wholecrop or maize silage or perhaps sodium levels being supplied by caustic treated grain or straw.

Then of course, we need to factor in the size and breed of the cow and her level of production and to take into account the forage mineral analysis of the farm where possible to ensure that any deficiencies of trace elements or excesses of antagonists are corrected.

By now you will have realised that to do this properly, something a little more sophisticated than the back of an envelope is required! Why not talk to your local Feed Solutions nutritionist or contact the mineral line to ask about your free diet mineral check.

We are now able to offer our members a service to accurately check ration mineral balances, through the New Nutri-LINK Mineral Check program. This new software is the result of many months of work to review the latest animal requirements. The program not only factors in all of the topics mentioned on this page, but also takes into account any antagonistic elements present in the forage on the farm and for example any boluses being used.



Progress through research - smart communication is key

DairyCo are running a 'help us to help you' study across the UK to gain greater insight into ways of communicating research results to dairy farmers.

Dr Jenny Gibbons says, "Communicating science is like a jigsaw, lots of pieces make up the full picture and one of the pieces is the complex issue of effective communication. With the increasing use of digital media, it is critical to examine whether the communication methods we use suit the intended audience. DairyCo recognise that every individual levy payer has different information needs and want to learn how best this information is absorbed, retained and used. It is vital we present our research in a format and way which enables easy access and uptake."

In collaboration with its research partner at University of Nottingham, DairyCo are recruiting over 100 dairy farmers to help determine the most effective communication methods so that research messages can be appropriately targeted. Participants will be asked to attend either a regional meeting or receive a visit from one of the research team. For the purpose of this study, the latest cutting edge research on 'early detection and treatment of lame cows' will be the main focus.

Jenny continues, "Taking part in the study will be very straight forward. Farmers will be asked to answer a short series of questions at the start and end of the meetings to allow us to assess the impact of the session. A month later, each participant will be contacted by phone and given an opportunity to provide further feedback. Meetings are taking place over the coming months and every effort will be made to provide sessions at times that will be convenient for farmers and in locations that are easily accessible."

If you or your discussion group would like to take part in this study and would like more details, please contact DairyCo extension officer:

Sarah Bolt (South West)
Email: sarah.bolt@dairyco.ahdb.org.uk
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Other contacts are:

Anthony Hoile (Yorkshire) - 07500 578583

Judith Stafford (Midlands) 07891 556623

Dr. Jenny Gibbons, DairyCo Research and Development Manager on jenny.gibbons@dairyco.ahdb.org.uk

Or contact your local extension officer.

By the Editor

As you will have noticed, the abbreviated version of our 2013/2014 accounts are enclosed with this newsletter. They were signed off by the Board in December but with approval after deadline day for the January newsletter we were unable to include them in last month's edition.

Over recent months I have made reference to the growing influence global commodity prices are having on our industry. We have become accustomed to watching the rise and fall of prices for our feed inputs, but a new and unwelcome element is that now the world supply of the products we produce on our farms is dictating the returns we get. None is more stark than the dramatic fall in dairy product values across the world. The reasons for this have been well documented, but the pressure this is creating on our farms and throughout the agricultural supply chain is considerable and there is no hint

of it easing in the near future. Until world supply and demand come closer together we will all have to tighten our belts and focus on making our businesses as efficient as possible.

After last year's virtual collapse of the beef market, things are looking much brighter for 2015 as finished prices are continuing an upward trajectory. This is largely due to the great, discerning public choosing to 'Buy British' and the retailers having to respond by sourcing from within the UK. Farmers have also responded to the tightening in deadweight specifications by processors by selling more cattle that are 'in spec', which means there is much less waste product that has to be disposed of at significant discounts.

The sheep sector seems to be the exception, as it has enjoyed a reasonable period throughout 2014 and the prospects look good for the hogget market through the

spring. However, many farmers are unhappy at having to accept the new EID regulations imposed by the EU.

In this issue we look at how this technology can be used to improve flock management and efficiency. As the lambing season is about to get into full swing, we have a number of articles dedicated to the sheep sector.

We also have an article featuring one farmer who has successfully developed a low cost dairy production business, where he milks his 650 cows once a day and aims to graze them 365 days a year. This system is not for everyone, but it does show what can be done.

Whatever happens, this year promises to be a challenging one, but as last year proved, the weather can make a huge difference, so let's hope for another good one this year.

until next month ...

Do falling oil prices affect the price of balewrap?

The sharp decline in the global oil price over the past six months has been welcomed by many who look forward to paying less for winter heating and filling up at petrol stations. Whilst the effect of the diminishing oil price has led to a direct, highly visible, reduction in fuel and transport costs (contributing to slowing consumer prices and reduced headline inflation), it should be remembered that the production costs associated with many oil-derivative products have not yet benefited from significant reductions.

One such product is balewrap. As a polythene product, it is made from oil-derivatives so, whilst the cost of oil has fallen, the costs associated with extracting and processing the various oil by-products required to make a premium balewrap have largely increased even when oil prices have been falling.

A premium balewrap film is manufactured from a blend of polymers (such as Octene) and compounds that are required to give the film the necessary stretch, flexibility and cling needed to create good ensiling conditions. Balewrap is not made directly from crude oil but from the careful blending and extrusion of several oil-based products that have been extracted from crude oil through sophisticated 'cracking' plants. The cost of balewrap is directly affected by the processing and production costs of these ingredients but it is also worth noting that the 'supply and demand' situation for these raw materials has also created cost pressures. For several years, there has been limited processing capacity across Europe's 'cracking' plants. The subsequent limitation of supplies, compared with the ongoing and increasing demand for sophisticated polymers, has significantly impacted raw materials costs for balewrap manufacturers.

The table below illustrates the movement of oil, Octene and balewrap prices from January 2011 to December 2014. Whilst the average price of balewrap has remained flat during this period, the price of Octene, a polymer used in premium quality balewrap, rose considerably. Whilst the oil price reduced by 11% during this period, the price of Octene, which is significantly more expensive than oil, increased by 8.5%.

	Brent Oil \$ (Per Barrel)	Octene € (Per Tonne)	Bale wrap £ (750mm Black)
2011	111	1680	£67.00
2012	111	1732	£68.00
2013	109	1825	£68.00
2014	99	1822	£68.00

In addition to managing such raw material price fluctuations, manufacturers have been exposed to high energy and transport costs as balewrap is manufactured, stored and distributed all year round to meet market demand globally.

The falling oil price has enabled consumers to save on everyday items and household running costs but the manufacturers and processors of many products in the agricultural supply chain have been affected to a much lesser extent. Looking ahead to the 2015 silage season, a softening in the price of plastic products is expected.

However, as the raw material prices affecting balewrap are not directly linked to the oil price but rather, are impacted by an ongoing supply and demand, the price of balewrap and other plastic based products such as silage sheets will not see reductions on the scale of those seen for the oil price in recent weeks.

Holsworthy branch developments

Contractors have begun work on the recently acquired site adjacent to our existing branch in Holsworthy. Due for completion in late spring, the plan is to build a larger store on the new site where we are able to stock a wider variety of items in the additional space.

The extra yard area will mean stock is displayed better and there will be more parking space for customers. We will also have a backup stock store on site. All this should result in a better experience when visiting the branch.

There will be a bit of upheaval but we will do as much as we can to minimise this for members and customers. More details of progress in future newsletters, or speak to our staff at Holsworthy.



Artist's impressions of the new store



Once a day milking reaps rewards

by Peter Hall, freelance journalist

CORNISH FARMER, ANDREW BREWER TALKS ABOUT HIS FARMING METHODS



By any reckoning, Andrew Brewer could be described as the very model of a modern major dairyman. This Cornish farmer has driven his business forward to an enviable position through sheer hard work, coupled with thinking 'out of the box' ... in many ways adopting a back-to-the-future approach that has applied common sense to achieve a bottom-line success story.

At a time when the whole dairy sector is being severely challenged – with 400 farmers in the South West quitting milk production in 2014 - Andrew and his team are a fine example many could emulate.

A love of dairying led Andrew to a Nuffield Scholarship award, and that in turn encouraged further foreign travel to widen horizons and broaden concepts. The result (apart from a learned paper) was a determination to change the culture of farming on his three magnificent grassland holdings totalling 900 plus acres, in the heart of Cornwall, centred on Ennis Barton, Fraddon.

The major change has been the move to once-a-day milking – a situation that has proved better for all concerned, including the cows, he insists. For while yields per cow have, unsurprisingly, dropped by about a fifth, to 3,800 litres a year, solids have increased by up to 15 per cent, to five per cent fat and four per cent protein. And, of course, costs have consequently fallen, not just financial but in terms of health and well-being for the staff involved.



In calf heifers looking good on their winter diet

For the cows, grazing grass at a stocking level of four/hectare on a paddock system, health has improved considerably, with lameness down by 40%, as they do not have to walk so far. Body condition has improved and replacement levels have dropped consequently. As might be expected, grassland management has been made a whole lot easier.

The 650 Jersey cross Friesian cows are only housed for short periods at calving, the rest of the time they are grazing grass, supplemented in winter by home-grown fodder beet. However, as a result of contacts made by Andrew during his travels, a team of young New Zealanders have been on the farm erecting a series of buildings for winter housing. These sheds will help protect the land in adverse weather – as well as maintain production.

The Brewers are long-standing customers of Mole Valley Farmers, Hugh Frost, Product and Technical Manager of Mole Valley Forage Services,



is an admirer of the farming system at Ennis Barton. He said: "While the forage based dairying system implemented there has clearly been influenced by extensive forage systems from other regions of the world, it is impressive how the Brewers' have adapted these methods to fit their location and way of life.

"An integral part of the whole operation is the sound management of their soil to ensure the grass performs to the best of its ability all year round. Although an identical level of grass performance is not possible at all sites across the UK, there are many components of good soil management. Ensuring the physical, biological and chemical balance the soil requires is clearly vital, which involves techniques that could be utilised at other sites, even where milk production systems are very different."

The regime at Ennis Barton is a family affair, 43 year old Andrew being joined by his wife Claire, and two full-time plus three part-time staff, all from the local community. The couple have two teenage daughters, Rebecca and Emily, who one day may find themselves at the helm.

And that is most important to the Brewers. "We have to make farming worthwhile for future generations," Andrew insists. "Sitting still is not an option – which is why we've made the changes. Regenerative farming is what is important to us, as well as sustainability. Soil and people are the two biggest issues in the industry – and you've got to get them right for the long term." He feels strongly, though, that the children of farming families should make their own decisions, rather than feeling they have to adopt their parents' methods and positions: "because that is how success happens".

His family came to the farm in 1927, taking on just 211 acres – very different times. "We now have to get used to volatility in dairying," Andrew insisted, as part of his theme in a speech delivered at the 2014 Positive Farming Conference in Ireland. "We need to adopt systems that are right to cope with that volatility."

His travels took him to 20 different countries, from Israel to New Zealand, for his Nuffield Trust paper, which was entitled: 'Who will milk the cows?' With his natural acumen, research experience and membership of the DairyCo Research Advisory Forum, you might feel Andrew is the ideal person to know the answer!



Fodder beet and baled silage plus mineral buckets

The farm also produces dairy-beef using a Hereford bull and there is a small flock of Suffolk ewes. A wind turbine to reduce the enterprise's carbon footprint, and self-catering holiday lets in converted farm buildings, add grist to the mill.

Andrew and his family are: 'keen to give something back', which has led to his involvement in mentoring schemes. "My father died when I was only 14, but I've been very lucky, having had a great deal of help from many kind people." Mentoring has included helping four previous staff members run their own farms. Then there is the determination to spread the farming message, which extends to regular farm visits by local schools and farmers to Ennis Barton.

Visitors cannot fail to be inspired by Andrew's enthusiasm for farming and his ability to adapt to change when challenges come along.

New range of specialist coarse mixes

Mole Valley Farmers are pleased to announce a new range of very high quality, very palatable, coarse mixes. The products are designed specifically for various beef and heifer rearing systems. They are manufactured at the specialist blend plant in Exeter. All of the products contain a unique combination of rolled barley and micronized maize, beans and peas. Linseed, locust beans and protected soya are included in certain formulations. Coarse mixes provide a great way of adding something special to your total mix ration (TMR) or forage based diet, helping to increase intake, growth rate and feed conversion. Each individual product is tailor made to a specific nutritional specification depending on the age and growth stage of the animal.

Coarse Calf

A specialist, 18% protein, coarse calf mix, designed to be fed in a range of calf rearing systems from 0–12 weeks of age

Careful ingredient selection stimulates dry matter intake and encourages fast rumen development.

The product includes linseed, locust, protected soya, sugar beet, rolled barley and micronized maize, beans and peas.

Very high digestible ingredients ensure high growth rates and excellent lifetime performance.



Coarse Rearer

A specialist, 16% protein, coarse mix, designed to be fed in a range of systems from 12 weeks of age

Careful ingredient selection stimulates dry matter intake and drives good growth rates.

The product includes linseed, sugar beet, rolled barley and micronized maize, beans and peas.



The blends plant near Exeter

Coarse Pedigree & Prime

A specialist, 14% protein, coarse mix, designed to be fed in a range of beef systems from 12 weeks of age

Careful ingredient selection stimulates dry matter intake and drives very high growth rates and an excellent finish. A unique combination of high starch, oil and digestible fibre ensures genetic potential is optimised.

The product includes linseed, protected soya, sugar beet, rolled barley and micronized maize, beans and peas.



All products are fully mineralised and are available tipped bulk, in ½ t tote bags or for collection from Exeter.

**For more information on the coarse mix range,
please contact Joe Banks on 01395 239991 or
call a member of the Red Meat Team
FeedLine 01278 444829**





Alternative Feeds

Judith Clifford
Senior Alternative Feeds Trader

Since early November the grain markets have seemed to be influenced more by politics and currency than the fundamentals. Price drivers through November and December included Russia announcing export duties on grain from 1st February, a falling pound and concerns of potential winter kill for the US Midwest grain belt.

The United States Department of Agriculture's World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report that came out on 13th January raised global wheat stocks 1.7 MT with both increased production and beginning stocks. World wheat production remains at a record high and was raised 1.2 MT. This report brought home the fundamentals that there are ample supplies of wheat available this season which consequently pressured prices.

In the UK, by the middle of January wheat and barley prices were virtually on a par, due to export programmes for barley and the possibility that less wheat would be required for the bioethanol plants. The lower oil price puts the viability of bioethanol production in doubt. The USDA did report that US winter seedings were 29.5M acres, down from 30.471 a year ago indicating potentially a smaller crop this season.

In the same report the carry out figure for US soya was unchanged at 410 M bushels, which was higher than expected. The soybean yield was estimated at 47.8 bushels per acre, an increase of 0.3 from December which compensated for the lower harvested area.

Following the report, prices came under pressure as the funds switched back into equities. Brazil slightly increased its country's forecast of the soybean output to 95.9 MMT. While there are regions suffering from drought conditions, most of the soybean areas have not been affected so far and this situation will be watched closely. A recent survey by US Farm Futures magazine, has revealed that US farmers intend to plant more soya at the expense of maize acres. February has traditionally been a good month to look at forward contracting at least some tonnage.

Rapemeal prices increased sharply through December and January. Rapeseed produces 40-45% oil when crushed and with lower returns due to depressed oil prices, it became unviable without making more for the meal. Soya at only 20-25% oil has been a better crush alternative.

A ban on the use of neonicotinoid could cut the 2015 crop by up to 15%. Distillers has also increased in price due to bioethanol plants slowing down, again due to low returns on the oil and higher grain prices. This situation will probably continue for the next few months but could improve for the summer.

A bit of a mixed bag, but there are commodities worth looking at and our traders are happy to discuss the markets and price your requirements.

Keeping in contact

To keep you completely up to date with world prices, the commodities market, raw materials and product availability, the Alternative Feeds team have a number of ways to update you.

Weekly newsletter

This will be emailed to you and gives information on what is happening in the market, price movements and news.

Text alerts

For farmers wanting to know when products are available or when a price goes up or down.

Bespoke requirements

If you have a specific request to monitor products or raw materials, give the team a call. You will then be alerted to price movements or availability.

Lifton 01566 780261 • Carmarthen 01267 223716
Hungerford 01488 240010



Cattle tracks



Well designed cattle tracks enable cows to access grazing areas whilst maintaining the well-being of the cows' feet, aiming to reduce lameness and improve dairy cattle mobility. Planning the layout of your tracks will allow the most efficient use of grazing, providing access to all necessary areas whilst minimising damage to pastures. It is also very important to consider the composition, condition and length of any track, as the quality and type of surface has a significant impact on foot health.

PLANNING

The following points may be considered during the planning process:

- 5m track of which 4m is surfaced will enable good flow for up to 200 cows. Each additional 100 cows would require an extra 1m width.
- A variety of materials may be used to construct a track, but the surface should not consist of sharp stones, rubble or gravel, even though these materials may be used in the construction of the track base.
- Any areas liable to become muddy in wet weather can be improved by the used of materials to make the surface more durable and better drained. Poorly drained soil and wet areas can allow hoof horn to become soft and more prone to injury, disease or perforation by sharp stones.
- Drainage is a very important aspect of the track's design. This helps to avoid damage from the build-up of wet areas and mud, which may also be a supportive environment for disease causing pathogens. To allow water to drain away easily, it is important to form a 'crown' in the tracks surface.

When looking to restore your cow tracks Mole Valley Plus can offer an extensive range of aggregates including oolitic limestone and 20-75mm scalplings. Oolitic limestone (which is only available in certain areas) is a specialist product which will reduce the risk of poor mobility and lameness in your cattle whilst providing an excellent surface for your tracks. Mole Valley Plus also have partnerships with a number of hire companies, including A Plant, Speedy and Eagle Hire, where you will be able to hire any extra machinery that you may need at a discounted rate, to create the perfect cow track.

For further details of products available
through Mole Valley Plus, contact our team on

01769 576201



BVD - the impact on the national herd



Becca Vallis BVetMed, MRCVS Molecare FarmVets

Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) is a serious cattle disease resulting in abortion, loss of productivity and increased mortality. Work over the past few years has gone a long way towards increasing awareness of the disease in England, with vets working closely with farmers to understand the status of their farm. However, in order to have a significant impact on the disease in our national herd, every herd needs to be tested and the appropriate control measures implicated.

Figures suggest that BVD is costing our cattle industry between £40m and £120m pounds per year in lost production. The good news is that with modern testing BVD can be eradicated, with several countries in Europe having achieved national eradication of the disease. A BVD outbreak in a commercial suckler herd of 100 cows is estimated to cost £5800. The Scottish Government suggest that an annual benefit of over £110 per cow after the disease has been eradicated from the dairy herd.

What is BVD?

BVD is a virus specific to cattle. It is carried and spread by Persistently Infected animals. These are referred to as PI's. It can be spread between cattle via nasal secretions, faeces, urine and semen. BVD has different effects on the animal depending on the timing of infection.

PI animals

If a cow becomes infected with BVD virus in early pregnancy, the virus can pass through the placenta to infect the calf. Before 110 days of pregnancy the foetal calf does not have an immune system, therefore it recognises the virus as 'self' and continues to replicate the virus for life. The calf born is known as a Persistently Infected (PI) animal. PI's carry and spread the virus to other cattle for life; most PI animals die before 12 month of age, however some will enter a herd as adults. It is these PI animals that act as the main reservoir of disease in a herd.

Clinical signs

The clinical signs can often go undetected as they are 'non-specific' and can be put down to production losses or attributed to other diseases.

Some general signs seen with BVD disease are poor growth rates in youngstock, high incidence of pneumonia and scours, irregular or long returns to service, high 'empty rates', abortions/mummified calves and 'dummy calves'.

This explains why it is so important to know the BVD status of a herd and to include BVD testing in any investigation into poor production or any disease outbreak.

The severity of the clinical signs will vary depending on the BVD status of the herd. If the herd is naïve to the disease (never been exposed and not vaccinated) then BVD can cause a high level of abortions and severely decrease fertility. There is then the risk of a number of PI animals being born in the following 12 months – unless the disease is diagnosed quickly this will become a chronic infection.

If the herd is chronically infected, then the clinical signs will be more non-specific as described above.

BVD diagnosis

Today there are many ways to diagnosis and monitor BVD infection. These will be discussed in next months edition. Our main point in this issue is that everyone should be aware of the disease status of their herd – as well as BVD you should be fully aware of all diseases that are having an economic impact on your herd...

Johnes Disease • IBR • Leptospirosis

As discussed in the first paragraph there has been a lot of work done to raise awareness of infectious disease on farm in the last few years. There is also increasing pressure from retailers to control disease on farm – all milk producers are now required to have a control plan for Johnes Disease and there are increasing requirements to control lameness.

Rather than wait to be obliged to control any disease, our advice is to know your disease status and be aware that it is having a financial impact on your farm performance. And, as with any disease, work with your vet to implement the appropriate control plan.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis remains one of the main infectious diseases affecting profitability in cattle herds, according to findings from the 2013 Herd Vaccination Survey carried out as part of MSD Animal Health's Healthier Herd, Healthier Profits campaign. Over 60% of respondents identified leptospirosis as a significant potential threat to herd profitability, with only BVD attracting a higher response. Leptospirosis is also a zoonotic disease, which means it can infect humans too, so it's important to ensure that the correct control regime is in place to reassure those working with cattle.

In cattle, leptospirosis is associated with poor conception, high culling rates and increased abortion. Those wanting the broadest protection should vaccinate against both strains of the disease that have been proven to infect UK cattle (*L. hardjo bovis* and *L. hardjo praetno*).

Leptavoid-H is the only leptospirosis vaccine available that is licensed to protect your stock against both strains present in the UK, and significantly this vaccine is licensed to improve fertility where *Leptospira hardjo* is implicated.

The ideal time to vaccinate is just prior to turnout, because of the increased risks of infection. At grass, uninfected cattle are suddenly exposed to the urine of any infected animals that may be shedding leptospores. Moist spring grass is also a relatively favourable environment for these leptospores, allowing them to survive for longer outside the host.



Be aware of the risk factors

Your herd is at greater risk of being infected with leptospirosis if:

- Cattle have access to natural waterways (contaminated water can spread the disease)
- Cattle are co-grazed with sheep (which can carry the disease)
- A bull of unknown disease status is used (natural service can spread the disease)
- Cattle of unknown disease status are introduced to your herd

Speak to one of our SQPs (Suitably Qualified Person) at your local branch.
Leptavoid-H is available from all branches or online at molevalleyfarmers.com



Breeding and genetics

Genetics and selection decisions are a major driver of the beef enterprise. There are two key criteria: the genetic value of the bull (or heifer, breeder) for economically important traits; and the ability of that animal to be able to reproductively 'deliver the genetics' for the length of time it is used in a herd. Management then plays a significant role in calf output and producing suitable progeny for market.

The overall goal of the beef operation should be to increase net income. Net income is a balance between how much is spent on the operation and how much income the operation generates. Therefore, beef producers need to focus on increasing income while minimising additional cost or reduce cost while trying to maintain income.

Although this practice applies to the entire beef operation, a key part would be in selecting a bull that helps achieve this goal.

Two practices are available to improve the genetics of commercial beef operations: crossbreeding and individual bull selection

Crossbreeding

Although the benefits of crossbreeding have been known for many years, it is now standard practise for the commercial industry. To increase profitability, crossbreeding must be used in a systematic plan, since many of the production benefits will result only from an organised approach. Before designing an effective crossbreeding plan, the producer must have some understanding of how crossbreeding increases production. Crossbred animals have two advantages over straight breeds: Crossbreds are more vigorous and have higher production traits than purebred cattle. This increase in production, coupled with greater

calf vigour and survival, results in increased calf crops and weaning weights. Crossbreeding can take advantage of breed complementarity, since a weakness of one breed can be offset by combining it with a breed strong in that trait. The resulting crossbred may not be superior in any single trait but superior in overall performance.

Individual bull selection

Bulls are selected for their genetic potential. It is difficult to determine genetic values of bulls since the outward appearance are a result of both genetic potential and the conditions under which the animal was developed, environment, nutrition, climate, diseases, parasites and insects plus weather conditions influence the outward appearance of the bull. Where possible the animal should be compared with other animals within the same herd and should be raised under conditions similar to those which he is expected to perform. However, the genetic value of bulls can be determined and compared with bulls throughout the country because of the sire record systems of the purebred

The genetic value of a bull can be estimated by his own performance. In addition, the physical attributes he expresses visually will aid in selection. Genetic values are often available that take into account the performance of his sire, dam, grandsire, granddam, herd mates and brothers and sisters.

For bull selection, a breeder should establish goals for his own herd, evaluate strengths and weaknesses and select bulls which will improve the production and genetic merit. Selection has to include a realistic appraisal of the resources available to support the cow and growth of calves.

Boost colostrum quality to beat calf scours

When it comes to preventing scour problems in calves, there is no doubt that vaccination of the cow in late pregnancy against the common causes of scour – Rotavirus, Coronavirus and E.coli K99 – plays a vital role in any disease control programme.

Calves are most susceptible to infectious causes of scour during the first 3-4 weeks of life. Colostrum is a vital source of essential antibodies from the dam and provides protection of the newborn calf during this critical period. Vaccination of the dam with Rotavec Corona between 12 and 3 weeks before calving will boost antibodies in the colostrum.

It is essential that calves receive at least 3 litres of high quality colostrum within the first 6 hours of life in order to provide adequate protection, allowing you to feed high levels of antibodies against rotavirus, coronavirus and E.coli K99 in early life.

Rotavirus is a huge challenge on many UK calf units and being a viral infection there are limited treatment options. Boosting calf immunity through feeding high quality colostrum from vaccinated dams coupled with improving hygiene and husbandry on farm will go a long way to tackling this disease.

Rotavec Corona is available from all MVF branches in 10ml (50544) and 40ml (50543)



Our SQP's can help with any questions and when buying animal medicines and are based at all branches.



Land drainage and its role in the future of farming

Almost from the moment we started farming, humans have tried to control the amount of water our crops receive. Getting soil moisture levels right is critical to growing healthy, high yielding crops and unfortunately, Mother Nature does not provide the perfect conditions all the time.

For hundreds, if not thousands of years, farmers have drained farm land and seen considerable increases to yields. Land drains, buried a metre below the ground, working twenty four hours a day, three hundred and sixty five days a year, are perhaps the hardest working but least thought about farm equipment in Britain. Perhaps it is understandable that drains are often forgotten, once the field has been cultivated nearly all signs of the investment disappear, and drainage is certainly slipped out of the minds of many farmers today. In the early eighties over one hundred thousand hectares were being drained each year, this figure dropped by over 90% once grants were removed and remains at an historic low.

My Nuffield report is an attempt to access the future of farm drainage and to see where the industry is likely to go from here and how it can revive its popularity with farmers. I focused with travels in Europe and mainly in North America, everywhere I went I found a strong industry with high demand for well drained soils. I was able to see firsthand the numerous field trials on drainage being carried out in many of the Mid-West Universities. In addition, I visited machinery manufacturers and saw the very latest designs in drainage machines. My Nuffield travels provided a unique insight to the industry which very few have been able to experience and left me certain that drainage is undervalued in the UK.

High demand elsewhere in the world is driven by yield. Soil is a complicated, dynamic ecosystem which is a vital part of farming, its wellbeing must be considered and cared for. Excess water starves the life contained in the soil of oxygen, it also destroys the soil's structure which damages its ability to support healthy crops.

In Canada, I was told about data collected over a twenty year period, (the full details are in my report), which showed a 38% increase in the yield of winter wheat on drained land when compared to undrained. This supports field experiments carried out in England during the 1970's. This is already known data, there is nothing new in this. What farmers and contractors continually told me was that yield mapping had been the driving force to the steadily increasing demand for more drainage. When farmers were able to see the difference numerically on their own fields, the value of drainage is too obvious to ignore.

Drainage is also growing as a subject for research at many academic institutions around the world. As with much research carried out today, the focus is mainly upon the environmental effects. Conservation drainage is a term to describe efforts to reduce the amount of nitrates and other pollutants exiting drainage outlets without reducing the benefits gained from that drainage. A number of techniques are being and have been



*Nuffield Scholar,
Rob Burtonshaw
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I'm the third generation of my family to work for and manage Farm Services Limited, specialist land drainage contractors. The company is based in Lighthorne, Warwickshire. We design and install agricultural land drainage schemes, mainly in the midlands but also around the whole country.

I live in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, with my wife, Louisa. Our house involves far more DIY and far less watching sport than what I would prefer! When not watching sports or playing sports, I have an allotment to keep me busy and I read a great deal, mainly novels and history.



Chain pipe layers, specifically designed for laying shallow drainage.

developed, many are not suited to the UK. However, I believe that one technique in particular can be applied in the UK

Denitrifying Bioreactors are simple devices. Water from drainage schemes carrying excess nitrogen enters a lined excavation filled with wood chip. The bacteria and micro-organisms that find a home in the wood chip consume and breakdown the nitrates and the treated water exits into the watercourse as normal. The size of the bioreactor is dependent upon the amount of water entering the reactor and the desired reduction in nitrate levels. Bioreactors are buried, therefore, they do not take land out of production and once installed they need little or no maintenance. It is predicted that the bioreactors will last for about twenty years and are relatively cheap to install. Importantly, bioreactors can be fitted retrospectively on to existing schemes. Bioreactors are a positive rather than a restrictive method of mitigating a side effect of agriculture, it deals with the problem as it exists in the field, it does not restrict what you can or can't do.

I see no reason why this idea cannot work in the UK and its potential for NVZ is obvious. Having spoken to and met with the Environment Agency, The Severn Rivers Trust, and together with a local farmer, we have developed a plan to install a bioreactor in Sunny Old Warwickshire in the not too distant future.

My experience has confirmed my belief that drainage can be of great service to agriculture. It should be a vital part of farming's future, a practical proven way from supplying the increased yields demand by a growing population. Contractors, people like me, need to champion the sometimes unfashionable subject of drainage and get out there and shout about it.

View from the field

Seek all the advice you can get!



Marc Harvey, Trainee Nutritionist



Falling milk price continues to be the main topic of conversation when I am on farm and whilst there are still some quite big variations in prices being paid, everyone is starting to feel the impact. Attention to detail should be the key focus to maximise the bonuses on milk contracts. Farmers should be seeking all the advice they can get from their nutritionists, vets and agronomists to maximise productivity.

Another challenging area is the lack of experienced staff to support farm businesses. Farmers are frequently asking me if I know of anyone with the relevant skills and experience to fulfil positions on dairy farms. I have recently spoken to students at Duchy College about large scale dairying, highlighting the importance of establishing and reviewing protocols on a regular basis with the relevant people on farm such as the nutritionist and vet.

I am starting to see a real focus on a number of farms in relation to regular foot care, with many farmers having an established foot bathing programme and foot trimming regime, ideally 80 days prior to, and post calving to avoid fresh cow lameness which directly affects intake and results in energy deficiencies. Digital dermatitis continues to be a problem at this time of year, but consult with your vet and the problem can be managed.

Farmers will certainly have sufficient feed to carry them through the winter, but balancing and making rations work is particularly difficult this year because of the big variations in feed quality and it is, therefore, important to analyse silage to optimise rations.

Dairy farming is in my blood and is full of hard working, passionate family businesses. I want to see the sector ride out this current storm with a satisfactory outcome in terms of a base price that is sustainable and which enables dairy businesses to invest and be profitable.

Marc Harvey is a Trainee Nutritionist with Mole Valley Feed Solutions and covers the Holsworthy/West Devon area. Contact Marc on 07812 733073

For more information on careers with Mole Valley Farmers, contact 01769 575679



Training for skills



Farming is a notoriously hazardous occupation. The industry represents approximately 1.8% of the workforce in Great Britain but accounts for about 19% of the reported fatal injuries each year. The four most common types of accident on farms involve vehicles and machinery, falls from heights, lifting and handling and hazardous substances.

Training courses are now a necessary part of the everyday running of your business. It is a legal requirement for you and your employees to have training in how to operate equipment safely, the use of personal protective equipment and the procedures required to work safely. Recognised standards of formal training are normally required for using chainsaws, tree work, applying pesticides, riding all-terrain vehicles, operating fork lift trucks, telescopic materials handlers, sheep dipping and first aid.

You must ensure that you comply with all regulations and it is therefore, vital that all necessary training is in place.

Spraying- How will the loss of Grandfather Rights affect you this year?

There is a current exemption in UK legislation governing the application of pesticides or Plant Protection Products (PPP's), which is commonly known as "Grandfather Rights". This exemption allows anyone born before 31st December 1964, to use PPPs (Plant Protection Product) authorised for professional use, on crops, land, produce, materials and buildings which are owned, occupied or rented by them or their employer, without having to hold a Specified Certificate. However, this exemption expires on 26th November 2015 meaning everyone who uses a plant protection product authorised for professional use must have a Specified Certificate.

Once the Grandfather Rights exemption has come to an end it will not be possible to purchase PPP's without a Specified Certificate. It will also be illegal to apply PPP's to your own or anyone else's land (even where permission has been granted) if you do not have the correct Specified Certificate. Everyone will need to be certified, so make sure you don't leave it until the last minute and get your courses booked up as soon as possible.



We offer Members special rates on a full range of South West based training courses. For further information on how we can help you to find the courses needed to operate safely and legally, call Mole Valley Plus today on 01769 576201

The Voluntary Initiative



A wealth of information is available on the Voluntary Initiative (Promoting Responsible Pesticide Use) website including topics such as the 'Grassland Survey Report', 'Grandfather Certificate FAQs' and 'Knapsack Sprayers - do's and don'ts'.

The Voluntary Initiative is continuing a two year rolling programme of work promoting responsible pesticide use.

voluntaryinitiative.org.uk



Plate meters

Do you make best use of your grass?

With ongoing volatility in farm gate prices for milk, beef and lamb, many producers need to lower their input costs and focus on producing more from what is grown on the farm. Grass is the cheapest and most versatile crop that can be grown and utilised within the ruminants' diet. Once the grass is established, the next step is to maximise efficiency.

Accurate measurement of grass can deliver clear economic benefits to farming operations through optimised grazing programmes. It has been suggested that a 10-15% improvement in pasture utilisation is possible through the use of pasture budgeting systems. This improvement in pasture yield can be seen through better placement of fertilisers and controlled grazing.

Used extensively in New Zealand, plate meters are proven to be the 'best tool' to measure grass height and density, giving average kg/hectare of DM/paddock. This is inputted into free Pasture Plus software, giving a weekly display throughout the grazing period of total grass available for your livestock needs. Previous years' records also give you an accurate assessment of how each paddock is performing compared with other paddocks.

Plate meters

Rising plate meters which allow measurement of grass yield, enabling farmers to set stocking rates and drive forage costs down considerably are available through Mole Valley Plus. The electronic rising plate meter provides a simple, yet effective method of measuring pasture cover. Able to operate in all weather conditions the product is a cost effective and reliable option.

Feed Readers - quad mounted

Launched at the 2014 Livestock Event, the Feed Reader offers high output solutions for larger livestock units. Quad mounted, it takes ultrasonic readings at a rate of 10/second and the Feed Reader is able to cover up to 140 hectares per hour.

The Feed Reader works with a display console and is capable of generating pasture yield maps and automated pasture recording systems. Combined with the ultra-powerful software kit, the Feed Reader is a revolutionary system for monitoring and improving pasture use.



Attaching the Feed Reader to a quad

For information on plate meters or the Feed reader, both available with your member discount through Mole Valley Plus, call **01769 576201**



FREE postage for all plate meters ordered during February

Mobile cattle handling equipment

A mobile cattle handling system will allow safe, easy and secure work with cattle, saving you valuable time when completing any task. Handling systems can be assembled in a modular system for all applications and herd sizes using just a few components. These include a holding pen, circular or funnel crowding pen, working alley and crush or head yoke.

Mole Valley Farmers have negotiated excellent member discounts on cattle corral and shute systems. These are made for quick assembly in the yard or field, have skid panels for ease of movement, are fully galvanised and can fit any make of cattle crush. A unique chain system allows easy joining of panels and stability on rough and unlevel ground. The steel is tubular to maintain extreme strength yet being light enough to handle without difficulty.



To discuss the many cattle handling options available and MVF member prices, call our Agricultural Specialist today on 01769 576201

The importance of clover

Felicity Lenyk, Regional Technical Manager (South)

01769 576405

Don't rely only on bagged nitrogen - get some for free

In the face of volatile prices across the agricultural industry, having a source of home grown protein and a home grown nitrogen supply is an attractive option. So what can clover do to help farmers achieve this?

There are multiple varieties of clover fit for purpose whether it be a long term ley or a short term one, grazing or cutting. In general, for a mixed clover and grass sward a clover content of 30% is preferable.

Fixing nitrogen

Clover fixes nitrogen from the air in nodules on the roots, in partnership with beneficial bacteria. The small bumps you see on the roots of clover and other legumes are the nodules – where the beneficial bacteria can be found. Nitrogen from the air is converted into ammonia by the bacteria, which clover is then able to use to make amino acids and proteins.



This fixed nitrogen is then released to the soil in various ways and can be taken up by other plants. In this case, those plants

are farmer's grasses. Properly utilising the nitrogen supply from clover that comes free of charge could result in reduced nitrogen inputs on farm and a reduced fertiliser bill.

Maintenance

Clover has been tarnished with a reputation for poor persistence. However, there are some key points to maintaining clover and maximising its benefits. Optimum soil conditions are essential and some of these are summarised in the table below:

	White clover	Red clover
Potential nitrates supplied by clover	150kg/Ha	250kg/Ha
Growth Type	Via underground stolons. Spreading habit.	Via a single crown. No spreading habit.
Management	Optimum pH 6.0-6.5	
	Reduced N applications compared to purely grass sward	
	Particular care in early spring to ensure clover is not out competed by grass	
	Avoid overgrazing and poaching that damages crowns and stolons.	

Something that should be in the front of farmer's minds particularly at this time of year is monitoring grass growth early in the season, ensuring clover is able to compete and not be overwhelmed by grass that is faster to initiate growth as soil temperatures rise. Controlled grazing with sheep can be useful for this purpose. Clover supplies the bacteria with carbohydrates (a product from photosynthesis) in return for the ammonia fixed in the nodules. For this reason, it is essential that the clover leaves have access to enough light to carry out photosynthesis efficiently.

Clover is suited to reduced N and high P & K input. If quick release nitrogen fertilisers are applied that supply a lot of nitrogen in a short period of time, it can prevent the nodules on the roots from forming so the clover cannot form a partnership with bacteria and fix nitrogen from



Clover nodule photo courtesy of IBERS, Aberystwyth University

the air. For this reason, swards containing clover are better suited to using nitrogen fertilisers that release N gradually. Alternatively, if clover is becoming too dominant in a sward, careful use of N-fertilisers can act to control its growth and encourage grasses.

Soil structure

The larger leaved red clover has a deep tap root that can serve to improve soil structure and drainage. When individual plants die off and rot away, the space their root inhabited in the soil becomes a channel that water can move along more freely. At the same time, important nitrogen reserves are released from the clover tissues. White clover grows via a branching stolon network, which will have similar effects in tackling soil compaction by creating more spaces between soil particles.

Planning

A little more thought and planning may be required but will be worth it for the added protein clover provides, soil structure benefits and the ability to fix nitrogen, reducing fertiliser input costs. Proper management can result in red clover lasting for four years and white clover swards lasting for ten years with vast benefits being reaped over that time. Mole Valley Forage Services can provide advice on the best management practices to get the most out of clover in the coming season.

CLOVER



White clover blends and red clover straights are available collected from branches in 2kg packs or delivered direct to farm packed in 2kg/25kg packs.

Contact your local representative or branch for further details.

Wrap up warm and drive safely in the winter weather



During the winter months, it really is imperative to ensure that your 4x4 tyres are fit for purpose and won't let you down. The most common reasons for tyre failure during the winter months include under inflation, overloading, potholes and timely wear and tear. If your business relies on you being able to travel from A to B without being stopped for reasons such as your tyres have illegal tread, changing tyres due to a blow out or being involved in an accident that could have been prevented with the extra grip provided by the correct tyres, then now really is the time to address any tyre issues you may have.

Qualify for a Cooper winter jacket with North Devon Tyres

Save in February and March 2015 with an extra 5% discount off the forecourt price on all Cooper and Avon products at your local North Devon Tyres centre.

EXTRA 5% off
Cooper and Avon products

If you purchase 4 Cooper 4x4 tyres you will also qualify for a Cooper winter jacket.

North Devon Tyres have been in partnership with Cooper and Avon tyres for the past four decades supplying major utilities and van fleets across the South West.

Cooper are acclaimed for designing and manufacturing some of the best off-road tyres in the world, with their tyres driven to success in world 4x4 rallies such as the punishing Dakar Rally.

North Devon Tyres have centres covering Devon and Cornwall and work in partnership with Mole Valley Farmers, allowing members preferential pricing and the ability to book to your Mole Valley Farmers account.

North Devon Tyres centres

South Molton • Tiverton
Honiton • Barnstaple
Marsh Barton • Sowton
Launceston • St Austell



Buy agricultural tyres from ATS and qualify for Michelin and Kleber jackets

ATS Euromaster is looking to keep Mole Valley Farmers members warm this winter by giving away a number of Michelin Group jackets and fleeces when you buy agricultural tyres during February 2015.



- Purchase four Michelin agricultural tyres and claim a Michelin soft shell jacket
- Purchase two Michelin agricultural tyres and claim a Michelin fleece
- Purchase four Kleber farm tyres and claim a free Kleber gilet
- Purchase two Kleber farm tyres to claim a Kleber fleece



To claim your free clothing from ATS, simply send a copy of your receipt before 1st March 2015 to andy.stephens@euromaster.com, or the following postal address:

Andy Stephens,
ATS Euromaster LTD,
Vantage Point,
20 Upper Portland Street,
Aston, Birmingham, B6 5TW

To find your nearest ATS Euromaster centre, visit www.atseuromaster.co.uk.



The new name for the Mole Valley Plus fuel team!

- High quality service
- Transparent pricing
- Exclusive member rates

The only number you need for all your fuel requirements!

For more information on Farm Fuels and Heating Oils contact 01769 575668

Mitsubishi vehicles

Exclusive discounts for Mole Valley Farmers members*

Mole Valley Plus has set up partnership with Mitsubishi allowing exclusive member discounts on the Mitsubishi ASX, Outlander, Shogun and L200. This covers the full range of 4x4 and SUV vehicles and really is an offer not to be missed.

Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV

An ideal car for day to day driving, especially shorter trips, combining outstanding fuel economy, 4x4 capabilities and spacious travel.

This 4x4 has plug-in hybrid technology and fuel economy of up to 148mpg. It is capable of travelling for up to 32 miles in pure electric mode and can be charged in a normal domestic socket in five hours, with a rapid electric car charger giving you 80% charge in 30 minutes.

The Outlander's 2.0-litre 119bhp petrol engine allows you to continue driving when the car's electric power runs out, which gives you peace of mind and the four-wheel-drive system means it's one of the few hybrids that has excellent handling in wintry conditions and could also be used as a tow car.



Outlander PHEV



L200 Barbarian

For more information on the amazing discount available to Mole Valley Farmers members through Mitsubishi contact your local Mitsubishi Business Centre or call Mole Valley Plus on: 01769 576201

*In order to qualify for this discount you will need to have had a valid Mole Valley Farmers member account for a minimum of six months.

Future Farming Academy



Claire Flower reports



During this last month on the Future Farmers Academy,

I have continued my work placements with poultry farmer Simon Barton and beef farmer Ed Green. I also spent an excellent day with Andy Jolliffe from Mole Valley Feed Solutions for my final industry training day. Andy is a Feed Specialist for the dairy industry as well as Key Account Manager for Mole Valley Farmers. However, as there were maintenance works in progress at Huntworth Mill, we travelled down to Dorchester Feed Mill to see the processes of feed formulation and learn more about the company.



Mole Valley Feed Solutions produce over 300 formulations of concentrate feed in their four feed mills. I was very impressed with Dorchester Feed Mill as their energy is supplied by the Anaerobic Digester plant next door (using household food waste) and solar panels. They were the first feed mill in the country to be run using renewable energy.

Poultry farmer Simon Barton is also very keen on renewable energy and installed biomass burners on his farms two years ago, fed by locally sourced wood chip. The biomass plants are used to heat the sheds and he has seen a tremendous improvement in chicken welfare as the litter is drier and there is very little CO₂ in the sheds compared to his previous oil burners. Oil prices have dropped recently, so the cost difference between the two heating methods is not as great, but he calculated that during the year over 140 tonnes of CO₂ emissions are saved by using Biomass. Simon is also planning to expand next year and intends to fit solar panels to the roofs of the new buildings to help reduce electricity costs.

Beef farmer, Ed Green, has been very busy working on a new business venture that he came across when travelling around the world during his Nuffield Scholarship. His new company, Farmer Green Auctions

(farmergreenauctions.co.uk) will be available from February 2015 and is an excellent way to buy and sell livestock online. In comparison to traditional auction markets, an online auction will widen the customer base, improve animal welfare, provide more genetic information and reduce the time spent away from the farm. As well as that there will be solutions for farmers trading under TB restrictions and a focal point on West Country Beef and Lamb PGI.



Anaerobic digester at Dorchester Mill



Energy costs - a 'saw' point

Diversification, cost reduction and a green approach to production were the catalysts for family firm Blamphayne Sawmill to investigate renewable technologies. "Energy is a major expenditure for our timber product manufacturing and treatment business and a cost we wanted to reduce", said James Willis who runs the business in conjunction with his brother Jonathan.

Having a long-standing relationship with Mole Valley Farmers as both members and suppliers, James was keen to use a company he could rely on. "The good relationship, high level of trust and the confidence that any issues which may arise would be sorted was a key driver for us to go ahead".

The various saws, planers, moulders and the high pressure timber treatment plant all draw down significant amounts of power, so an initial



The solar PV roof mounted array



Timber about to go into the timber treatment plant at Blamphayne Sawmills

49kW Solar PV Array has been roof mounted. "The results are great and the array is performing well, so well in fact we will look to add more".

"We dedicate ourselves to great customer care and to providing a friendly, but above all, professional service to all our customers. moleenergy, along with their preferred installer, Source Renewable mirrored our level of service with the process, product and install going beyond our expectations".

James's advice to others would be "do it whilst it's so financially attractive, do it before you have to and do it with a company you can trust".

Fill it - Shift it

Great Savings on half tonne wood pellet bulk storage bin.

Suitable for outdoor use.

Fully portable with pallet tines or pallet truck.

Robust plastic moulded construction.

Controllable guillotine outlet ensures accurate dispensing.

Interested? Call moleenergy on 01769 575674



Normal price £720.00

£660.00

Plus delivery at cost

Energy Expo Event

On 11th and 12th February, the Telford International Centre is hosting Energy Now Expo. This event has been designed to bring together farmers, landowners and renewable industry experts and incorporates a wide ranging show of products and services.

Mole Valley Farmers director and renewable energy champion Steve Edmunds will be a headline speaker and Mole Valley Farmers members can visit the event free but must pre-book online at energynowexpo.co.uk

Amongst the items for discussion will be how the Renewable Heat Incentive has fared, how to optimise returns from solar PV and the latest energy storage techniques.

DECC RHI team and Ofgem will be available in a dedicated RHI zone to answer any questions relating to RHI policy, applications and payments for renewable heating projects. Presentations will be delivered each day outlining both domestic and non-domestic schemes. The event will also include a grid connection workshop, providing participants with the opportunity to discuss issues with experts.



We supply EN Plus A1 standard biomass wood fuel pellets

Available in 15kg, 1 tonne dumpy bags and bulk blown. 15kg are delivered direct to site in pallet form. 10kg bags are available at all branches.



£1 off per bag

Focus on sheep

MVF compound sheep feed range • Veterinary advice • EID, a farmer's thoughts • minerals for sheep • products for spring



Selected sheep compounds
25kg bags collected ex branch
30/01/15-26/02/15



Feeding organic sheep

Nigel Mapstone, Feed Nutritionist (Organics)

The Rumigan range of organic feeds only contains minerals from calcium carbonate and salt and are designed to be fed to sheep and cattle. They are high energy, cereal based organic compounds, including sugar beet suitable for sheep pre and post lambing.

Range	Protein
Rumigan Multi Rearer Pellets	17%
Rumigan 14 Nuts	14%
Rumigan Nuts *	16%
Rumigan Rolls	17%
Rumigan 18 Nuts	18%
Rumigan 33 Pellets	33%
Rumigan Range available for direct delivery to farm. *Rumigan 16% nuts also available in 25kg bags ex branch.	

Note: although none of the feeds have added magnesium the Multi Rearer Pellets for creep feeding lambs do not contain inhibitors against urinary calculi.

Ewes should be offered compound feed to maintain energy intake. If the ewes have been scanned they can be divided into groups so that feed can be targeted to ewes carrying multiples or those in poor condition.

In these last few weeks the intake of the ewe is so low that a high energy density is critical to promote udder development and better milk yields after lambing. With forage quality variability this year it is advisable to get it tested to ensure the diet is adequate. A ewe carrying twins will have such restricted rumen volume that it will be

impossible for her to eat enough to satisfy her own and the lambs' energy requirement if the forage is low energy or low dry matter.

At this stage it is too late to restrict feed to overfat ewes, internal fat will further restrict her intakes so these ewes are often prone to twin lamb disease.

Under organic guidelines the ewe should be fed at least 60% forage at all times so it is essential that the preserved forage is analysed and the best kept for pre and post lambing.

Guidelines

A 70kg lowland ewe carrying twins requires 15MJ of energy and 170g of protein per day.

Pre lambing, ewes will have an average intake of 1.8kg DM/day.

If the maximum compound allowed (40%DM) is 0.85kg nuts/day.

If the dry forage has 9.8MJ/kg DM or better, then 0.5kg of Rumigan 18 Nuts will be enough to balance, giving 16 MJ and 190g protein to a ewe achieving her maximum intake. If she is carrying triplets, even at maximum compound the forage will need to be very high quality.

If feeding turnips or fodder beet to pregnant ewes, remember both have good energy levels in the dry matter but fodder beet are over 80% water and stubble turnips can be 90%, so they should be avoided with ewes carrying multiples. It will also be helpful to have some milk substitute or frozen organic milk/colostrum ready for lambs that are struggling and also some creep pellets to help get lambs growing.

We can only supply organic approved sheep milk substitute Zelmo Green minimum ½ tonne order.

For more information contact the FeedLine on 01278 444829



Sheep industry overview

Peter Delbridge, sheep farmer and MVF Director

When we take time out to review the last twelve months, most sheep farmers can look back with some relief that they have fared a little better than other sectors of UK agriculture. Whilst finished lamb values did have their usual dip mid season, this happened later (around Royal Welsh show week), and when they started to climb steadily through November, many seasoned industry commentators were surprised that their revival had started with Christmas more than a month away. However, store lamb buyers may have had an inkling that things would pick up soon to complement the abundance of autumn grass, as the store trade was consistently ahead of finished values throughout the autumn. Lambs bought in early autumn have returned a healthy margin, quicker than most finishers expected, tempting them back to the store ring to repeat the process, let's hope with similar results as everybody in the chain needs a little bit!

Had it not been for the Euro being some ten per cent weaker than it was a couple of years ago, returns would have been undoubtedly higher. Also, many sheep farmers are rightly incensed that New Zealand product is still finding its way onto supermarket shelves in the middle of our season. I can understand the need for this when UK supplies are tight, as it keeps lamb in front of the consumer, but in September when quality is high and quantity of home produced lamb is plentiful, one can only assume that the retailers are attempting to oversupply the market and therefore manipulate the UK farm gate price. Remember, it is only eighteen months since 'horsegate' when, in the media storm that ensued, the retailers vowed to source from home producers whenever possible. They seem to have omitted 'as long as it leaves the biggest margin'!

However, whilst these two factors could have resulted in increased income, it is the lower inputs that really have had the greatest influence on the bottom line. The most important contributor being the weather, probably the best year many can remember. An early spring, kind lambing, and a summer that contained the right balance of rain and sun, especially the further west and higher up you were. Not only were losses minimal but the sheep, young and old, enjoyed having sun on their backs, as did the shepherds! With ewes and rams in fine fettle going to the tup, we naturally assume that there will be a good crop of lambs

dropped this spring. With plenty of sunshine during June and July sugar levels, and therefore the quality of the fodder conserved should be better than average, so ewes may require less concentrate supplementation than normal. To get an accurate picture it would be prudent to get the fodder analysed. The concentrates that will be needed should also be considerably cheaper than we have become accustomed to in the recent past. For those that have been thinking about creep feeding those March born lambs and have never been bold enough to do it, this could be the year to try. It may pay to get them gone before numbers really start coming out in July.

I am a member of a group of farmers involved in a sheep breeding programme which is looking at maintaining margins by changing to a breed of sheep that requires lower inputs, such as the 'Exlana' which is a wool shedding maternal sheep, whose selection is based on performance recording of many traits including, DLWG (daily liveweight gain), muscle depth, maternal ability, dag scoring, wool shedding and worm resistance. More details in a coming newsletter.

The lambs that are born this spring will have to comply with the regulations regarding EID, which as the difficulties of reading and reporting at markets and abattoirs become more apparent, is throwing up more and more examples of inconsistencies, inadequate equipment and poor procedure. Therefore to be sure movement recording is completed satisfactory before the sheep are sold and disappear completely, we will all have to have readers on the farm of departure before long. Correcting mistakes after the event is very difficult, if not impossible. At least then, should one get an RPA inspection, the farm records will be in order thus avoiding a deduction to the Basic Payment Scheme payment. Whether they will match the records at the Animal Reporting and Movement Service is another matter, as by all accounts, the south west is struggling, with very few able to use the online service and many reverting to paper based reporting. It's frustrating that theory is proving so difficult to put into practice, despite the considerable investment by grass roots farmers, and is not yet delivering the real time information that would be needed in the midst of a disease outbreak.



The best start in life for lambs



*Becca Vallis BVetMed, MRCVS
Molecare FarmVets*

In order to produce well grown, healthy lambs, it is imperative that lambs receive the best start in life. If lambing indoors, the shed should be a clean, well lit and ventilated area. Adequate skilled labour should be available throughout the lambing period to allow all newborn lambs to be closely monitored and early treatment to be administered when necessary for the best chances of survival.

Hygiene

A clean and hygienic environment is of utmost importance for new born lambs. They enter the world with very little protection of their own from disease and so exposure to bacteria needs to be minimal.

All pens should be cleaned out and disinfected between ewes. If this is not possible, replace the bedding as a minimum. Dusting lime powder under bedding acts as a drying agent and helps to reduce the risk of bacterial growth. Minimising stocking densities also minimises the risk of disease.

Ensure water and feed buckets are kept clean on a day to day basis. Hot water and soap should be used to clean out stomach tubes and lamb bottles after every use.

If a lambing requires assistance, ensure hands and arms are clean before entering the ewe. Using a new pair of arm length gloves for each lambing will ensure you remain clean and, therefore, the ewes have less risk of getting a post lambing infection.

Ensuring adequate lamb nutrition

Colostrum contains natural antibodies which provide newborn lambs with protection against diseases such as watery mouth, navel ill and joint ill in the first few weeks of life. If ewes have been managed and fed appropriately during pregnancy they should produce good quality colostrum. Vaccinating the ewes 4-6 weeks prior to lambing against clostridial disease and pasterella will also provide protection to the lambs through the colostrum.

In order to receive the benefits of colostrum, lambs must receive adequate amounts within the first 4 hours of life. If in doubt 50ml/kg (approx. 200ml for a 4kg lamb) should be administered via stomach tube.

Colostrum substitutes are available; however natural ewe colostrum is the gold standard. Ewes that have more colostrum than is immediately required can have it stripped from them and frozen in small quantities to be used for lambs that require "topping up". If using frozen colostrum care should be taken to defrost it gently as overheating it will destroy the antibodies present.

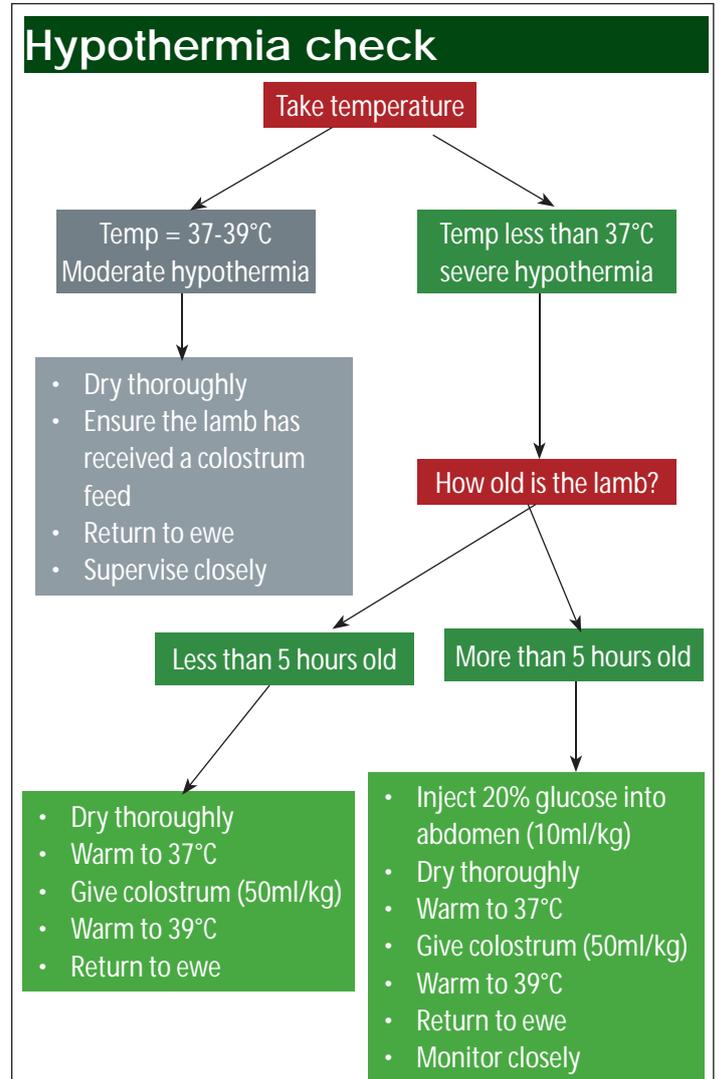
Protection from disease

All lambs' navels should be dipped in an iodine solution at birth; this can be repeated 4 hours later if necessary. The navel provides a direct route for bacteria to travel into the lamb resulting in 'navel ill' and 'joint ill', serious diseases that often result in death. Iodine acts as a disinfectant and dries the navel out, therefore decreasing the risk of these diseases.

Treating hypothermia

Hypothermia sets in when a lamb's body temperature drops below 39°C. This usually occurs in small weak lambs that have not received adequate colostrum, however any lamb can be susceptible if born into a wet, cold environment or does not receive enough feed. 'Lamb Macs' can help prevent hypothermia in young lambs living outdoors when the weather is cold and wet. Treatment for hypothermia depends on the temperature and age of the lamb. In lambs over 5 hours old it is important to provide the lamb with either colostrum or glucose before warming the lamb up.

A 20% glucose injection into the abdomen of a severely hypothermic lamb can be life-saving. Most glucose available is 40%, this can be



continued on next page...

Newborn lambs

continued from previous page ...

made into a 20% solution by mixing 25ml of 40% glucose with 25ml of boiled water. Locate the point an inch to the right and an inch below the umbilicus, insert the needle at a 45° angle pointing towards the tail and slowly inject the solution. Ask your vet for a demonstration if you are unsure.

Summary for reducing risk if disease in newborn lambs:

1. Good Hygiene throughout the lambing shed
2. Dip navels with iodine solution
3. Ensure adequate colostrum in first 4 hours of life
4. Regular monitoring of lambs and ewes for signs of disease.
5. Early intervention and treatment when problems arise



Product highlights for February

Boost ewes for healthier lambs

Vaccination of ewes against pasteurellosis and the main clostridial diseases is an essential part of flock health planning. Ewes that have had a full primary Heptavac-P Plus vaccination course against these key disease threats now need a booster 4-6 weeks before lambing.

Boosting the ewe with a 2ml injection of Heptavac-P Plus 4-6 weeks before lambing not only boosts her own immunity, it also increases the concentration of protective antibodies in her colostrum and these pass to the newborn lamb when it suckles. However, this disease protection only lasts for a limited period. Lambs that receive a good intake of colostrum only have antibodies against pasteurella for up to four weeks and clostridia for up to 12 weeks. Thereafter lambs (over three weeks of age) need to be vaccinated with Ovivac-P Plus or Heptavac-P Plus to maintain their protection against these two key diseases.

Pasteurellosis, for example, is a year round problem and is responsible for many unnecessary and unwanted deaths. The unpredictability and rapid onset of an outbreak of septicaemia or pneumonia – and the relatively poor success rate of antibiotics – means a consistent and comprehensive vaccination programme is more than justified. It is a relatively small cost to pay for year-round protection and peace of mind. The same can be said for protection against the main clostridial diseases.

Heptavac-P plus

Available at your local branch or online

- 50ml 01381B
- 100ml 01486B
- 250ml 01487B
- 500ml 01488B



Animal husbandry

Help prevent infections with Iodine

While weather issues are difficult to control, transitional winter/spring weather can create an explosion of bacteria that will infect and thrive on the moist umbilical cord of newborn lambs. With the lambing season around the corner, now is the time to stock up on your lambing essentials!

Navel infection can be readily prevented by fully immersing the navel in 10% iodine as soon as possible after a lamb's birth. A 10% BP Iodine concentration is generally accepted to be the optimum strength for giving a high level of protection against umbilical infection in vulnerable newborn lambs and is more effective than expensive antibiotic aerosol sprays

While a 7% concentration is adequate as a drying agent for navels, 10% BP Iodine provides a high bacterial kill and causes the umbilical cord to dry up rapidly,

reducing the risk of bacteria from getting in, yet it will not damage the skin. It also adheres to the treated area for longer than weaker solutions.

Iodine spray 7.5% BP

SAVE 25%



500ml spray

Normal price £6.95

£5.²¹

MVF CODE 1077211

GREAT VALUE

Iodine 10% BP

500ml spray

£7.⁹⁵

MVF CODE 34711



2.5ltr

£23.⁰⁰

MVF CODE 34709

Offers are available for the month of February whilst stocks last.

Collate whole lamb colostrum



500ml
PLUS lamb tube and
bottle foc
Worth £3.60



**GREAT
OFFER**

No VAT

£22.70

MVF CODE 02413/4275

**Feeding ewes for
lamb health and
vigour**

The Nutri-LINK range of sheep minerals help to provide the ewe with a supply of essential minerals, vitamins and trace elements. The range, all available for delivery to farm, with GP Sheep Minerals stocked in 25kg bags at branches as well, includes:

**BUY 4
GET 5th
FREE**



Roto-Corona plus syringe

No VAT

£8.70

MVF CODE 35730

Nutri-LINK GP Sheep mineral

This product is a good all round mineral for ewes, both pre and post lambing. With good levels of cobalt, zinc, iodine, selenium and vitamin E and containing vitamin B12. 25kg bags.

**GREAT
VALUE**

Molecare lamb colostrum

500g

No VAT

£23.95

MVF CODE 61227



1kg

No VAT

£38.15

MVF CODE 61228

Nutri-LINK Elite Ewe minerals

Available for direct to farm delivery (minimum ½ tonne drop) and provides excellent levels of cobalt, zinc, iodine and selenium and contains vitamin B12. When fed at 30g per head per day will also provide the target 100iu vitamin E per head.

**Nutri-LINK Housed Ewe
minerals (Free Access)**

Formulated for ewes which are housed for the longer term. These are also available for direct to farm delivery (minimum ½ tonne drop) and provides excellent levels of cobalt, zinc, iodine and selenium and contains vitamin B12. When fed at 30g per head per day will also provide the target 100iu vitamin E per head.

**BUY 4
GET 5th
FREE**

Super Sprayline marking spray

400ml

£4.70



available
in blue, red,
yellow, green,
black, orange
or purple

MVF CODES 5477UB, R, Y, RG, B, NG

All Nutri-LINK sheep minerals in the range are weatherproofed and suitable for free use or can be incorporated with feed.

Options:

Also available on both the Nutri-LINK Elite Ewe and Nutri-LINK Housed Ewe minerals (detailed above) containing protected zinc and organic selenium (minimum ½ tonne drop).

If you require further guidance or advice on our sheep mineral supplement product range, please contact the mineral helpline on: 01278 420481 or email: minerals@molevalleyfarmers.com

**GREAT
VALUE**

MoleMark marker sprays

400ml

Long lasting,
fully scourable,
waterproof
Available in red,
green, orange or
blue

£3.75

MVF CODES 1085517/19-21



- Approved raw materials.
- Full traceability.
- Stringent quality controls.
- High degree of flexibility.
- In-house technical support.

Offers are available for the month of February whilst stocks last.



National Grassland event comes to Cornwall

Mike and Clare Parnell and nephew, Philip Kent, are one of the hosts for the British Grassland Society Summer meeting, the main venue and accommodation of which are to be at Lanhydrock near Bodmin on 12-15 July. Eight of the top grassland farmers in Cornwall will be opening their gates to farmers from across the country.

The Parnell's farm runs to 430 acres and carries a flock of 1,000 Poll Dorset and Poll Dorset X Romney ewes and ewe lambs. The ewes are lambed indoors in 4 weeks from the end of January, and the ewe lambs over 5 weeks from mid March. The Romney was introduced in order to bring some hybrid vigour into the flock and to put greater emphasis on producing meat from grass. A small Poll Dorset flock is retained. Charollais and Aberdale (Charollais X Texel from Innovis) rams are used as terminal sires with all lambs sold to H R Jasper & Son at Launceston. A high emphasis is put on performance recording both of bought in rams and own bred stock. 165% lambs were reared from ewes in 2014. Average carcass weight was 19.09kg.

Since Philip joined the farm partnership he has improved the grassland significantly bringing in new high sugar varieties, reducing the risk of drought with the use of chicory.



The family buy 140 calves from one dairy farm in March and April, mainly British Blue crosses and some straight dairy. These are reared through to finish at 20 to 22 months on a grass and cereal based system. All cattle are sold direct to slaughter to Dawn Meat, Treburley, Cornwall.

60 acres of cereals are grown. Most of the grain is crimped for the cattle. This year 10 acres of fodder beet has been grown to feed to ewes, post lambing, alongside spring grass.

The farm are long term users of EID for their closed flock of 1000 Poll Dorset X Romney ewes and Clare writes about the benefits this brings on the next page and below you will find information from the team at Mole Valley Plus on EID systems.



EID tag systems

Choosing the correct EID management system can be a very daunting prospect with so many options on the market and such a wide range of capabilities.

The service that Mole Valley Farmers can offer you is support throughout the process, from selecting the most suitable system for your farm, to ongoing technical advice. We have a team of specialists who can discuss options available for EID tags, EID readers, handling and weigh systems plus other experts including our Red Meat Team, who provide invaluable support, ensuring the process is as straightforward and profitable as possible to fit with your individual business needs.



Management systems available to you

The most basic system available would be an EID reader that will read your tags then link to your computer to download the tag data onto an easy to use spreadsheet.

The next step is to link this information to the animal's weight. A basic weigh system will allow manual input of weight alongside animal identification numbers, with more advanced systems including Bluetooth capability alongside electronic recording and presentation of your results.



Handling systems make management of your flock much quicker, more efficient and therefore a more profitable process overall. A mobile handling system such as the Prattley or Alligator system will allow many optional extras such as electronic weigh systems, shedding gates and panel EID readers to be added at a later date if needed. At the very highest level of handling capabilities would be a fully automated system which will read tags, weigh and draft your stock, with a total hands free operation achievable.

For further information on the full range of EID tags, weigh systems and handling options available to you, please contact our team at Mole Valley Plus on 01769 576201 and we will be very happy to support you throughout your decision process.

Sheep EID - is it all bad?

by Clare Parnell



Livestock farming is a full time job ... and then there's the paperwork!! We all know that the burden of regulation is increasing. We need to adhere to new regulations and then spend a great deal of time proving, through form filling that we do. New regulations are here to stay, so can we make use of some of the data we have to collect to improve our farm businesses?

We run a closed flock of 1000 Poll Dorset X Romney ewes and we have used individual EID for the last 9 years and think that it gives us enough performance information to make it worthwhile. It takes time, particularly at lambing, so there needs to be definite benefits. It is not for everyone.

We record which lambs we send to abattoir, and use it to check lamb growth rates, compare offspring from different ram breeds, identify and cull ewes that are not earning us money, and check what level of disease problem we have.

Checking lamb growth rates

When we weigh lambs the EID reader automatically enters the weight on the computer. In the office I download the weights and check the daily liveweight gains (DLWG). We aim for 0.3kg per day from birth to slaughter. If the gains are below this we want to know why: is it bad weather, do the lambs need worming? Perhaps they need moving to a fresh pasture? Not as simple as having enough grass? There are fields on the farm where lambs do not perform well. Do they need re-seeding, or are they low in nutrients or trace elements? We can also compare DLWG of lambs sired by different breeds of rams to help us select future terminal sires.

Selecting our best ewes to breed replacements or cull

We use our EID records to decide which ewes to breed from. With only a few exceptions, we select ewes that have had twins throughout their lives. We de-select those ewes whose lambs have poor growth rates. We de-select ewes with any negative comments, such as foot rot or a difficult lambing, or if we have had to take one lamb off. Then, hopefully we have enough ewes left to breed the replacements we need!

We want to identify the ewes in the flock that are not earning and cull them. After weaning we check all the ewes for teeth and udders in the normal way. Then we look at our EID records and cull any ewe that prolapsed. We have a policy of '3 strikes and you're out' for everything else. We also cull the dams of lambs with low growth rates unless it was obviously due to a problem with the lamb such as joint ill.

Checking levels of disease

Have you ever had a flock health problem – say abortion and the vet asks you how many cases you've had? You sort of add up in your head



The hand held stock recorder

and guess / estimate a figure. By recording that information on the handheld computer, you have a true percentage to hand, and it can be quite alarming looking at a report showing the number of animals you have treated for mastitis or joint ill for example.

Shedding out dry ewes

Having enough grass in the spring is usually a problem with a lot of lambs on the ground and

weaned calves to turn out. When we have sold a fair proportion of lambs from a flock, we want to shed the dry ewes to keep the best grass for those with lambs. We can set the computer to identify these and, as they run past the reader, their tags will be automatically read and an arrow shows me which way to shed them.

How much you get out of the system depends on what information you put in. Unfortunately, a lot of the information needs to be put in at lambing when we are at our busiest. I tag and record our lambs whilst they are in individual pens before turnout. I would think this takes me 3-4 minutes a pen, but this includes tailing, castrating and spraying numbers on the sides of the lambs and ewe.

Selecting a good, easy to use, 'farmer friendly' and reliable EID system with a good support system is very important. You need someone on the end of the phone when you start, or when you forget how to do something. The company you deal with should be able to provide the support you may need, mine does.

Cluson rechargeable floodlights

These floodlights are completely portable and powered by a lightweight Li-ion battery. Recharging is carried out with the mains 240v AC supply or directly from a vehicle (12/24DC). Charge time is controlled by a battery management system (BMS) for complete protection.

IDEAL FOR LAMBING

Cluson 10W (block of 10) - 1000 lumens



Duration of 4-5 hours continuous use.
Charge time is approx. 3 hours

£37.⁵⁰

MVF CODE 1073623

Clulite 20W LED2000 lumens



EXCLUSIVE TO MVF

Duration and charge time of approx. 5 to 6 hours.

£60.⁰⁰

MVF CODE 1078394

Mole Valley Farmers sheep compound range

Key general features of our ewe feed range are summarised in the table on the right. Product selection and exact feed rates will depend on breed, body condition, forage quality and quantity and the target level of performance.

Product	Form	Protein	System	Key feature
Champion Ewe	Nut and roll	18	Traditional lowland	Low cost
Super Ewe	Nut	18	High performance lowland	Optimised nutrition
Premier Ewe	Nut and roll	18 and 20	High performance lowland	Sugar beet, wheat and soya hipro
Prestige Plus	Nut	20	Indoor, high performance	Biotin, ProPass or Prairie, Megalac
Multimix Sheep	Pellet	30	Home mix	Mineral content

Improved range for this season

A combination of sound experience, understanding the latest market and recent developments in ewe and lamb feeding has resulted in an improved range of Mole Valley Feed Solutions sheep feeds for this season.

Products are formulated to several unique components (see Table 1).

Table 1

Key feature	Product type
Selected ingredients	All sheep feeds
Fixed formulation	All sheep feeds
Excellent palatability	All sheep feeds
Optimum mineral balance	All sheep feeds
Very high vitamin E (155 iu/kg)	Ewe feeds
High selenium (0.6 mg/kg)	Ewe feeds
Copper antagonist	Lamb feeds and specialist ewe
Ammonium chloride	Lamb feeds

Ewe feeds are designed to maximize the number of viable lambs born, ensure ewes lamb down with enough colostrum and have enough body reserves to produce the required amount of milk during lactation.

Amount and type of energy supply is crucial. In order to optimize rumen function, diets must be formulated to a specific level of starch and digestible fibre. Overfeeding starch, particularly in late pregnancy when forage intakes are low, can lead to acidosis and potentially serious consequences on the subsequent health and performance of the ewe.

Amount and type of protein supply is also crucial. Numerous studies have demonstrated the need to provide sufficient protein to ewes during late pregnancy and early lactation. As a result of a detailed knowledge of individual ingredients, products are formulated to specific levels of digestible, undegradable protein (DUP). This results in increases in lamb birth weights and milk protein content. Ultimately, the effect is stronger and faster growing lambs. The benefit of ensuring an adequate supply of vitamin E is now widely documented, but often ignored. Detailed trials have provided evidence that ewes fed additional vitamin E produced lambs that were more vigorous at birth and had faster growth rates.

Potential cost of poor quality feed	1 lost ewe = £60.00
	1 lost lamb = £80.00

Investing in quality ewe compounds will help lamb birth weights, increase colostrum quality and quantity and above all reduce lamb mortality at lambing.

This table highlights the investment per ewe of compound feed.

For example, if you are purchasing ewe compound at £225 per tonne feeding 25kg per ewe for the lambing period – this equates to an investment of £5.62 per ewe.

Feed price (£ per tonne)	Extra investment per ewe	
	25kg feed	50kg feed
£5.00	12.5p	25p
£10.00	25p	50p
£15.00	37p	75p
£20.00	50p	100p
£25.00	62.5p	125p

This table highlights the investment per ewe of purchasing a quality ewe compound.

For example, if a higher quality ewe compound is £20 per more expensive, this only equates to 50p per ewe if fed at 25kg.

Feed price (£ per tonne)	Feed cost per ewe	
	25kg feed	50kg feed
£200	£5.00	£10.00
£225	£5.62	£11.25
£250	£6.25	£12.50
£275	£6.87	£13.75
£300	£7.50	£15.00

New Sheep Rationing Service

- Developed in conjunction with SAC Consulting
- Create feed plans specific to farm and forage
- Helps to minimise feed cost and optimise profitability

Speak to your nutritionist TODAY

Call your Feed Specialist or the FeedLine on 01278 444829 for more information on compound sheep feeds

Pressure washers - they're not all the same!

Kranzle pressure washers

The Kranzle company is exceptional because it is a true manufacturer of high pressure cleaners.

Between 80 and 90% of the components in a Kranzle machine are made by the company in their own factories in Bavaria, Germany. Even electric motors are made by the company to perfectly match the pumps and give maximum performance and reliability, the machine's super strong chassis and rotationally moulded plastic covers are made in house. It is Kranzle's policy to invest in production machinery that gives them independence from outside suppliers and the best possible quality control.

The company has manufactured their own pumps for nearly 40 years and quality, reliability and durability have always been vitally important. The pumps are made from hot forged brass and stainless steel, the quality of the brass pump head is so high that this part has a 10 year anti-corrosion guarantee. Another major feature of every Kranzle pump is the ceramic coated pump pistons. The pistons are made from high quality stainless steel which is blasted with ceramic at 30,000°C and then diamond polished. This produces a very thin, smooth and hard wearing surface that cannot crack or craze. The pumps have twin high pressure water seals with an air gap between them and the oil seals. Teflon and graphite wear rings on the pistons provide dry running protection and the valves have stainless steel seats and poppers. Every single machine and even individual guns and lances are tested before they leave the factory to ensure that their performance is perfect and Kranzle's strict quality control measures are met.

Kranzle do not build lightweight machines suitable only for home use. Even the smallest machine is designed for an average daily use of around three hours, this means that there is a model suitable for every cleaning requirement. Their pressure washers are built to meet the requirements of demanding applications, give many years of reliable service and be excellent value for money.

The warranty is 24 months for domestic use and 12 months for commercially used machines. Commercial warranty can be extended to 24 months by having the machine serviced in accordance with its amount of use by an approved Servicing Agent during the 1st and 2nd years.

Mole Valley Farmers have supplied Kranzle equipment for over 20 years and are an approved Sales and Service Agent for the whole product range.

SPECIAL OFFER

10m Kranzle high pressure hose extension with coupling worth £41.60 with these three Kranzle models

(offer ends 31/3/15 - MVF CODES 06476/08868)

FREE



Kranzle 2160TS
High performance, robust cold water

- 10m steel braided hose
- Trigger gun with safety catch
- Dirt killer with stainless steel pipe
- Vario jet lance with stainless steel pipe

11 litres per minute

£649.00
MVF CODE 47049

Kranzle 1152 (TST)
Powerful, compact and convenient

- 15m steel braided hose
- Trigger gun with safety catch
- Dirt killer with stainless steel pipe
- Total stop system
- Stainless steel lance with flat jet nozzle



10 litres per minute

£545.00
MVF CODE 59517

Kranzle HD10/122
Portable, compact cold water



- 10m Steel braided hose
- Trigger gun with safety catch
- Dirt killer and stainless steel lance with flat jet nozzle

10 litres per minute

£393.00
MVF CODE 34795



Pressure washing around the home

Karcher K2

Compact, home pressure washer



£83.32
MVF CODE 61285

Stihl RE118

for cleaning around the home and garden



£221.35
MVF CODE 39100

Offers are available for the month of February or whilst stocks last.

News

Mole Valley Farmers sponsor Holsworthy Under 10's football team



Mole Valley Farmers are pleased to sponsor the Holsworthy under 10's football team. Paul Barnes, from the Holsworthy stock team is pictured above with the team who are proudly wearing their jackets. Paul's son is a keen member of the team!

If you have any news that you think may be of interest to Mole Valley Farmers, please contact newsletters@molevalleyfarmers.com

Hannah runs for Msaada



Farm vet Hannah Davies, will be swapping her stethoscope and arm length gloves for running trainers this February. She will be flying out to Rwanda in West Africa to take part in a half marathon for the charity Msaada, which is a UK charity set up after the Rwandan genocide in 1994. Over the past 10 years Msaada has assisted with the development of income-generating projects run by Rwandans themselves.

Hannah will be visiting the Msaada cow project where in-calf European dairy heifers are donated to widow families of the genocide. These cows provide a source of milk for

food and to sell; manure can be used to fertilise crops and biogas is harvested from the manure for cooking. The cow projects are helping the people of Rwanda to restore their livelihoods that were destroyed in the genocide.

Msaada organise the half marathon every year to raise vital funds. Hannah is hoping to raise £2500, which will pay for one cow to be donated to a widow family from the Rwandan genocide.

If you would like to sponsor Hannah, you can visit her just giving page at www.justgiving.com/Hannah-Msaada.

For more information on Msaada go to msaada.org

Newton St Cyres YFC visits France twice in a month!

Fourteen members from Newton St Cyres Young Farmers Club recently travelled to Normandy in France, with their president Stewart Turner and advisory member Stuart Luxton who helped organise the trip. During the four days in France, the group visited Bayeux, the American War Monument, a D-Day landing museum and beach, Pegasus Bridge and Mont Saint-Michel.

The Young Farmers were also lucky enough to have a tour of a beef farm and a dairy farm in Commes, which was kindly arranged by contacts of Stuart Luxton. The group stayed at a hotel in Port En Bessin which was base for the four days, where they sampled the local cuisine and visited the well known Sunday market.

Six club members travelled 26 hours on a coach to Val Thorens in France for a week on the slopes. Everyone had an enjoyable week and luckily all returned home without any broken bones. The annual trip was organised by Will Dracup and Millie Murphy of Devon YFC, for a group of 58 members.



Club members enjoying a farm tour in Commes, France.

Some female members are participating in tug of war competitions after a successful year in 2014, if anyone would like to join this team, contact Emma the club captain on 07835 253760.

The club will be holding their popular 'Cider and Pasty Quiz', at Sandford Parish Hall, on 27th February 7pm for 7.30pm start. Teams of 4 £20, including a drink and pasty per person. The event is jointly organised with Crediton and Witheridge NFU. To enter a team call the Crediton NFU on 01363 775511 email crediton_agency@nfumutual.co.uk.

This year we have seen an increase in membership. We are always looking for different places to visit, and speakers for our club meetings. If you can help in anyway, please email georginadavie@hotmail.co.uk.

WINNERS!

Congratulations to the winners of our prize draw to win a top of the range Cometa Fenix 400. It's a Prestige rifle with redesigned front and rear sights. The competition ran from 1st Sept – 30th Nov. Shaun Carter, Manager at South Molton presented Steve Hawkins from Chulmleigh (left) and Sam Wright from UMBERLEIGH (right) with their rifles and Steve Noall, Manager at Bridgwater presented Allan Wellwood from Taunton with his prize.



Congratulations to you all!

Mole Oil

SPECIAL OFFER

Covering a wide range of agricultural and other applications from tractor and engine oil, transmission oil, chainsaw oil, lawnmower oil and milking machine oil, this range is manufactured by a leading supplier and gives a great value range of quality oils. Selected 205L barrels come with a free, lever action barrel pump this month.



FREE PUMP

FREE Lever action barrel pump



Pump worth £22.95
MVF CODE 1086512

MVF code	Mole Oil - 205 litres	Price
1072752	Mole Oil Utto 10W-30	£299
1072757	Mole Oil Suto 15W-30	£295
1072754	Mole Oil Suto 10W-30	£295
1072753	Mole Oil Premium Engine 15W-40	£279
1072755	Mole Oil Hydraulic 32	£230
1072756	Mole Oil Hydraulic 46	£230

Premium engine oil 10W-40 LOW SAPS HDZ



20 litre

£63.00

MVF CODE 1089323

Ad-Blue



18 litre

£18.25

MVF CODE 1088116

Exide vehicle batteries

Exide are one of the largest manufacturers of vehicle batteries in the world with over 120 years in the business and they manufacture a large percentage of their own range themselves.

Premium range (light vehicles) 4 year warranty

This range has 30% extra starting power compared to a standard battery.

- Suitable for every day use and intensive urban type driving
- Complies with original manufacturers part matching quality
- State of charge indicator to see charge level at a glance
- Maintenance free

Excell range (light vehicles) 3 year warranty

This range has 15% extra starting power compared to a standard battery

- Complies with original manufacturers part matching quality
- Suitable for every day use.
- State of charge indicator to see charge level at a glance.
- Maintenance free

Professional heavy range (Commercial) 2 year warranty

- Complies with original manufacturers' part matching quality
- Wide range of fitment options
- Standard starting power
- Specifically recommended for pre-2000 vehicles under regular use

Economy heavy range (Commercial) 2 year warranty

- Value for money range that will meet vehicles basic requirements

Quad bike batteries

- Maintenance free
- 1 year warranty

With a range of over 30 Exide batteries in most branches we can meet most requirements from stock. You will find it hard locate another agricultural supplier who has as comprehensive a range as Mole Valley Farmers!

With regular deliveries direct from Exide, we can also order the battery you require if not in stock. Please call your branch for details.

Offers are available for the month of February or whilst stocks last.

Mole Insurance Services



Insurance packages for horses

We understand that owning a horse is a considerable investment, so it is important that you have an insurance policy in place to help protect you, should anything happen.

Unfortunately, horses can fall ill and need expensive veterinary care when you least expect it and riding accidents do happen. Having quality insurance cover in place can help take away the financial worries and offer you peace of mind so you can focus on getting your horse back to the best of health.

We work with long established insurers, who specialise in horse insurance. We can also arrange insurance for horses over the age of 20 and for those who ride but don't own their own horse.

Cover can include:

- Veterinary fees
- Cover for the loss of your horse by theft or straying
- Permanent loss of use
- Protection in the sad event of your horse's death
- Saddlery and tack
- Personal accident
- Legal expenses
- Cover for trailers and horse-drawn vehicles
- Horsebox breakdown cover

Team Focus: Alison Wilmot



Alison Wilmot is our Senior Farming Account Manager, specialising in farm and horse insurance. Previously the Senior Agent at the NFU Mutual in Hereford, Alison has over 30 years' experience in the insurance industry. With a passion for all things agricultural, particularly cattle and a genuine love of horses, Alison has her own Dartmoor pony and thoroughbred stud and is well placed to advise you on the most appropriate level of protection for you.

farm • smallholding
commercial motors • horse
public liability • home
car • travel • pets

request a quote today
0845 265 7951
moleinsurance.co.uk

Mole Valley Plus
Field shelter special
offer for February

Mole Valley Plus is offering a mono pitch field shelter with the option of a free of charge gate for the month of February, giving members a saving of £165.

These field shelters are of an exceptional build quality and provide an extremely solid and hard wearing building, suitable for a huge range of purposes, making a very useful addition to any farm, smallholding or equestrian property.

Our mono-pitch field shelter comes with timber components ready flat packed for self-assembly, with an instruction manual and the option of a gate front and canopy. Box profile steel roof sheets provide a smart and practical finish, with exceptional weather proofing qualities and timber skids for ease of movement. All timber is pressure treated and the building comes with fully galvanised fixings, to ensure a quality finish and an extremely hard wearing field shelter.

These shelters can be used for a wide range of purposes

Stables special offer for
February

We also have a special offer on stables, giving you a free of charge upgrade to fibre cement roof sheets worth £150 + VAT per stable! These stables have exceptional build quality with all timber pressure treated in brown to give a superior finish.

When you are preparing your site we can offer discounted rates for concrete, aggregates, tool and machinery hire, making the job easier and saving you money.

For further information on this offer and the full range of timber buildings available from Mole Valley Plus, call our team today on 01769 576201



A month of adventures!

by Katie Allin

It's lovely to see the snowdrops and some bold bulbs trying to encourage us that spring is not far away. The evenings are also starting to pull out, allowing the children to get a quick ride in after school. This is the time of year where I start to put the winter behind us and begin planning the year ahead.

When I teach my students I always encourage them to set goals, both short and long term. Looking after animals can become a bit like groundhog day, particularly during the winter months when you live your life mucking out, cleaning off mud, fetching, carrying, hay-nets, and riding the quickest route so you don't feel guilty that your horse hasn't been out, but you need to get home before every part of your clothing is soaked to the skin! Goals allow you to stay focused, keep on track, remain motivated.

Ruby, my accident prone thoroughbred, has been off for most of the winter through a self-inflicted injury whilst out in the field, so we are just starting a fittening programme that, at the moment, means plenty of hacking in straight lines, ideally with not too many hills - not that easy in North Devon!

One of my worries whilst being on the road is the traffic. I don't class myself as 'that' old, but I do feel the volume of traffic and speed that it travels is on the increase and the recommended two metre clearance and passing at 15mph is not always adhered to. This is a worry when retraining a racehorse or taking children out.



We are fortunate that our neighbours are very good and pass wide and slow. We always try and pull over as soon as possible, as well as ride off road when we can, but sometimes there is no other option but to go on the road. We are also always fully hi vized up. I read somewhere that certain insurance companies are no longer covering riders who do not wear the minimum of a tabard and two leg bandages, as this equipment can allow drivers greater response time. (Give Mole Insurance Services a call - Ed!)

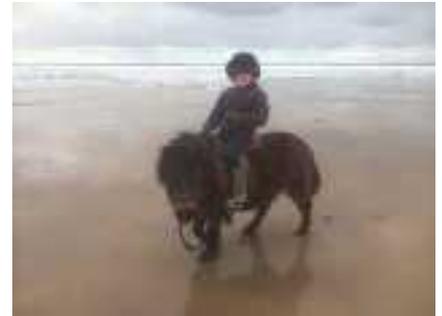
Mole Valley do a great range in Hi-Viz gear, that is very reasonably priced and I urge you to pick some up next time you're in or online, they even do little fluorescent dog coats - cute!

Talking of cute, William, Harriet and Nutmeg have been on plenty of adventures since I last wrote, particularly after the children brought Nutmeg indoors to warm by the Rayburn



Left: Harriet, William and dad ready for a ride.
Above: William being interviewed by Tarka Radio and Mole Valley Farmers' own John Lawrence!

and play a game of Ludo with her. By the way, the photo of this (see last month's newsletter) went viral (for non internet folk 'viral' means rather popular!).



Harriet and Nutmeg on their trip to the beach

They've been on radio, television and the papers, with viewers finding it very 'Enid Blyton'. To us it was just a step up from having a lamb in the kitchen, but to others in urban areas they thought it quite unusual.

Harriet has also taken Nutmeg to the beach for the first time. Our North Devon coastline is quite stunning and to enjoy it on horseback is what dreams are made of.

This time of year the beaches are quite empty and when the tide is right you can ride for miles along the great stretches of sand with cliffs on one side and the sea on the other, it's truly breathtaking.

Harriet and Nutmeg did very well splashing through water and trotting along the sand, until a naughty wave caught Nutmeg's back legs, making her sit down in surprise and Harriet slid off her bottom, landing in the cold sea! Luckily I was right beside her to fish her out, but we lost a Wellington boot in the process and now probably somewhere en route to America.

Back to the horsebox to dry off and warm up with hot chocolate and good job Mole Valley Farmers sell wellington boots!

No Bull hi-viz clothing

This vest top features breathable fluorescent fabric with reflexite reflective material for added visibility and a front zip closure. Conforms to EN1150.



XS-XL

£10.⁹⁹

MVF CODE 1052604

A padded jacket which features breathable fabric with 3m Scotchlite reflective material for added visibility and 360° of reflection and fluorescent properties. Finishing touches include inside phone pocket and zipped pockets.



S-L

£38.⁹⁹

MVF CODE 1052564



Mole Valley Farmers sell a wide range of wellingtons and hi viz clothing to suit all needs. Visit your local branch or see our website at molevalleyfarmers.com

Prices include VAT where applicable.

NFYFC - Young Farmers News

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) - Young Farmers Investigate

Joanne Wyles MRICS FAAV, Agriculture and Rural Affairs Officer



British Young Farmers make their voices heard across Europe

Family farming, Implementation of CAP, Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) were just some of the topics discussed at the European Council of Young Farmers (CEJA) in recent weeks.

Representatives from NFYFC travelled across Europe to attend CEJA events and discuss issues affecting Young Farmers across the UK and Europe.

At a recent Working Group trip to Beauvais, France, Young Farmers learnt of the approach that the European Union and the United States are taking towards a free trade partnership. The TTIP agreement could lead to farmers in Europe competing against practices that are commonplace in America. These include the use of genetically modified ingredients and growth hormones.

With support from NFYFC, CEJA has raised concerns over TTIP and has called for the EU and US to be more open and transparent in their negotiations. Charlotte Johnston, from Warwickshire FYFC, attended the event, during which, she tweeted: "Greater transparency needed in EU and US TTIP negotiations to include producers earlier on in discussions".

Delegates who attended the Copa Cogeca Conference, also learnt that farmers in other EU countries have access to grant funding from their Government, yet farmers in England and Wales do not. Due to differing implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), UK farmers are being denied potentially vital funding.

Ed Ford, chairman of Essex Young Farmers, attended the event in Brussels. He said: "26,000 Young Farmers have been assisted with funding in France and only 19 have been assisted in the UK. This is because none of the UK administrations have implemented the Capital Grant Funding for Young Farmers.

"It is important that NFYFC and all of its members make clear to the Government that Young Farmers in other nations have access to up to 70,000 Euros of grant funding per year and yet Young Farmers in England and Wales do not."

On a more positive note, the European Investment Bank (EIB) has expressed its commitment to Young Farmers. The bank approved CEJA's request to guarantee agricultural loans to farmers under 40, allowing Young Farmers to have access to cheaper rates of interest.



Charlotte Johnston and Sam Dilcock at the CEJA Working Group at Massey Ferguson HQ in Beauvais

Meanwhile, at the International Summit of Young Farmers, NFYFC learnt that family farmers were the best people to achieve sustainability within agriculture. Farmers from 50 countries attended the event in Bordeaux and signed a manifesto pledging to implement proposals making family farming a solution for the future.

Discussing TTIP

Young Farmers are once again making their voices heard in Europe, thanks to sponsorship from HOPS Labour Solutions and ourselves.

James Hutchinson of Wiltshire YFC and Tom Wells of Lincolnshire YFC attended the last CEJA working group of the year on 15th-16th December in Brussels. The two day event was filled with a busy agenda, the highlight being the official CEJA position on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) and its positives and negatives for farmers in Europe.

TTIP is primarily a deal to cut tariffs and regulatory barriers to trade between the US and EU countries, making it easier for companies on both sides of the Atlantic to access each other's markets.

While supporters say that TTIP will boost the economy, critics have raised concerns about what impact the partnership will have on food standards. The argument is that the EU has much stricter regulations on GM crops, pesticide use and food additives than the US. They say the TTIP deal could open the EU market to cheaper products with poorer standards, which would mean farmers would be faced with even tougher competition than they already do.

Along with Young Farmers across Europe, both James and Tom gave their views on TTIP and how it would affect Young Farmers in England and Wales, so that CEJA can give advice to MEPs in the future.

The group learnt about what the future holds for Young Farmers, including a new programme called Horizon 2020. This programme is the biggest EU research and innovation programme ever organised by the EU, with nearly €80 billion of funding available over 7 years (2014 to 2020). It promises more breakthroughs, discoveries and world-firsts by taking great ideas from the lab to the market.



Tom Wells and James Hutchinson enjoying the hospitality at the CEJA Working group meeting in December

The meeting also featured deputy Commissioner for 'EXPO 2015', Giancarlo Caratti, presenting preparations for the global event as well as potential opportunities for CEJA involvement and the importance of young farmers to theme. Italian Farm Minister and current President of the Farm Council, Maurizio Martina, addressed CEJA young farmers during the working group announcing the successful adoption of Presidency Conclusions on Young Farmers you can find out more here: <http://www.ceja.eu/ceja-hails-presidency-conclusions-young-farmers/>.

For further information about NFYFC's recent CEJA trips, please visit www.nfyfc.org.uk/ceja

Ride on mowers

Free mulching plug worth £87.50 and tow bar worth £52.50 with each lawn tractor below.
(Offer ends 29th April 2015).



Tow bar
MVF CODES
1089420/22

Mulching plug
MVF CODES 1089419/21

Mountfield 1530M

Ideal for smaller gardens and lawns, at only 90cm wide it is ideal for fitting through narrow gateways. As the cut is wider than the wheel width there is very little trimming to do after the lawns have been mowed.

**NEW
MODEL**

- 8.4 Kw Mountfield Series 7750 engine
- 84cm (33") cutting width
- large 240 litre rear collector.
- Rear discharge
- 5 forward gears and one reverse
- 140cm (55") turning circle
- 7 cutting heights 25mm – 80mm
- Normal rrp £1499.17

Hydrostatic version also available



£1332.⁵⁰

MVF CODE 1088023

Mountfield 1636H

Suitable for grounds of 1.5 to 2 acres

- 8.4 Kw Mountfield series 7750 engine
- 92cm 36 inch cutting width
- Side discharge
- Hydrostatic drive
- 140cm (55") turning circle
- 7 cutting heights 25mm–80mm
- Normal rrp £1832.50

MVF CODE 60953



£1665.⁸³

Mountfield 1538M-SD

Ideal for those who do not wish to collect grass clippings. Suitable for gardens 1.5 to 2 acres.

- 8.4 Kw Mountfield Series 7750 engine
- 98cm 38.5 inch cutting width
- Side discharge
- 5 forward gears and one reverse
- 140cm (55") turning circle
- 7 cutting heights 25mm – 80mm
- Normal rrp £1332.50



MVF CODE 60954

£1165.⁸³

Lawnmowers

Mountfield
MoleMaster
46PD

**SAVE
OVER
£58**

Exclusive to Mole Valley Farmers

A great value mower manufactured by Mountfield exclusively for Mole Valley Farmers. We expect demand to be high for this and it is a case of when its gone it gone!

- 140cc OHV Mountfield engine
- 45cm cutting width
- Steel deck in gunmetal silver finish
- Power drive
- Single point height adjustment, one lever, 6 positions from 20mm-70mm
- Complete with mulching plug
- 2 year warranty

(terms and conditions apply)

Normal price £265.83

£207.⁵⁰

MVF CODE 1073125



Look out for our 2015 range of lawnmowers arriving late Feb/early March

Mower need a service?



If your mower has been languishing away at the back of the shed all winter and needs a bit of care before mowing begins again in earnest this summer, arrange for a service through your local branch. Please ask for details

NEW

Country Garden traditional garden tools

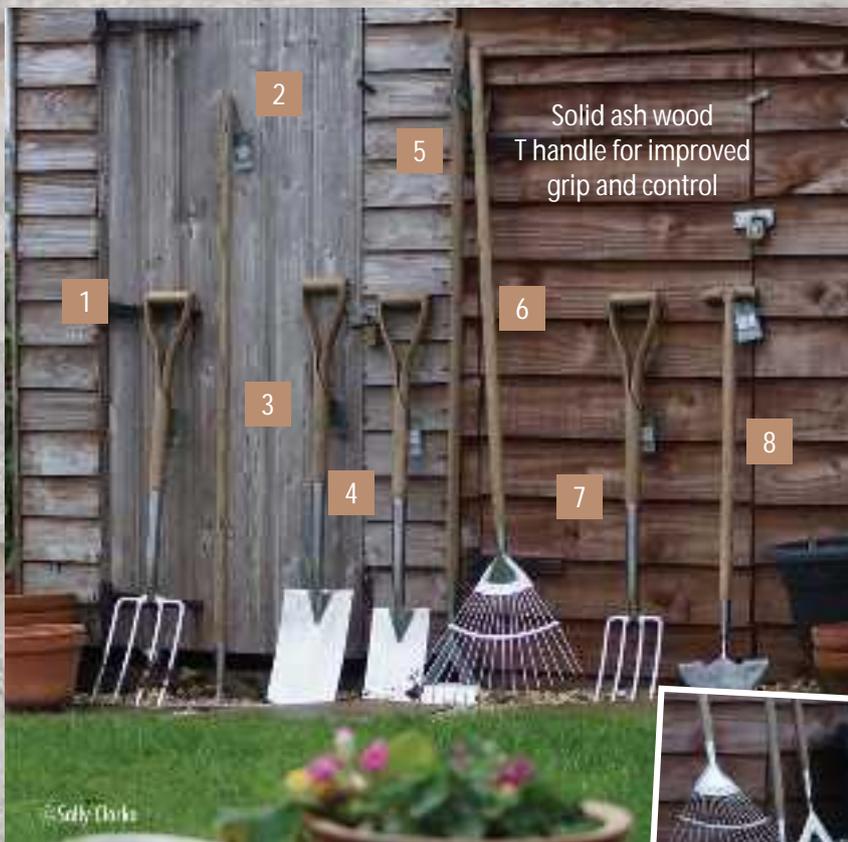
A new and exclusive range of traditional stainless steel tools from Mole Valley Farmers.

The Country Garden products range is of a design proven for use by professionals, productive gardeners and the occasional users for being practical and well made. These tools are stylish, easy to use as well as durable.

Spades and forks have comfortable wishbone Y handles for extra comfort when digging. Tread edges on spades allow for more efficient work in the garden.

The Country Garden Tool range features a polished stainless steel head for resistance to rust and solid ash wooden handles providing that unique, vintage appeal. The range also includes a selection of hand tools made to the same standards.

ARRIVING AT BRANCHES DURING FEBRUARY



Solid ash wood T handle for improved grip and control

Lawn and garden rakes and Dutch hoe

No	MVF Code	Item	Description	Price
1	1084182	Digging fork	106cm length	£24.98
2	1084194	Garden rake	12 tooth head	£14.99
3	1084183	Digging spade	106cm length	£24.98
4	1084183	Border spade	106cm length	£24.98
5	1084191	Dutch hoe	Ideal for use between plants and seedlings	£14.99
6	1084193	Lawn rake	16 tines	£19.99
7	1084184	Border fork	106cm length	£24.98
8	1084192	Lawn edger	Half moon blade for neat lawn edges	£14.99

Country Garden hand tools

Country Garden hand tools are made to the same standards with Ash handles and polished stainless steel heads. All have a hanging strap.

Hand trowel

Ideal for cultivating and digging in beds, borders and container gardening.



£7.49

MVF CODE 1084186

Weeding fork



£7.49

MVF CODE 1084189

Daisy grubber

Effective and chemical free way of removing daisies and other short rooted weeds.



£6.24

MVF CODE 1084188

Onion hoe

Useful for weeding between plants in a border, rockery or vegetable patch



£7.49

MVF CODE 1084190



Transplanting trowel

Metric and imperial measurement, ideal for planting or repotting plants

£7.49

MVF CODE 1084187



First signs of spring in the garden

In February we begin to see the first signs of spring break into the garden, with the snowdrops and crocuses breaking into flower amongst the stark background of the winter garden. As the temperatures and the light levels increase there is plenty to do, both indoors and outdoors.

If you haven't already done so, winter dig and fork over any empty annual flower beds and vegetable plots. Spread garden manure over the ground first so that it gets dug into the earth as you work. Preparation of the soil in advance of the growing season will bear great rewards, especially in the vegetable garden. Once done, cover the soil with black polythene for a couple of weeks to warm up the soil for early planting and suppress any weed growth. If the weather is mild and the soil dry, you can plant shallots this month about 20cm (8") apart.

The month can often be fairly wet in the garden, so if possible, try to stay off the lawn as much as you can. Walking on the lawn when it is soggy can result in rutting, which will make it difficult to mow properly later.

However, if the weather is mild you'll very likely find the grass is growing again and feel the need to start cutting your lawn. Choose a day when the ground is firm and do not cut the grass too short.

See page 33 where we have some keen deals on lawnmowers, and make sure you arrange a service for your mower as well!

February is a good time for pruning. Roses can be cut back by at least a half to two-thirds, especially on any weak branches to maintain their shape and produce strong branches for carrying flowers through the summer.

Large-flowered clematis hybrids; those that flower early and late summer

with a gap in between should be just tidied up, whilst those that flower continuously from June to September should be cut down hard now to around 2' from the ground. Dogwoods and willows should also be pruned back hard this month to encourage vigorous new shoots in Spring.



Cleanliness counts!

One of the key elements to successful seed sowing is good hygiene. In the greenhouse you should give everything a good clean using a disinfectant solution prior to the start of the propagating season. Either, wash old pots and trays thoroughly, or use new ones and sow into fresh compost. Use Jack's Magic compost or Multipurpose compost with added John Innes, both of which are great for seed sowing.

Patio Magic

SAVE
£2

Kills mould, algae, mildew and moss within days without the need for scrubbing or pressure washing
2.5L

Normal price £9.49



£7.49

MVF CODE 37943

What to plant in February

There are plenty of vegetable varieties that can be started in pots in the greenhouse in February. Peas and broad bean seeds can be sown into small, individual pots or seed trays pressing them down to just below the surface of the compost. Lettuce, leeks, onions and summer cabbages and cauliflowers can also be sown in a cool propagator. Additionally celery, tomatoes, aubergines and peppers can be sown in heated propagators.

On the flower side, you can start to sow begonias, verbenas, lobelias, ageratum, pansies and other summer bedding. You can also plant up sweet peas, lily bulbs and dahlia tubers.

When the seedlings grow large enough to handle without damaging them they should be 'pricked out' into trays or pots and gradually acclimatised to cooler temperatures.

Offers are available for the month of February whilst stocks last. Prices include VAT where applicable.

Wilkinson Sword geared action bypass lopper

SAVE
40%
off RRP



35mm cutting diameter, 750mm handle length. Precise and cleaner cut. Lightweight aluminium handle
RRP £29.99

£17.99

MVF CODE 60058

Seed potatoes

Seed potatoes are also now available for 'chitting' prior to planting out in late March. To 'chit' potatoes you should take clean seed trays lined with newspaper and place seed potatoes up on end in them with the tiny buds facing upwards. You should then put the seed trays in a dry, warm, light place in the house. The potatoes are 'chitted' when the shoots are 1-1.5" long next month then they can be planted.



BUY 2
for £6

£3.49 each.
3kg bags

We have many varieties from first earlies to main crop, King Edward to Pink Fir Apple. Browse the range at your local branch.



warm | up your home

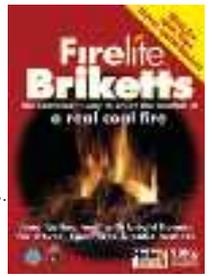
Heating Event Days

- 9.30am - 4.30pm
- expert advice
- live stove demonstrations

Frome	6 th February
Holsworthy	14 th February
Liskeard	21 st February
Newton Abbot	13 th February
South Molton	28 th February
St Columb	20 th February
Yeovil	7 th February

Firelite Briketts

Enjoy the cosy warmth and friendly flames produced by Firelite multi-fuel briketts. These briketts are suitable for use in wood burning and multi-fuel stoves, open fires, in traditional stoves and kitchen ranges and in solid fuel patio heaters.



Long burning - high heat output

Firelite multi-fuel briketts are a longer burning alternative to wood, with environment friendly low sulphur and smoke. Easy to light, high heat output, bright and lively flames, low ash content and consistent quality. Briketts burn safely when combined with wood or other solid fuels and will take your fire through the night.

Clean to handle - stackable - easy to store

They need only 1/3 of the storage space of dry wood. They can be stored in a dry place for long periods without loss of quality.

Space saving - 60% less volume than wood

One pack of firelite multi-fuel briketts is equivalent to 2 bags of woodlogs, saving you space and money.

Consistent quality -German technology

Firelite multi-fuel briketts from the Rheinland area are made from lignite as nature made it and pressed without the use of additives, chemicals or binding agents.

Approved as a smokeless fuel in the EU, except in the UK unless used in DEFRA exempt appliances.

Available from all MVF branches.

**10% off in the Ashgrove sale
Offer exclusive to MVF members**

You are in for a real treat when you buy a new kitchen from Ashgrove during February. Not only will you be getting one of the finest kitchens made in the South West but we're also offering you an exclusive 10% discount*!

Whether you decide on a completely bespoke kitchen design, or choose from Ashgrove's distinctive Classic and Contemporary collections, you will be assured of a great product and unrivalled service at a surprisingly affordable price.

To take advantage of this great offer please call Ashgrove to arrange a free, no obligation home visit from one of their designers to discuss your requirements and don't forget to quote MERRYMOLE!

Ashgrove also have great offers on bedrooms, bathrooms and home studies. So, for more information call them on 0800 0683291

*On furniture and appliances. To be fitted by end February 2015



Offers for February

Aga Little Wenlock Classic



**SAVE
£145**

Flat top, single door, clean air wash, multifuel. 4.7kw output. Cast Iron Construction

£600

MVF CODE 40025

Verde Ovne Aura II



**SAVE
£150**

Contemporary wood burning stove. Flat top, single door, clean air wash and convection system. Output 5kW. 12mm hearth friendly. Cast iron and steel construction.

£1105

MVF CODE 58621

Firebelly FB1 stove



**SAVE
£100**

£995

MVF CODE 58622

Black, flat top, single door, clean air wash. Wood. 12mm friendly. 6kw output. Steel construction.

Hunter Kestrel 5



Flat top, single door, multifuel stove. Clean air wash and tertiary air control. Output 4.8kW. Cast iron and steel construction

**SAVE
£100**

£540

MVF CODE 58617

Hunter Compact 5



**SAVE
£150**

Flat top, single door, multifuel 4.7kw output

£549

MVF CODE 1082943

Hunter Herald 6



**SAVE
£90**

Flat top or optional low or high canopy kits

£700

MVF CODE 37103

**SAVE
20%
ON SELECTED
LOG BASKETS**

Rushden log basket

Seagrass weaved construction log basket features contemporary design with wooden handles. H31cm x W53cm x D43cm. Normal price £26.94



MVF CODE 59306

£21.⁵⁵

Country log basket

Hand woven, stylish, modern, durable basket .H43cm x W57cm x D42cm. Normal price £28.80



MVF CODE 1072336

£23.⁰⁴

Tanner willow log basket



Robust construction and ideal for the smaller fireplace or stove. 31cm x 49cm. Normal price £14.22

£11.³⁸

MVF CODE 40578





British classic recipe

Individual Beef Wellingtons



Individual Beef Wellingtons

Serves: 2. Approximate time: 50 mins.

Ingredients:

- 2 local fillet steaks approximately 170g each
- 125g mushrooms
- ½ white onion, chopped in half
- a pinch of thyme leaves – ideally fresh or frozen
- 2 teaspoons butter
- 2 teaspoons garlic oil such as Fussels rapeseed oil with garlic
- 60ml red wine
- 2 sheets puff pastry
- 1 egg yolk mixed with 2 tablespoons milk

Method:

- To make the mushroom duxelles, blitz the mushrooms and onion in a food processor until fine. Heat the butter and garlic oil until melted but not sizzling. Add the mushroom mixture and thyme and fry until you can smell the thyme. Add the red wine and cook for about 8 minutes until the alcohol has evaporated. Drain the mushroom mix with a sieve lined with a paper towel to remove excess liquid. It needs to be quite dry so as not to saturate the pastry.
2. Preheat the oven to 220°C / Gas 7 and line a baking tray. Place another frying pan on a high heat. Lightly season the steaks and fry to sear the edges.
3. Place each steak on a puff pastry sheet and top with the mushroom duxelles mixture. Seal up the ends and cut off any excess pastry. Use the excess pastry to decorate the top.
4. When ready to bake, lightly whisk the egg yolk and milk and brush over the pastry. Bake for 20 minutes until golden. Serve immediately with mashed potato or potato gratin and local steamed vegetables of your choice.

This recipe is best made the day before and baked from chilled. Simply wrap in cling film until ready to bake

Mole Valley Farmers prides itself on supporting local food producers. Why not impress your loved one this Valentine's Day with this surprisingly simple but delicious recipe, accompanied by a nice bottle of red.

Offers for February

2 for £10 Kumala Classic wine
Red, white or rose

Bottle price **£5.⁷⁰**

MVF CODES 1084324-6

3 for £5.⁷⁵ Norcotts Cider
Cranberry, Elderflower, Original, Pear or Raspberry and Orange

500ml
Bottle price **£2.¹⁰**

MVF CODES 58148-52

3 for £5.⁷⁵ Clearwater Brewery
Devon Darter, Devon Dympsy, Proper Ansome or Real Smiler

Bottle price **£2.¹⁶**

MVF CODES 61708-11

Jonsson Gumboots - Exclusive in the UK to the Mole Valley Farmers Group



One of the stars in the Mole Valley Farmers wellie range is the Jonsson Gumboot. This sturdy wellington is ideal for professional and agricultural use. It is a lightweight, PVC boot designed for long periods of wear, has a strong grip and an acid and oil resistant sole. For bio security, it can be sterilised inside and out.

Jonsson Work Wear is the leading work wear brand in South Africa, a country that has seven climates where footwear has to be fit for purpose in each. Dairy Farmers throughout Africa, Australia and now the UK wear their boots which are designed to meet the need of the agricultural community.

Jonsson Gumboot is ergonomically designed with UV stabilised virgin PVC which minimises defects that can lead to cracking and deformation. It has comfort wool insoles which keeps the warm in and the cold out, plus additional arch support and raised heel section. It is shock absorbent, odour resistant, anti-static, breathable and it absorbs perspiration. Other features include a non-slip, hard wearing, acid and oil resistant sole, flexible tread pattern to eliminate surface build up and a superior 100% polyester lining.

The boot was trialled by Lauren Johnston from Harper Adams University, as part of Mole Valley Farmers "Uni in my Wellies" challenge. The results were shared on social media - see #uniinmywellies.

In an extract of her review, Lauren said: "The non-slip sole has proven itself to be countless times, even while climbing a fairly slippery crag, which isn't the best idea in wellies!

The boots seem to be quite durable and hard wearing as they don't seem to be scuffed much

and the soles still seem like new. I didn't expose the boots to many chemicals apart from the foam wash in the dairy and a farm disinfectant, neither of which posed a problem.

I wore them for a day of ambassador work, taking tours of the university, and was quite impressed that I didn't get sore feet. I usually wear a different type of boot and I get sore feet, even in those. I was also pleasantly surprised with their ability to hold heat. In the parlour, with temperatures outside just below freezing the boots combined with ski socks did the trick.

I really enjoyed testing my Jonsson Gumboots, even if it wasn't always in a farm environment, and I would say they would definitely hold their own in the dairy industry.

Read full review: <http://www.molevalleyfarmers.com/mvf/info/news/Jonsson-Gumboot-Review>

GREAT PRICE

Tall safety boots
FS144
sizes 5-12



£54.⁹⁵

MVF CODES 1089476-83

SAVE 20%

Jonsson Gumboots



Green
Size 4-12
Normal price £47.99

£38.³⁹

MVF CODE 65122+sz

Kanyon Yew
lace up boot
brown

SAVE 20%

Adult
sizes 6-8

Normal price
£144.95

£115.⁹⁶



Junior
sizes 4-5.5
No VAT

Normal price £120.79

£96.⁶³

MVF CODES 64937+sz

All prices on this page include VAT where applicable and offers are for February or whilst stocks last.

Small Ads February

For Sale Machinery

Quality new & used farm equipment & attachments from Moulton, Albutt, Quicke, Trenona, Chilton, Logic & others. visit www.blackdownfarmservices.co.uk
For more info call Taunton 01823 429431
Ransomes 4 furrow reversible plough, TSR109, 1 broken leg, £400. Hardi 600ltr sprayer c/w 12m booms. £500.
01208 831207 / 07810 027914

45" bucket £50, 45"muck fork £75, 40" new bucket bargain £300. 01837 82158

Wooden roller blocks for Twose / Grays roller blocks - £16 + VAT + carriage if required. Bideford area. 01237 473338

Winter kit. Front, rear or loader mounted snow ploughs from £255. Salt/fert/seed spinners, available with salt kit & deflector. Trailed or 3pt linkage mtd. From £340. www.cowlingagri.com
01458 250978 / 07813 847128

MF 135. Straight axle. No VAT. £2750. 01984 624112 / 07860 912427

Post banger Browns side shift working order £1500 + VAT ono. 01271 883887 / 07967 350349

Kidd 814 straw chopper, vgw. Somerset. 07764 150720

New 40hp Landlegend tractor with 4in1 loader. 4x4. Easily lifts large silage bales. Choice of turf, agri, wide agri tyres. Only £9100 +VAT. www.cowlingagri.com Huge selection of new & used tractors in stock. Complete range of machinery. 01458 250978 / 07813 847128

Grimme shape former. Grimme destoner 1500. Variant 1700 harvester with picking off table. Reekie bed tiller with ridgers. Konnings potato planter. Irrigation reels, pipes & pumps. All in good condition. Exeter. 01392 841228 / 07850 952983

West sprung axle silage trailer 10T, 2 season old, £8500. 2x Claas Jaguar 61 foragers + 1 spare, £1500. 1 Superted tedder £3200. 2.4 JF mower conditioner, £6750. 1 wheeled diggers suitable for farm use, c/w buckets, £1400. 1 Aitchison slot seeder, Grass Farmer, 200 acres from new, £7800. All ovno & + VAT. Taunton. Call Andrew 07971 597230

1 flat ring roller 6' wide £160 ono. W Somerset. 07974 106235

KTM machinery tractor log splitters, 10T £445, 14T £595, 18T £745, 26T towable diesel log splitter £1995, chain harrows from 4' to 20' trailed or mounted, 8" tractor mounted PTO driven wood chipper £1475, tractor mounted pallet forks £220, Major saw bench tractor mounted PTO driven £1365, Rosselli saw bench tractor mounted PTO driven £1200. All prices are inclusive of VAT & free UK mainland delivery. ktmmachinery@hotmail.co.uk www.ktmmachinery.co.uk
07968 183358 / 01409 259986

Lucas Castor 60 bedder/feeder. Swivel chute. Electrical controls. £6950 + VAT. 01984 624112 / 07860 912427

Refurbished bulk milk tanks for sale. 10000ltr outdoor silo, 10000ltr Fabdec, 8000ltr Kilkenny, 8000ltr Delaval, 7000ltr Delaval, 6000ltr Delaval, 6000ltr Fabdec, 6000ltr Mueller, 5700ltr Packo Fullwood RMIB, 5000ltr Fabdec, 5000ltr Mueller + new wash/cooling controller, 4000ltr Roka, 4000ltr Delaval + almost new Mueller Washer, 3800ltr Packo Fullwood RMIB, 3800ltr Vaccar, 3200ltr Packo Fullwood open top, 3000ltr Mueller, 2500ltr Manus / Delaval, 2200ltr Packo Fullwood RMIB. Main dealer for new Ro-Ka milk cooling systems. Emergency open & enclosed loan tanks available - Smaller sizes available. Tanks wanted - 6,000 Ltr & above. For further details please call S.W Refrigeration specialising in "On Farm cooling Equipment". 01392 210344 or Paul on 07974 140949

Mitsubishi L200 4 work. 57 plate, 88K double cab, carryboy canopy, towbar, new tyres, MoT Oct 2015 £6450 no VAT. 01769 581847

Kubota compact tractor. Manoevurable, reliable, handy little tractor. 19hp 4x4 £3650 + VAT. 07813 847128 / 01458 250978

Ford 3000 tractor M reg. 2680 hrs. Double acting front loader bucket, cab, doors, rear weight block, grass tyres plus clamp on Ag. extender wheels. gvo. £3500 + VAT. 01823 413642

Hispec feeder wagon 8 cube with elevator gwo Bridgwater. 07764 150720

Volvvo 5T rubber tyred excavator, yr 2004, working order, £8500 + VAT. Somerset. 07774 676434

New Hyd logsplitters. 10T ram force. Easy to operate. British built. £485. Top quality PTO sawbenches £950. Available with titanium tipped blade www.cowlingagri.com. 01458 250978 / 07813 847128

2010 (59) Renault Grand Scenic 1.5 dCi Expression, 7 seat MPV in black. 11 months MoT, FSH, 115k miles, F&R parking sensors, roof bars, available early March. £3,500 ono Chudleigh. 07879 403347

2003 Mitsubishi L200 Warrior, 70k miles, silver, black leather seats, bodywork & tyres good. MoT 30/5/2015. Suspected head gasket gone. Sensible offers only. N Devon. 01598 740047

West 1600 dual spreader with ext., vgwo. Bridgwater. 07595 220719

2x Toyota Hilux 4WD P/U Single Cab 03 & 54 reg, 8 mths MoT, vgc, 124k & 76k miles. Truro area. 07974 190701

Two 8' lead roller, Watson 8' roller 36" diameter, Two 8' Galvanised ballast roller, Stock link box 6 x 4 complete with back gate, Parmitar 16' mounted chain harrows, choice of hay tedders. Choice of single rota rakes, tipping trailer 3 - 4T been refurbished. Ring anytime. 01769 550 623 / 07770 782238

10T dump trailer, tandem axle. Bridgwater. 07595 220719

Renault 95/14 'A' reg, several hrs, £2750 + VAT. 01984 632761

PTO roller mill Mcmasters 9" rollers. Used hotline poultry flexinet (50m rolls) Tiverton. 07774 705865

GHL small bale straw chopper with Honda 13hp engine gwo. 01398 341336

Ifor Williams TA510G 12' Livestock trailer with cattle partition & sheep decks. Dorset. 07709 921969

Ag dispenser 150, year 2003 in gwo currently has Euro brackets can be used for sand or sawdust £600 + VAT. Wiltshire 01380 722683 / 07879 969193

3T totally rebuilt tipping trailer £750 + VAT. Bideford area. 01237 473338

Tractor drawn livestock trailer 21' long. 07990 545667

Landrover defender 110 Td5 2005 high capacity 98000 miles IW canopy, good work truck, many extras £6750 + VAT South Molton. 07870 530302

Bomford B4414 loader for Ford 40 series tractor, as new. Bridgwater. 07595 220719

Marshall 7.5 rota spreader 20770 nice condition. 01769 550623 / 07710 782238

Claas liner 2700 twin rotor rake. 2013. 6.8-7.4m working width, as new poa. Also Marshall MS85 rotary spreader, gwo, £2000 ono + VAT. 01460 63118 / 07773 249766

MF135 excellent condition, new tyres, seat, steering wheel & mud guards. Very sound tractor £3800 +VAT. 07850 450743

Zetor 8540, 4wd, 1998, great cond. Mich 108 tyres @ 60% front weights, reliable, 2 owner drivers from new, £8750 + VAT. Crediton. 07970 372420

Bateman cattle crush. Auto head, Full access. Galv floor VGC £750 + VAT 01984 618200 / 07791 730888

Massey Ferguson 35X, 1962, original cond, also 3T tipping trailer, both in exc cond. Call Angus Howie. 07831 330962

Claas liner 780 rake, hyd fold / width, lights, £2750. 01855 601490

MF T20 & 35 belt pulley £45 VV Somerset. 07974 106235

International 685, 4wd, A reg, no V5 cert., great cond, £4200 no VAT. Graham Pluess compact 6' rotor spreader, new cond, £1100 + VAT. Okehampton. Call Steve. 07976 950466

Freelander Serengeti TD4, silver, reg 2003, regularly serviced & MOT Dec '14 with towbar, roof rails & light guards. £2750. 07894 659009

Roller shutter door 15' w by 12' h approx £310 ono. W Somerset. 07974 106235

Kabota, 3 years old, 2080 hours, one elderly gentleman driver, £7250 no offers. 01271 863537

Burdens 4 row transplanter for bare root or modules. Taunton area. 07966 422641 / 01823 253808

HB610 Ifor Williams Horsebox carries 3 large horses or 5 ponies. Tows beautifully even when loaded. New in 2006 in very good order £5000 no VAT 01643 851259

Yard scraper, exc cond. £300. Newton Abbot. 07979 591994

Berthoud Mac 12 sprayer, 18-20m boom, £2000. KRM M2, 2½T fert spreader, £2000. Fert spreader demount frame for self propelled sprayer £400. 25' lightweight bale trailer, £500. Michelin 108 tyres, 2x 600/38, 15%, £150. 2x 540x24, 30% £150. New Holland 10T baler, control box & operators manual only. S Devon. 07708 291912

Quicke new 150 sheargrab with euro brackets, 1.5m, £1750 + VAT. Taunton. 07932 775676

OnexMF 2 furrow plough c/w rear wheel. £160 ono. W Somerset. 07974 106235

Quicke new 150 dung grab with euro brackets, 1.5m, £1100 + VAT. Taunton. 07932 775676

JF diet mixer specialist, sales & advice, M Cowling. 07718 339056

2008 Major 2400 gallon slurry tanker, sprung drawbar, vgc, £7500. Storch slurry stirrer, 20' long, galv, vgc, £1100. Teagle Titan 7, low sides & silage sides, £1550. Kit Speakman mattresses, £15 ea. All ono. 07917 776338 / 01297 33263

CLH quad bike sheep trailer, has a parting gate for lambs, lights, 6' by 6" by 4' approx. 01271 863537

MF 50 back actor rams ideal for log splitter £85 ono W Somerset. 07974 106235

New Moulton galv yard scraper, very well made, 50mm moulded rubber blade, strongest on the market, £650 + VAT Taunton. 01823 429431

Workshop operators & parts manuals for many tractors, balers, combines, mowers & other machines. All ages & makes. 07831 256933

For Sale Livestock

Cornbel ped polled Herefords, bulls up 2½ years, sire Bosa One Mr Bean, closed herd, high health scheme, near Ilminster. 01823 480321 / 07917 583637

Starline Pedigree Simmentals. Bulls ready to work. Very good conformation. Member of Hi health Scheme. Accredited for BVD & Johnnes. T.N.R.H Widdicombe. 01803 732277

Woodington ped Angus. Quality young bulls, bred for easy calving & fast growth. Biobest, Hi Health, vac BVD. Closed herd over 20yrs. Mid Devon. 01884 860606

Regd ped beef Shorthorn bulls, quiet, exc conformation, easy calving strain especially on heifers fully warranted. Wiveliscombe. 01984 623218

Pedigree registered Hereford bulls good selection of various ages. Recorded for all schemes, FABBL & Freedom Foods certified. Females usually available. 01460 234394

Ped Red Ruby Devon bulls & heifers, top bloodline. 01271 867285

Nealford Limousins, quality young bulls. High EBVs, lepto & BVD vaccinated. SAC healthplan. Also selection of ped females. JH Neale 01566 772919 / 07929 662074

Stabiliser & Gelbvieh bulls in health scheme very well grown & quiet. Also heifers. 01392 434056

British Blue quality recorded bulls, from the Coldridge Herd. 01363 83807 / 07790 386309

Fleckvieh stock bulls for sale out of high quality dams by top German sires. Call Tom Voizey. 07967 816675

Killerton Limousin ped bulls, 16-25 mths old, + 5yr old stock bull, all quiet, good EBV's, easy calving. In cattle health scheme. LEPTO & BVD vac, semen tested. Patrick Greed. Exeter. 01392 841228 / 07850 952983

Pure bred poll Dorset hoggets ewe lambs from ped stock, also poll Dorset ram lambs, born October 2013, Witheridge. 01884 861198

Rull Aberdeen Angus, young bulls ready to work, well fleshed, member of SAC Health Scheme, BVD & Johnnes accredited. Cullompton. 01884 34981

Westwilder ped Ab Angus, selection of bulls & females, good conformation, very quiet. Breedplan recorded, FABBL, Herd Health scheme. Porlock, Somerset. 01643 862524

Oakside Fish Farm, Newquay, registered CEFFAS, health checked coarse fish for sale. Carp, Bream, Tench & Crucian. Tel: Brian 07773 224243

British/Belgian Blue pedigree bulls & heifers for sale. Breeders of Genus' NewPole Easy & Semex's NewPole Chalky White. Coloured & white bulls available - www.newpole.co.uk 07885 721217 / 01823 673314

Ped. Aberdeen Angus quality bulls & females. Easy calving; gd growth rate & conformation. Very quiet. Premium cattle health scheme. FABBL Breedplan. TB free. Irwin Rowe, Bosullov Herd. Zennorbells@yahoo.co.uk 01736 364070

Problems with foxes? Your poultry or sheep would be protected from unwanted visits from foxes if you were using Alpacos as guard animals. Minimum requirement to provide protection, a pair for £400 or better still a trio for £600. Bridport area. 07739 382483 / 01308 488661

Pedigree Angus bull for sale top quality 21 mths BVD accredited, Johnnes level 1 IBR Vax monitored free, lepto vax. Younger bulls available in the spring. 01278 423201 / 07709 253366

Meldon charolais, selection of quality young bulls for sale bvd & lepto vac. Phil Heard. 07966 522363 / 01837 52409

Polled Charolais bulls, Mulberry Herd, very easy calving. 07967 362137 / 01984 640321

Cato polled Herefords. Selection of HiHealth status, Herdsure assured, bulls for sale, 17-22mths, Moorhouse. 01984 656292 / 07714 104692

Pedigree Devon bull 2 yrs old. Yearnor Galvaniser well grown quality bull never pushed with feed mother & sisters can be seen. 01643 862678

Selection of home bred ped Aberdeen Angus bulls, enquiries welcome. 07970 979819 / 01963 31771

Quality Carp, Tench, Bream & other coarse fish available, also fishery management services such as netting & electrofishing. Visit www.hbsfisheries.co.uk for more info or phone Richard. 07966 239436

12 Exmoor Horn ewe lambs. Nr South Molton. 07843 479249

Top quality, grass reared, pheasant & partridge poults, over 30yrs experience, orders now taken for 2015 season. 07795 927677 / 01237 425086

Pedigree Aberdeen Angus bulls, traditional well fleshed type for easier calving. Taunton area. 01823 451619

British Blue bulls, top quality, sensibly priced, easy calving from Stoneleigh Herd. Haste. 01409 281230 / 07967 023680 / 683

Rodmead Aberdeen Angus bulls for sale Nr Warminster, Wilts. Hi health status, performance recorded. awn@farmline.com www.pedigreeangus.co.uk 01985 844689

Colhayne Aberdeen Angus bulls, easy calving AI sires, breedplan recorded, very high EBVs, SAC premium health scheme. B.S & V.J Fry, Axminster. 01404 831103 / 07969 604287

Pedigree Aberdeen Angus bulling heifers, in calf heifers & cows. Traditional well fleshed stock. 01823 451619

Bluefaced Leicester. 4 ewe lambs left from 2014. Late born but nice type. B.Dallyn 01598 763234 / 07807 451379

Highland heifer calves, pedigree & registered. Born May & July 2014. Red colour. Wormed & TB tested. £325. 01278 641104 / 07703 691596

Macchina Aberdeen Angus Bulls. Closed Herd in SAC High Health Status, all cattle blood tested annually. 4 yearly TB testing area on the Isle of Wight. Terrific growth rates on home produced forage, still maintaining easy calving. All bulls veterinary inspected & semen tested before sale to ensure purchase with confidence. Only new blood lines imported into herd from semen & embryos. Delivered to your farm with own transport to keep health status. Ian McDowall. 01983 882881

British Friesian bull Goonhilly Arthur great Pedigree 2yr old ready to work. His dam is now contract mated for Genus for milk from forage contact James Tripconey. 07886 917059 / 01209 831342

GOS X Tamworth weaners, ready now, organic. Call Dave. 07977 121558

Black & white Springer Spaniel bitch docked, dew clawed & microchipped. 16 weeks old, intelligent, enthusiastic & retrieving toys, used to children can be seen with full sister, mother & grandmother. Must go to a working/country home. £350 Cullompton. 07889 269060 / 01884 855208

Ped lim bulls, choice of 18mths +, good feet & shape, reasonably priced. Endacott. Eves 01409 221858 / 07974 387934

Furzelease Pedigree Aberdeen Angus young bulls for sale. Ready to work, organic, Tisbury. 01747 870509 / 07899 744764

Farm bred collie pups. Excellent working strain. Lovely natures. Ready 8 Feb. N.E. Somerset. 07765 091443

Golden pheasants £45 per pair. 01823 412946

Huntaway x collie pups good working stock, born mid Sept. 01278 671661

Part trained sheepdogs. 2 ISDS reg. dogs & 1 unregistered bitch. All working well in hand on flock of 50. Chulmleigh. 07850 918076

Regd Simmental bulls by top sires, ready to work, Breedplan recorded, SAC health scheme. Halter broken. Wilts/Dorset. 07974 260579

Ped Devon bulling heifers + some steers. 01884 881223

Quality ped Limousin bulls, ready for work, excellent shape, easy calving strain, come & take your pick. Bridgwater. 01278 733256 / 07817 676744

Jersey heifer calfs ped. 07977 154757 / 01769 540274

Organic GOS weaners ready now & organic ped Jacob 2th ewes & ped Jacob rams for sale Braunton. Call Dave 07977 121558

Ped Limousin & Charolais bulls, ready to work. Also some females. 01503 220229

Appleyard ducks & drakes hatched 2014 will lay soon. 01884 256384

Steadway pedigree Simmental bulls 20 mths old easy calving strain. 01643 841492 / 07970 824608

12 barley beef bulls - 2 BB, 1 Sim, 1 Lim & 8 black & white 6-7 mths. 07909 601641 / 01823 666891

3 well-bred pedigree Jersey heifers due Feb, for sale. Lewis. Wiveliscombe. 01984 623489

12 Hostein Freisian, February calving heifers & 14 Swedish Red X Holstein Freisian Jan & Feb calving heifers all to a Hereford bull. 01837 851287 / 07964 459127

35 organic ewes scanned in lamb - will split. Due beginning April onwards. Between Holsworthy, Okehampton & Launceston. 01409 211236

Fish for sale, Carp, Koi, Golden Tench, Green Tench, Golden Orfe, Golden Rudd, Wels Catfish & other fish as well. Also Water Plants for sale. Please Ring Zyg. 01409 221559

Killiworgie Simmentals, quality bulls from 12-24 mths, good EBVs, members of HiHealth, BVD accredited, also selection of females for sale. Mid Cornwall. For details & photos email steveandgill@killiworgie.co.uk Call Steve 01637 880523

Organic range reared pullets, Lohmann Brown, Novagen Brown, Silvers, Redco, Rhode Rock, White Leghorn, Blues, Barred Rock, U.L.Sussex & Cuckoo Maran available from day old to point of lay. Nr A30@Whiddon Down Delivery possible. Tel/Text Ben 07812 048323

South Devon Bulls, quiet temp, ideal for crossing, selection available, ready to go. Barnstaple area. 07980 816966

Lovely B & W springer spaniel pups, tail docked/dew clawed. Ideal working dogs or pet. 01460 221407 / 07837 371697

14.2 chestnut gelding, 11 yrs Welsh Section D. Fit & hunting with the Cattistock. Done all Pony Club activities. Hacks alone & in company. Good to shoe, clip, box £2000. 01308 862020

40 Simmental X & Black Hereford X heifers, in calf Limousin, due Apr/May. 07951 077590

55 young red deer hinds, quiet & well grown. 01823 400257

South Devon bull 30mths, ped but not regd. 01823 253808 / 07966 422641

Ped Charolais bulls, 17 mths old, easy calving strain, breeder, Taunton. 01823 430764 / 07740 087552

Ped Limousin bulls, Lepto & BVD vac. 01460 52317

For Sale Miscellaneous

Timber pole barn 60' long x 15' wide x 13' high (4 x 15' bays) Full length box profile tin roof & back, timber cladding on the 2 end bays. Supplied & fitted in the South West only. Other sizes available upon request. Fully erected £5950 + VAT + delivery. All sizes also available in steel. Visit website for pictures. Email: alexvenn@msn.com Website: southwestpolebarns.com. 07811 299343 / 01823 461817

Double glazed mobile homes, fully furnished. Instant accommodation. Catherine. 07841 070975

Static caravans, ideal self build, farm workers accomm., Extra living accomm. Prices to suit all budgets. In house transport. www.strandcaravans.co.uk email info@strandcaravans.co.uk 01823 672800 / 07970 906156

The static caravan specialists, ideal accommodation for farmworkers, hands & stable staff, even Granny. We have over 40 caravans always in stock with immediate delivery, Visit our web site & come & view. All sizes & budgets to suit, inc some with double glazing & central heating. www.ianjamescaravans.co.uk 01278 780565

Solid oak flooring, wide boards also suitable for underfloor central heating. Green oak framing available at competitive prices. 01392 434056

Crash barriers, RSJ's, sleepers, crossing timbers / telegraph poles. 01458 832976

Standard apple trees (cider, eating, cooking, juicing varieties) also plums, pears, damsons & half standards. 01963 441101

Quality poultry houses & pens. All sizes at reasonable prices & can deliver. 01460 242608 / 07854 128223

AGA cookers, reenameled any colour oil, gas or 13amp electric as new, fitted from £2600 no VAT, conversions to 13amp electric £1800 no VAT, please phone Luke. 07973 263242 / 01278 691490

Hot air balloon flights throughout Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset & Wiltshire. Family run business with over 20yrs local flying experience. Number of launch locations + possibility of flying out of your own grounds. Flights for groups or individuals, 12mth open dated vouchers. www.ballooning.co.uk Call Aerosaurus Balloons. 01404 823102

Fast-growing trees & hedging for screens, windbreaks, game cover, coppicing, bank stabilisation, woodland regeneration & more. Producing growth of 6-8' per year. Prices from £53 for 100 plants. www.bowhayestrees.co.uk 01404 812229

Trees: fruit, ornamental & hedging. Largest range of Westcountry apple varieties, also pears, plums, medlar, quince, nuts. Ornaments suitable for small gardens through to parklands. Hedging & native trees for all types of farm & country schemes. Thornhayes Nursery, Cullompton. www.thornhayes-nursery.co.uk 01884 266746

Rhododendrons £6+(bushy too), choice trees, shrubs & hedge 200 species. Rackenford. goakey101@aol.com 07976 807510 / 01884 881633

Telephone poles full length or cut to order. 07935 849936

Mixit Stirrers will save you time & diesel. The unique rotating tube with auger & upto 200hp impellers will quickly pulverize any thickness of crust. There are no submerged bearings, so can stir any fibrous crust without failure. Look at www.mixitstirrers.co.uk for full details & video. 01548 550298

Wilja & Desire certified seed potatoes. Taunton area. 01823 253808 / 07966 422641

Alfa 1020 herringbone milking parlour. 01395 263702

Kranzle pressure washer with garden hose & reel & turbo lance in gd cond. Extending ladder ridge crock & standoff. 01237 471657 / 07890 527470

Rayburn Royale o/f white gwo £445 ono. Rayburn Rembrandt canopy fired £125 ono. 01363 877361

8 Bateman 15' long locking feed barriers no skirt £185 ea. Helston. 01326 231274

Ringworm Treatment. McMillan Homeopathic cattle & sheep. Just add to drinking water. Also Pneumonia, Liver Fluke, Cell Counts. Orf & lots of other treatments. £75 including delivery. Also stock dog arthritis treatment £50 including delivery. Contact Shelley Pople for more info. 01278 723415 / 07977 122047

Vacuum packer with warranty, table top, quality German Busch vac pump. Any trial. 07973 362230 / 01884 266750

Dairy Tech milk pasteuriser used but in gwo £3500 ono. 01297 678710 / 07792 878972

Hardwood logs dry & seasoned. Free local delivery in Crewkerne area. Simon 07768 980887

IAE sheep race £300. IAE lamb weigh crate £300. 6' hurdles £9 each. Galvanised troughs £15 each. 2 galvanised (house type) creep feeders £295 each. All equipment in excellent condition. Shearing clippers runs off car battery £150. 01647 253671

New field style timber gates - 2 x 10' £85 each + VAT - 1 x 8' £75 + VAT. 01984 632761

Bateson livestock trailer 10' £850. 01363 866243

Fulton steam boiler, model 20E, output 700, more info please call. 01364 654252 / eves 01364 652871

Rowing machine as new £70. 01884 254878

Low cost polycarbonate panels for conservatories, car ports, canopy roofs, windows, tractors, greenhouses etc. We supply multiwall, corrugated & solid sheet cut to order at competitive prices. Fitting service available. Glazing bars, carports & DIY secondary glazing also available at Omega Plastics. South Molton. www.omegabuild.com 01769 574426

Large quantity of wood for logs. 01363 884442 / 07780 604180

12'x12' wooden field shelters, with bitumen roof sheets & wooden skids, from £650 + VAT. Galv skids from £350 + VAT. Other sizes available on request. www.countrysidefencing.com 01460 52709 / 07736 009565

Loader brackets - MF880 for MF365/4 - £375 + VAT. 01984 632761

Garden woodchip mulch N Devon. 07769 703958

Cubicle bedding. Crushed husk cubicle bedding, 6-8% moisture content, soft & absorbent, grain size 6mm to dust. Readily available all year round by walking floor lorry. For more info or a sample, email: sales@ag-products.co.uk www.ag-products.co.uk 01565 722922

5000 litre DeLaval DX tank, compressors, plate cooler, glass jars, acr's, EP100 pacer unit, water heater, DeLaval turbowash & quantity Heatime collars. Callington. 01579 370718

Bulk milk tanks for sale. 01392 210344 or Paul on 07974 140949

Cell grown trees & shrubs for hedge & woodland. Grown high on Exmoor to produce strong hardy trees. Comp prices www.exmoortrees.co.uk 07971 580057

Bateman cattle crush side access panels gwo £500. 01208 821325

12 bore, 2 leather cartridge belts, £40 each. Cartridge canvas bag, holds 50, brand new, £35. 01934 515716

IAE heavy duty calf creep feeder. IAE large dehorner calf crush. IAE small dehorner calf crush. 11 x 9' pig troughs. Dorset. Call Ed 07970 052490

Rayburn, solid fuel model, Regent, Royale MF Supreme. Sales, repairs, restorations & new boilers, various colours in stock. For details call 07792 755103

International 574 for spares/restoration. 01984 632761

Approx 5000 new bricks, unused, £450 the lot, buyer collects, forklift on site. 01884 266594

MF 80 Loader & MF Brackets £950 + VAT. 01984 632761

Honeywell radiators, 3 sizes £20 each. 01271 863537

Poclair 60 13T swing shovel c/w 2 buckets. Servo controls, 2 speed tracking, Deutz engine. Starts first time. Excellent condition for its age. £5500 + VAT. 01984 624479 / 07967 397474

Heat Logs for sale, collection Ex Taunton area, 12 logs per 10kg pack, £5/ pack + VAT Call Mike

01823 681209 / 07860 899485

Shower door plus fittings £20, one pink hand basin & taps £20, one white hand basin with taps £20, one small rectangular hand basin new £50. 01271 863537

AGA's & Rayburns cleaned & re-enamelled, worn tops a speciality. Solid fuel Rayburns always available. Oil & gas servicing available. 01392 841391

4'6" 8 tine fork, MF, Choice of 2. 01984 632761

Tractor/machinery operator instruction manuals - MF/others. 01984 632761

PTO roller mill Mcmasters 9" rollers. Used hotline poultry flexinet (50m rolls) Tiverton. 07774 705865

2 x 30000 litre open top steel rain water storage tanks. As new. Size 8" x 4" x 33". £2500 + VAT each can deliver. Ring Geoff on

07976 385909 / 01300 345219

Cast aluminium house signs & plaques, manufactured locally for farms, houses, restaurants, hotels etc. For catalogue visit www.dorothysfoundry.com or call 01823 672640

Rayburn 20G mustard calor gas cooker only no boiler as new £900 can deliver Mid Devon. 07792 755103

British made plate racks & drying racks for all range of cookers inc Aga's, Rayburns, Stanleys, Heritage, Esse, Redfry etc. Ideal Gift. www.plateracksanddryingracks.co.uk 01823 672640

2 Alliance 16.9x34 tractor tyres, 25% tread, £75 each. 01884 860848

2 - 60T outdoor grain silos Ashburton. 07779 956493

Titan Truckmaster, 400 litre diesel tank, with gauge & electric pump, nearly new, £395 ono. 01805 804593

Kidd straw chopper 4-5, comes with short chop kit. Excellent condition £975 + VAT. Chilton auger bucket 1400 litre, excellent condition £2575 + VAT. Totnes, Devon. 07970 471773

4 sheeted gates, 2 x 14', 2 x 15'. 3 yearling ring feeders. 6 Wydale 80ltr cake feeders. All 12mths old. 01297 678710

Calf creep, grain auger, Grays big bale handler with Manitou brackets, Bentall 5' corn crusher. Sims St Columb area. 01637 880277 / 07718 080180

Aga 4 oven cream O/F excellent condition can convert to elec £2500 can deliver & install Mid Devon. 07792 755103

Milk tanks. Fabdec 3800ltr DX with Ice builder & plate cooler £1500ono, also 3000ltr De Laval Icebank tank £500ono. South Devon. 07890 898164

Miscanthus animal bedding for sale, full loads Hesston's delivered only Call Mike on Office 01823 681209 / 07860 899485

Rayburn VGC natural gas modern forest green oven & boiler will power 8+ radiators £350. 01884 266609

Omega Mincer 32CE for sale in good condition, large meat tray 680 x 460 x 120mm stainless steel head, worm & ring. Easy to clean. 2.3hp. £100ono. R Belbin, Blandford, Dorset. 01258 830083

Extending strong aluminium ladder 2 sections 15' each £125. 01308 868313

Esse cooker & space heater range type green O/fired £100ono. 07973 362230

72 x 100kg Quill (45gallon) drum indoor pheasant/poultry feeders with trays & lids. 40 x 15kg poultry tube feeders. Nr A30@ Whiddon Down. Delivery possible. Tel/Text Ben 07812 048323

Approx 20 vintage oak/hardwood lintels, various dimensions, sensible offers for the lot or would sell singly. Callington. 07989 587388

3 x 8' Bateman hayrack & manger feeders. Suitable for cattle, horses or llamas, £150 each. Plymouth.
01752 402360 / 07909 698732

6T & 4T intensive beef ad-lib feeders (Simms bins). 01297 678710

Ritchie lamb creep feeder, single sided, fully galvd. 07831 330962

IAE lamb weigh crate, £300. IAE sheep cradle feeder, £120. New IAE cattle weigh clock, £200.
01884 861731 / 07812 175712

Bateman lamb creep. 3 x 8' sections, walk through sheep feeder together with end gate. 8 x 8' sheep troughs. Rolls of sheep wire netting & H irons, all good cond.
01984 656425 / 07760 157000

Grant Vortex oil fired 26E Combi boiler(in outdoor cabinet), type 501T2K £1000 ono Taunton area. 07966 422641

Damson trees, (standards) also plums, Perry Pears & half standards.
01963 441101

Gas cutting torch c/w pipes & gauges, £100 ono. 01884 860258

Calf pens good condition various sizes available. 01840 212009

Ardisam earthquake garden shredder, 5½ hp engine, little use, gwo, £300 ono. Bude. Not Sundays.
01288 331625 / 07970 889351

For Sale Forage crops

Barley & wheat straw & hay for sale, all baled & delivered by us, please ring for a keen price on delivery throughout 2015, we may save you hundreds of pounds on your current suppliers mark up on bought in straw, baling & selling straw for 25yrs. Alexander Mckie. 07836 547930

Top quality rolled barley & wheat supplied in dumpy bags & 20kg bags. Ideal feed for cattle, sheep, pigs & poultry. Call Matthew at Avercombe.
01769 550908 / 07792 453706

Hay big square bale well made 2014 Churchinford. 01823 601282

Fodder beet, clean & stone free available. Snell. Cullompton.
07850 856500 / 01884 266407

Fodder beet for sale. Harvested. Small or large quantity. South Devon. TQ7 2QF.
07970 773840

Fodder beet good quality, delivery can be arranged. 07768 587702 / 07972 009786

Good quality square bale hay, contact Stuart. 07740 399138

Quadrant wheat straw, round & square bale haylage & silage, fodder beet, delivered, Tiverton. 07850 222929

Best quality forage; hay & straw (barley, wheat, oat, rape) & haylage. Any size bale, delivery throughout the south-west. Competitive prices & reliable service. Hay wanted. M.R.Horn 01837 861443
07970 600800 / 01404 823333

Small bale haylage. Perfect for sheep/horses. £5 Tiverton or Exmoor collect.
01643 831480

Quality round baled haylage, hay & straw. Small baled hay & straw, del possible Winkleigh. 01837 83381 / 07876 106057

Fodder beet, ex farm or delivery can be arranged. Devon. 07774 750923

Good quality barn stored wheat/oat straw Wiveliscombe. 01984 623218

Fodder beet. Wheat straw big square bales. Can deliver locally. Bideford.
01237 451269

Excellent quality small & large bales of hay (£3 / £30). Also excellent quality double wrapped large haylage - £38. Collect Exford, or delivery anywhere on Exmoor. 07986 936686 / 01643 831521

950T first cut silage grass for sale. Devizes. 01380 828277

Good small bale hay any quantity Chulmleigh. 01769 580798

Clean stone free fodder beat for sale Kentisbeare area, phone David.
07702 500822 / 01884 266248

Round bale silage, good quality made in 2014 & small bale hay.
01769 550897 / 07879 618067

Quality round bale haylage & small bale hay, meadow & ryegrass, cut & baled in dry conditions, between Tiverton & Cullompton.
01884 855292 / 07739 231233

Round/ square bale haylage well-made 2014 Churchinford. 01823 601282

Big bale hay, D4000 bales, June - May, ex quality, weed free.
01935 822794 / 07895 785445

Top quality small bale hay made in June. Knowstone. 01884 881382

2014 first cut clamp silage available, Honiton area. 01404 861393

Top quality small bale hay £3/bale, free local delivery in Crewkerne area.
Simon 07768 980887

2014 made round bale hay & haylage. Clean, excellent quality. £25 / bale. Coryton. 01566 783136

Quality fodder beet, Bridgwater.
07876 528064

2014 round bale silage 200 bales offers Wellington. 07813 165456

Hay, straw, fodder beet & stock feed potatoes for sales. Can be delivered Ilminster. 07803 130358

For sale small bale meadow hay August made ideal for lambing shed.
01404 841313

Big bale hay, well made June 2104. 4 string x 8' £20 / bale. 01884 881533

Barley & wheat straw + hay & silage in various bales, available at competitive price. Also fodder beet. Wadebridge. Call Alec: 07792 373202 /eves 01208 851786

Organic July small & big round hay bales, round haylage - all suitable for horses. Upton-Bampton. 01398 331415

Wheat straw, mini Hesstons, 4 string, delivered in 72 bale loads or 40 bale loads, prices from £62 per tonne.
07767 656503

700 first cut Claas quadrant bales of silage. 01278 671661

Small bale haylage perfect for horses or sheep £3.50 per bale collected Chulmleigh.
Call eves 01769 581051/ 01769 580668

Hay & straw delivered. 90 quality small bale loads. Devon area Roberts Farm Feeds. Crediton. 01363 84595

Small bale haylage, hay & straw, ideal for horses, delivery available, near Wellington Dan Toogood. 07754 080254

Good quality round bale silage & haylage. Truro area. 07974 190701

Big bale & round bale barley straw. Excellent quality from Witheridge & Chulmleigh area. Call for details Martin. 07817 464420

Small bale hay, round bale wheat & barley straw & round bale haylage. Newquay Cornwall contact Ben. 01637 860314

300 Round bale silage & 15 large square hay bales. Dorset.
Call Ed 07970 052490

Conventional small bale hay, made June 2014. No rain. £2 / bale. 01884 252458

Organic round bale haylage made June 2014. Taunton. 07870 963478

Small bale haylage & hay top quality weed free good heavy bales. Hay £3-4 per bale & haylage £6.50 per bale can deliver at cost. South Molton. 07870 530302

Barley, top quality, 15-16% MC, well stored. 01884 855519 / 07851 005374

Crop assured feed barley also large tight round bale haylage. 01598 740280

Straw & hay bought & sold in any size of bale or load. Also bedrap, bedmax & white small flake shavings for sale at competitive prices.
01458 447833 / 07889 064294

Small bale hay, wheat, barley, straw, round bale silage, Square bale haylage & hay. Ilminster 07977 189945

Haylage in round bales approx. 500 bales, very high quality, suitable for horses, sheep or cattle. Angus Howie.
07831 330962

Very high quality ground ear maize silage. Ground ear maize silage in 2 clamps. Approx 85T total. Clamps are unopened. Angus Howie, Manor Farm, Meeth.
07831 330962

Small bale meadow hay, no fertiliser 5 years, no rain, cut July 2014, £3.75 collected, can deliver. 01884 822992

60 big bales of straw available in February. £30/bale (loaded). Please contact Richard On: rjh@hru.co.uk 01278 752014

Small bale barley straw, good quality.
01884 860019 / 07763 061085

Big bale wheat straw, big bale spring barley straw, small bale wheat straw, square bale haylage. Taunton.
07971 847819

Good quality round bale & clamp silage made 2014 for sale Okehampton area.
01837 52364 / 07415 064989

Round bale silage, May 1st cut, chopped, good quality, suitable for sheep & cattle. Bampton. 01398 331312

Honest Ray's small bale hay & straw. Excellent quality 40 bale loads, delivered free 10 miles radius Tiverton.
01884 855333 / 07710 137343

Excellent horse, sheep & calf hay & barley straw, traditional bales. Also square bale haylage. 07977 930045 / 01769 540405

Wanted

All models 4x4 pick-up single & dble cabs, good, bad or ugly. Also 2wd pick-ups, petrols & diesels.
07860 423139 / 01462 743843

Arable land required for cereal growing 10 mile radius Winkleigh / Chulmleigh. We offer competitive rents & can supply references. Call Russ. 07701 097824

Retired Greyhound Trust are looking for homes for ex-racing greyhounds. They are fully inoculated, neutered & had teeth & health checks. If interested please contact 01823 480835 / 07534 394666

Good quality British Friesian or Continental bull calves from TB restricted farms. Contact Stuart Webber.
07740 399138

Deer wanted, dead or alive, excellent price paid, willing to collect.
Robert Hawker. 07967 698153

Store cattle, cows & bulls, no pre movement test needed, over 12 months. Can take TB cattle, top prices paid. J Symons. 01805 603250 / 07801 650401

Cull cows, ewes & lambs taken. Also casualty cattle with certification for human consumption picked up. Prompt & good rates of pay.
07976 321686
01823 352228 / 01823 283576

Urgent, high cash price paid for Toyota Hi-lux pick-ups, petrols, 4 or 2 wd. Also Nissan D21 petrols, 4 & 2 wd, any condition taken. 07860 423139

MF135, 35, 65, T20, 148, 240, 165, 550, 590,188 & 290+ all other older MF models + all makes/models of tractor.
07860 423139 / 01462 743843

Toyota Landcruisers 4.2 & Nissan Patrol with 4.2 diesel engines & petrols.
07860 423139 / 01462 743843

Help wanted lambing 14 March for 4 weeks. Live in if required. 01643 831319

Nissan cabstar, Mazda vans, Toyota vans, petrol or diesel, with or without MoT.
07860 423139 / 01462 743843

Top money paid for Vauxhall Brava's, Isuzu Rodeos, Toyota Hilux, Nissan D21 & D22, 4x4 or 2x4, any cond.
07809 461389

Top prices paid for 4x4 & 4x2 petrol Toyota Hi-Lux pick-ups. 07860 423139

Weekend relief milker for 250 ped Holstein herd, Ottery St Mary. Decent rates of pay. D Lawrence. 07779 128981

AG push along sawdust dispenser.
01579 342646 / 07827 920743

Fullwood Q4 vaccuum pump. Also Fullwood in parlour feed troughs.
07764 150720

Relief herdsman/milker req. Experience preferred & willing to work weekends. Barnstaple area. 01271 858439

Tractors & machinery from small farms. Rob Uren. 01548 521278

WW2 jeep or similar. Rob Uren.
01548 521278

Store lambs top prices paid J Symons.
01805 603250 / 07801 650401

Whole barley. Contact Stuart.
07740 399138

Best cash prices paid for motorhomes & caravans.
01271 866333 / 07769 754968

Cob / stone buildings in any condition to renovate, Devon area.
01404 46539 / 07976 475229

Bicon Varispreader from 1 bag upwards. PZ300 haybobs must be tidy. Ring anytime. 01769 550623 / 07770 782238

Part time farm worker / relief milker to work on a dairy / beef farm nr Torrington.
01805 601244

Store bullocks 6mths old upwards.
07745 843925 / 01884 253847

DB 16 bore shotgun, first choice Webley & Scott 700 model, would consider AYA or any other. 07860 423139

Front of House (Full Time) Qualifications or experience in customer care, retail environment & IT (Microsoft Word, Access, Outlook Excell. etc) would be beneficial. An interest in fishing would be desirable. Outdoor Maintenance Staff (Full Time) Qualifications or experience in the following areas would be helpful ride on mower, brushcutter, chainsaw, building skills, plumbing, electrical, etc An interest in fishing. Please email for an application form info@anglers-paradise.co.uk or ring
01409 221559

Front weight carrier to fit New Holland TL100A or T5060 or part exchange weight carrier off Case JXU105. Bude. Not Sundays. 01288 331625 / 07970 889351

Grass keep with or without sheds
01884 253847 / 07745 843925

Grass seed fiddle, must be G.W.O.
07540 969761

Farm worker wanted on a beef/sheep/ arable farm. Some livestock & tractor driving experience helpful, willing to work some weekends. Milton Damerel.
07974 548233

Greenhouse, 16' x 8' or bigger, cedar preferred.
07918 616063

Full-time herdsman required to milk on a dairy unit in the Chew valley. Foot trimming & AI essential, accommodation available. References to jcgay@hotmail.com 07879 402314 / 07779 104146

Ford P100 pickup, Cortina or Sierra model. Any cond. 07860 423139

Swimming pool & hot tub construction, maintenance & repair. Hugh Gardner
www.devonpoolservices.com
07929 960761 / 01884 820230 (Eve)

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Charlie & James Davey, professional cattle foot trimmers, covering the entire South West. Also freezebranding & scanning very competitive rates. For more info including photos, videos & farmer recommendations, visit our website www.cattlefootcare.co.uk
07811 111303 / 07790 289709

David Mather Cattle services. For all your hoof-trimming, de-horning & clipping of dairy & beef cattle. Clean, safe equipment. Skilled operators. Quiet stockmen. Reasonable rates. Providing a professional, reliable service to farmers across Cornwall & Devon. Gentle on your cattle, gentle on your pocket!
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Steve Lerwill foot trimming specialist, whole herds undertaken, competitive rates, NACFT member, large bulls not a problem, all areas covered.
07915 608139 / 01769 572699

Virgin clean woodchip supplied by the cubic metre, seasoned or green. Please call Brendon Hill Tree Services Ltd.
01984 624183 / 07971 531333

Fencing at competitive prices. Stock fencing, post & rail, gate hanging, stock pens & hedge laying. Contact Stuart Webber. 01884 860165 / 07740 399138

Qualified land agent, able to assist with single farm payments, environmental stewardships, cross compliance, land management, agreements, farm mapping & more. Contact Gemma Sparks
www.blackdownconsulting.co.uk
07533 340847

Colin Weeks Forestry & Fencing, for all your forestry requirements, from thinning to clear felling, we buy diseased larch & all other species of standing timber, hardwood & softwood. info@colinweeks.co.uk
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Freezebranding & livestock scanning. Defra approved, reliable, efficient service throughout the South West. Call Brett Luxton on 01837 880331 / 07889 275937
Email luxtonfreezebranding@gmail.com

Sheep & cow ultrasound pregnancy scanning. Rob Branfield. 07866 623354

S J Norman & Sons offer emergency slaughter services, veterinary certificate required. 07724 870217 / 01308 422967

Fodder beat drilling & harvesting with 6 row self-propelled machine.
07843 663205

G.A. Earthworks Ltd: Specialists in bulk excavation, earth bank slurry lagoons, shed sites, land drainage, lake & pond construction, land clearance & forestry works & landscaping & mini excavators. For more info. www.gaeearthworks.co.uk
info@gaeearthworks.co.uk
07792 931899

Concrete grooving! With cows being so valuable, it seems a shame to lose or damage them through slippery yards. To groove & make safe those vulnerable areas ring Macattack. Prices at www.macattackptrns.co.uk
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email info@colinweeks.co.uk
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Freeze branding for clear ID, guarantee results indefinitely, straying & missing heifers & are a lot easier to trace with a F/B. Alphabet & numbers, full size & calf irons, also branding crate carried for calves. Cattle scan, qualified all at competitive prices Russell.
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Sheep scanning, in a crate standing up, we mark, fast & accurate, 15yrs exp here & NZ. Also cattle scan qualified. Luke Soms/Glos/Wilts. 07889 248640

Hedge laying tree felling scrub clearance in Devon & Cornwall. 07515 420883

Farmers & smallholders, farm shops etc. Slaughtering & cutting service available at small family run, fully approved, abattoir & cutting plant. Pork, lamb & beef (inc OTM) processed to your requirements. Soil Association & ABM Certified. csnellwholesale@btconnect.com
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All contracting work undertaken including slurry tanking, rear discharge spreaders, ploughing, drilling, Tiverton.
Tel Richard Jarrett. 07850 222929

Stillmans (Somerset) Ltd. Private killing & cutting service for beef, pork & lamb at local BRC & Red Tractor approved abattoir. Killed, hung, packed & labelled to your requirements at competitive prices. Contact Paul or Tracey.
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J Penfold Tarmac Contractors Ltd. Surfacing specialists in roads, drives, car parks, paths, farm lanes, tennis courts etc. Contractors for local authority. Free estimates, all work guaranteed.
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Ultrasound scanning for pregnancy in sheep, cattle, pigs & alpacas. Covering South West. Contact Colin Otery, competitive rates.
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Reduce your reseeding costs, slot seed with Aitchison drill or use the overseeder for all pastures with Kockling grassmaster, heavy duty machine. Also dry rolling grain. Minerals & molasses can be added. Also crimping. Brian Dullam. 01769 550443
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01458 274289

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01823 663317 / 07801 678543

Exmoor Air Conditioning, agricultural HGV & plant aircon service & repairs. Most pipes made or repaired on site. Aircon parts & blower motors supplied. Mobile service. Mid/North Devon & W Somerset area. Phone anytime Jon New Ash Mill, South Molton.
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Slug pelleting with bike, Devon / Somerset area 07967 362137 / 01984 640321

SCL Water specialise in the supply of quality pumps & filtration systems. We offer outstanding service & value on Grundfos, DAB & Lowara systems. Ring to check our prices on 01769 575990
www.sclwater.co.uk / info@sclwater.co.uk
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Mike Ford fencing. National Fencing competition winner 2008/09/10/12. Stock fencing, post & rail, equestrian & poultry.
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Spraying grassland & cereals also roundup ploughing & drill combination. Low ground pressure fertiliser spreading EJS Wellington. 07813 165456

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Tel Ilminster 07736 009565

Pest management, moles, rats, wasps, fully insured. k30bws@gmail.com
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Sheep & cattle scanning (PD). Simon Cooper. 07974 120946 / 01837 851717

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Kit form building erecting. Everything from kitting out to concreting, modifications, repairs & welding. Over 10 years experience. Ring for a free quote:
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Riverside caravan & camping park, on the gateway to Exmoor, set in 70 acres of parkland, 4 star family park, open all year, 3 specimen carp lakes, luxury statics
www.exmooriverside.co.uk
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South Spain, Andalucia, 3 beds, 2 baths, large country villa, private pool, wonderful south facing views.
Email gilliancoble@icloud.com

Holiday caravan on working farm in Ruthern Valley, mid Cornwall. Large 3 bedroom static, sleeps 6, garden. Lovely position. 01208 831207

Harlyn Bay near Padstow, comfortable 3 bed holiday cottage. 500 years from safe, sandy beach & coast path. Enclosed garden. 01271 850658

Stable & paddock, Chumleigh area. Mobile home, Eggesford.
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Skid steer loaders, from 44" to 66" wide, both with buckets & dung grabs. Also 1.5T to 5T mini diggers, available with post hole auger & breaker/post banger. Self drive. Richard Smith. North Molton.
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Marquee/party tents 6mx12m & 12mx12m chairs, tables, heaters etc.
marqueeandtenthire@gmail.com

Events

Tiverton Balloon & Music Festival 10-12 July. 40 + hot air balloons; 40+ bands on 2 stages; children's entertainment; planetarium; falconry; flying displays; stunning night glows (10th & 11th); car boot sale (12th); food, drink & crafts pavilion; diverse range of refreshments; bars; camping. Raising funds for Devon Air Ambulance & Children's Hospice S.W. For Tickets, Balloon Flights, Trade Stand applications & information
www.tivertonballoonfestival.co.uk
01404 823735

SPRING SAVINGS

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fencing
and
timber



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- Stakes & strainers
- Tools & accessories

Offers throughout March on timber and fencing products

EXTRA offers at Timber events!

The timber days for Mole Valley Farmers will be held in March, Nigel Cockwill will be supporting these events along with support from the show team.

- 2nd March Frome
- 5th March Yeovil
- 6th March Newton Abbot
- 12th March South Molton
- 17th March St Columb
- 11th March Liskeard
- 20th March Cullompton
- 24th March Bridgwater
- 25th March Holsworthy

Heating Events at MVF!



See page 36 for details of when the heating event day will be happening at your local Mole Valley Farmers branch.

DIARY DATES

3 Feb	Farming Profitably in a Changing Climate. Farm Carbon Cutting Toolkit event at Rural innovation Centre, Harnhill, Glos CL7 5PX 9.30am-4.30pm £38.40 + VAT inc. lunch. More details www.farmcarbontoolkit.org.uk
4 Feb	Keys to a simple block Autumn calving system. Somerset Grassland Society, speakers Chris and Richard Norman. Pipers Inn, Ashcott, TA7 9QL
5 Feb	Moleenergy information day at Lifton Mill, West Devon. Call the team on 01769 575674 if you would like to attend
7 Feb	Hedgelaying classes. Wrington and Burrington Hedging Society. Meet Bungalow Inn, Redhill 10am. To book call 01275 472369 (More courses on 14, 21 and 28 February)
9 Feb	Making CAP Work, Somerset CMA, talk by Kevin Bateman, Sedgemoor Auction Centre 8pm. Meal at 7.15pm £6/head. Call 07899 907173
11-12 Feb	Energy Now Expo 2015, Telford International Centre, St Quentin Gate, Telford, Shropshire TF3 4JH
12 Feb	Nutrient strategies on grassland. Devon Grassland Society meeting, speaker Nigel Hester. Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter EX2 8XU 8pm Contact Nigel Hester 07799 563847
18 Feb	Malting barley breakfast, HGCA workshop, Warminster hgca.com/events
19 Feb	Life after MilkLink. North Devon Grassland Society meeting with Neil Kennedy of Parkham Farms. Cedars, Barnstaple 8pm. More details from David Budd 07774 196792
25 Feb	HGCA Agronomy 2015, Westpoint, Exeter EX5 1DJ. A series of seminars designed to help growers and agronomists drive arable businesses forward. Latest research, looking to provide agronomic solutions for the year ahead. 12.30 registration and lunch 16.00 close. For details and to book go to www.hgca.com/events or call 024 7647 8723
26 Feb	Maize Conference 2015. Organised by the MGA, Peterborough Arena, E. of England Showground, Peterborough PE2 6XE. Registration 9.30am. Topics include Dairy cow and Biogas production, maize role in eradicating blackgrass, soil and nutrient loss. MGA members £45/Non members £60 (ex VAT) More info and booking MGA 01363 775040
7 Mar	Skills of the Hills hedge event - Blackdown Hills Hedge Association (Bhha.info) Hedge laying competition and a lot more! Gorwell Farm, Hemyock, Devon EX14 4SR For more details: George Pidgeon 07970 644631
12 Mar	Farmer forum Devon Grassland Society meeting, speakers Di Wastenage, Celia Diepenbroek and Caroline Spencer. Devon Hotel, Matford, Exeter EX2 8XU 8pm Contact Nigel Hester 07799 563847

For information on these events, contact the Show Team on 01769 575653 or see www.asao.co.uk (Assoc. of Shows and Agric. Organisations) www.molevalleyfarmers.com/mvf/info/general/Community

Devon's Social Enterprises at the forefront of the Crowdfunding Revolution!
If you require advice or support for a social or community enterprise of any sort, then contact Devon Communities Together who provide a free service in this field. Visit www.devoncommunities.org.uk or contact Nemo Shaw, Social Enterprise Adviser, on 01392 248919 Ext 171.

Cornwall hosts British Grassland Society Summer Meeting 2015

Over 250 visitors are expected to visit some of Cornwall's best livestock farms in July, as the county's local grassland societies play host to the BGS Summer Meeting. (*more - see pages 24-25*)

This annual event brings together farmers, people working in the agricultural supply industry and academics to learn, network and enjoy a series of farm visits and evening events.

'Meating and Milking the Cream of Cornish Grassland' will be held on 12-15 July 2015. Cornwall Grassland Society (made up of four local societies) has organised a diverse and interesting itinerary that will take in seven livestock farms and the 'Future Farm' research facilities at Duchy College. More information from Charlotte Evans on 07960 007649. britishgrassland.com



L-R Bill Harper, Philip Kent, Patrick Barrett, Mr Vanstone, Russell Risdon, Sally Kellow, Andrew Kellow, Jono Cole, Clare Parnell, James Coumbe



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