



DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2025



NATIONAL PANTOMIME FINALISTS



COUNTY PUB SPORTS RESULTS

www.devonyfc.co.uk

The Devon Rural Hub, Amory Building, Cheriton Bishop, Exeter, EX6 6JH

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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am nearly half way through my year as County Chairman. I am loving every minute.



We've already done so much, and we still have so much still to come! Here I am writing my 6th newsletter report and I am nearly half way through my year as Chairman.

It was great to see so many members attend the County pub sports evening at the Waie Inn. Congratulations to Tarka, South Dartmoor and East Devon for winning and well done to everyone who came up to take part or support your club, it was a great evening.

The next day I headed up to Leamington Spa for the National Pantomime competition. Over both Saturday and Sunday we saw a great variety of amazing performances. A massive well done to Haldon for putting on another fantastic show. It takes so much work and dedication from the whole group to put on such a performance at a national level and you should all be incredibly proud, I know I am.

On the same weekend, the National Annual Meeting of Clubs took place where we saw two motions proposed. The first motion, which proposed an increase to the National subscription was not passed and the second motion regarding inheritance tax having a detrimental impact on the future of farming was passed. It was also great to see our very own Dan Grist receive the YFA Trophy for his presentation documenting his trip to Canada. Well done Dan.

Last month we also held our Annual Show and Sale at Exeter Market. I loved seeing so many members take part. It was a great day and a busy market. Well done to every member who put time and effort into producing such high standards.

Recently we also held the second member's meeting of the year. Thank you to all the members who came along - not only is it important for you to take away lots of information, but it's also a great chance to hear your feedback and views which allow us to ensure we are providing what our members want. We also had two guests - first a presentation from FCN and Macmillan Cancer Support. They talked to us about their new Rural Communities Project which is raising awareness of cancer in rural communities, as living in a rural area makes you 5% less likely to survive a cancer diagnosis. Our second guest was Lee from Sparex who came to talk to members about working together on creating video content about machinery and parts which was very interesting.

The team have been working really hard getting everything ready for one of the biggest events in the Devon YFC calendar - Devon County Show. It is always a busy but brilliant week and we are so excited for a fantastic show. See you there!

K. Lovegrove

Kayleigh Lovegrove
County Chairman





COUNTY ORGANISER

Fern Lindsay

This month we return once again to the Devon County Show and Hannah and her team have been busy preparing behind the scenes. We are set to have a fantastic week - let's hope the fine weather stays for us too - and we look forward to seeing members and supporters throughout. Entries are to be staged from 12pm - 7pm on Tuesday 13th May in the YFC tent.

The Outdoor Activities Day will be on Saturday 14th June at The Exe Valley Farm Shop, by kind permission of the May family. Members can expect Tractor and ATV challenges,

Pallet Recycling, Tug of War, Junior Tag Rugby, Fence Erecting, Ready Steady Cook and more.

Well done to Vice County Chair, Anneliese Retallick, who completed the London Marathon at the end of April - we are all very proud of you!

Date for your diary:

Tractor Run Meeting at the YFC Centre on Monday 19th May at 8pm. A representative from each club must come along. This could be an Officer, Leader, President or Advisory member.



HEYWOOD BARS

mobile event bars



With over 10 years experience of successfully running bars at hundreds of events catering from 50 - 1500 guests, we have the professionalism and reliability you can trust.

All of our senior staff are qualified personal license holders, and are mostly from YFC backgrounds. So if it's a ball, party, or wedding, you can be assured of our best service.

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COMPETITIONS

Hannah Rich

April kick-started with Haldon Young Farmers competing at the National Pantomime final with their performance 'Once upon a time in Pantoland'.

A massive congratulations to the cast for putting on a fantastic performance and coming away with 5th place. The standard was incredibly high and they only narrowly missed out on being placed in the top three.

They also had a whopping seven nominations for best leading and supporting performers - Ben May, Harry Grigg, Chantelle Rae, Katie Grist, Elliot Ford, Lily May and Alison Balsdon - which were all very well deserved.

Next up was the Call My Bluff open competition and it was great to see all six groups take part. It was an evening filled with great stories and a lot of laughs! Thank you to our judges Jordan Winter and Vicki Gilbert!

Call My Bluff Results

1st: South Dartmoor
2nd: East Devon
3rd: North Devon
Best Male: James Caunter
Best Female: Hannah Heywood

Next up is Devon County Show! With over 1,000 entries received, the Young Farmers tent promises to be a fantastic showcase of talent. We look forward to welcoming you all to the marquee - there's plenty to see and do over the show days!



SPORTS & SOCIAL

Phoebe Parker

In April we held our annual **County Pub Sports Final, featuring pool, darts, and skittles, at the Waie Inn.** Thank you to the Waie Inn for hosting us, and to all those who attended.

Pool Results

1st: Tarka
2nd: East Devon
3rd: South Dartmoor

Skittles Results

1st: East Devon
2nd: North Devon
3rd: Exe Valley

Darts Results

1st: South Dartmoor
2nd: East Devon
3rd: Tarka

The Junior tug of war training day, initially scheduled for the 27th of April at Offwell Village Hall in Honiton, has unfortunately been postponed. A new date will be announced as soon as possible.

The four tag rugby teams that will compete in the final on Thursday 15th May at the Devon County Show (main ring in the evening) are Newton St Cyres, Kingsbridge, Exe Valley and North Molton. We wish all teams the best of luck and hope to see plenty of support from the crowd!

The County Sports Day will be held on Sunday 8th June (venue tbc). This event will feature men's football, women's netball, and badminton for ages 10-12, with all competitions serving as national qualifiers. I look forward to seeing you all at these exciting upcoming events!

TRAVEL

Harry Sprague

And just **Alike** that, we find ourselves diving head-first into Summer and into May, still full with Easter chocolate. With the snowy slopes of the YFC ski trip now in the rear view mirror we can set our sights on our summer excursions. The countdown is on heading towards our scholarships!

Of course our scholarship teams have been busy out and about fundraising for their trips, and raising

plenty of money in the process. East Devon juniors held a fantastic Bingo at Offwell in Honiton with many fantastic prizes and raising over £900 for their scholarship. Exe Valley also held their Spring Bingo at the end of March which was very well supported and they managed to raise over £1000. Well done all for all the work you've done so far!

Looking forward, of course May means the busiest few days in the Devon YFC calendar - Devon County Show! In the YFC tent you'll



DEVON YFC SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

HAMPER RAFFLE

Hampers include: Roast Dinner, Afternoon Tea, Breakfast & more!

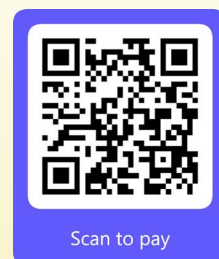
★★★★★

To be drawn on
Saturday 17th of May,
at Devon County Show!

★★★★★

Proceeds to go towards the Junior & Senior Scholarship Trips 2025
Tickets available by contacting any of the Devon YFC Scholarship Team, or via WhatsApp/text to Katie on 07706760500

see once again our scholarship teams fundraising with a hamper raffle with plenty of prizes up on offer. From a "Farmer's Wardrobe" hamper to an "Afternoon Tea" hamper just to name a couple. Tickets are already on sale, so please contact Katie on 07706760500 or scan the QR code.



AGRI

Chloe Arscott

April has seen the return of our Devon YFC Show and Sale. What a great showcase of livestock and YFC it was! We had 246 entries in total across club and open classes.

This year's Show and Sale was a brilliant success and I'd like to thank all of our sponsors, judges, stewards and everyone who turned up on the day to support young farmers. The biggest thank you goes to the team at Kivells for all their hard work, preparation and support, the day would not be able to happen without them.

Thank you to everyone who entered. Congratulations to all the winners and a huge well done our Overall Supreme Champion sponsored by Mole Valley - Jonny Ware from Culm Valley with his champion pigs!

Supreme Beef Champion
sponsored by **Masons Kings:**
Jack Davis - Culm Valley YFC

Supreme Beef Out of Dairy
Champion sponsored by Exe
Valley Farm Shop: Harry Cole -
Cruwys Morchard YFC

Supreme Dairy Champion
sponsored by **Crediton Milling:**
Izzy Davis - Culm Valley YFC

Supreme Ewe and Lamb
Champion sponsored by
Smallridge Bros: Alicia Barker -
Culm Valley YFC

Supreme Tame Lamb Champion
sponsored by **British Wool:**
Alicia Barker - Culm Valley YFC

Supreme Pig Champion
sponsored by **Green Circle**
Feeds Ltd: Jonny Ware - Culm
Valley YFC



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cmc@creditonmilling.co.uk



Coming up we have the Agri Debate at Devon County Show at 10:30 am on Friday 16th May.

Upcoming agri tours:

Arla Foods Taw Valley - Wednesday 11th June at 18:30 at North Tawton

British Wool - Monday 23rd June at 11 am at South Molton

Both tours will have limited spaces, so please keep an eye out for the jotforms which will be released soon.



WEST COUNTRY TECH

Rural security and internet experts in the south west of England

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- Livestock monitoring cameras
- Starlink
- Wi-Fi and Networking



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CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery YFC have had a busy month attending a fun meeting back in April of quay jumping - members had lots of fun in the sun.

A couple members also attended a Tarka Group tour of a race yard in Bude. We all learnt some interesting facts about horse racing and enjoyed a pasty and sweet treat after!

Some members are taking part in a fashion show raising money for our club and Clovelly life boat, hopefully this is a success and we raise a good amount of money for both amazing charities.



We are also looking at planning a car treasure hunt for local people to attend and to also support a local social club where the event will end.

Georgia Daniel

YARCOMBE YFC

We started off April with a mouse racing night! We had over 100 people attend, who all seemed to enjoy a fun night buying mice in the auctions, betting on mice and watching them race, all with a pasty and pint in hand! Thanks to everyone's support, we managed to raise £2,200 for Devon Air Ambulance.



Later on in April, 12 members went go-karting at Raceworld in Exeter which made for an

enjoyable evening! Members also joined forces with Honiton YFC for a tour around Halse's near the end of the month.

Finally, we ended April with our UV disco, this was a very successful night with lots of people attending and everyone having a really good time!

Eleanor Gibson





CLUB OF THE MONTH

DARTMOUTH YFC

Supported by
SOUTH WEST
Farmer

Dartmouth YFC is one of Devon's junior clubs, meaning that all their members are under the age of 18. With a committee of young officers, they are providing an incredibly busy and diverse programme for their members.

From pantomime and cheerleading, to public speaking and stock judging, Dartmouth Young Farmers are giving everything a go.

Lily Rowdon, Dartmouth YFC Club Chairman, says: "We are particularly proud of our club's pantomime performance, which came fourth at the group round.

We were the youngest and smallest club there, and yet we still had nominations for best actor and actress.

"This year we also took part in the cheerleading competition, going all the way to represent Devon at the South West Area finals, which was an incredible experience."

The club have also been busy taking part in public speaking competitions, providing them with valuable skills for life. They have had teams compete in Junior Public Speaking, as well as three teams for Call My Bluff, of which Club Secretary Macie Lewis won best speaker at the group round.

Macie Lewis,
Dartmouth YFC Club
Secretary, says:

**"It is great
to see so many
of our members
give public
speaking a go"**

Macie Lewis

"It is safe to say that stock judging is also incredibly popular within the club. We recently held a club stock judging round, judging beef, sheep and dairy, with many of our members taking part."

As well as competing in a variety of competitions, the club has also been busy raising funds for charity. So far, fundraisers have included a quiz night, charity calendar and a dung run. At their last club meeting they presented £500 to the Devon Air Ambulance, and they are also donating £500 to the Yellow Wellies Farm Safety Foundation.

Although a small and young club, Dartmouth YFC are proving to be one of the most active clubs in the county, and have no plans to slow down any time soon.



NFU MUTUAL'S TOP TIPS ON IMPROVING FARM SECURITY

It's a sad fact of life that crime is a big problem for farmers. It can challenge livelihoods as much as bad weather, crop failure or animal health.

However, we can be proactive about the issue by taking measures to make our farm security the best it can be. These measures don't have to be hugely expensive or use up a lot of your valuable time but can be highly effective in preventing your farm from becoming the latest target for criminals.

Let's take a look at some of the main things you should be doing right now to protect your property and equipment.

Look for existing weaknesses

Before you put any security measures in place, you'll need to analyse your existing set-up. It may be you are already as secure as you can be in certain areas but there may also be glaring gaps that need to be filled. The only way to find out is to check thoroughly and think like a criminal.

Install security measures

Technology can offer a real advantage in deterring criminals. This includes alarms, security systems and motion activated lights. Put alarms on doors to buildings and point CCTV cameras at the most vulnerable spots on your farm.

Visible deterrents will help. Many criminals on farms are opportunistic and take chances, so having clear security measures could protect farms effectively.

Check locks on windows and doors

There are good locks and there are locks that anyone with a little knowledge can open quite easily. Check that your padlocks are strong – consider covers to them to stop them being cut through. Don't forget the hinges of the doors, as these can be real weak points. And don't forget to store keys in places that aren't obvious as well.

Expert advice is always welcome, so try the Master Locksmiths Association for a list of established fitters in your area and more information on the security options available to you.

Check the perimeter

Security starts as soon as your land begins. Bolstering your perimeter security could include additional fencing, ditches to prevent unauthorised vehicles accessing your land and thick prickly hedges. Make sure existing infrastructure is in good working order. Don't offer any obvious open doorways to your property.

Consider branding and serial numbers

The protection of equipment and vehicles can be vital to your business. You can brand your equipment with unique serial numbers – such as etching into a window or the bodywork. Take photos as well. If your equipment is stolen, this will help with the recovery. Consider everything of value. For example, GPS kit theft has been a problem in recent years.

Get insurance that covers you fully

Should the worst happen, make sure you have the right level of insurance to cover everything. This includes your livestock, equipment, tractors, etc. The stress of being the victim of a crime is doubled if you find out you won't be getting the compensation to replace missing or broken items.

As the UK's leading rural insurer, we're here to ensure your farming business is in safe hands. Whatever your insurance needs, talk to us, and add an extra layer of security to your farm whatever the future holds.



To find out more, scan the QR code to find your local agency.



NFU Mutual
FARM INSURANCE



DEVON YFC TRAINING



We have lots of training opportunities available to members, many of which are heavily discounted for Devon YFC members with support from The Laura Persey Trust and Dartington Cattle Breeding Trust (DCBT). **Please contact training@devonyfc.co.uk if you are looking for a particular course.**

Find out more and sign up to each course here!

Training Opportunity

Over 12 Mixed Self Defence

Friday 23rd May

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

1 session course – £14.50

3D Felt Sheep Workshop

Friday 6th June 2025

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

1 session course – £35.00

Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler

Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th June

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ

Cow Themed Pinch Pots Workshop

Saturday 21st June 2025

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

1 session course – £35.00

Summer Themed Tote Bag Printing

Friday 18th July 2025

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

Glass Fusion Workshop

Saturday 9th August 2025

Devon Rural Hub, Cheriton Bishop, EX6 6JH

1 session course – £35.00

TALKWORKS Tips for May

TALKWORKS

IMPROVING YOUR MENTAL AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING

Access employment support, free of charge through TALKWORKS.

If you are struggling to find work or you've been off sick from work related stress, did you know that TALKWORKS can help? TALKWORKS is open to adults age 18+ living in Devon (outside Plymouth) and all of their services are available free of charge.

Their employment support team can offer independent and impartial employment advice and support to people receiving therapy from TALKWORKS. This includes:

- Support with job applications including writing a CV, the interview process, finding volunteer opportunities and accessing further education.
- Supporting you in your current job such as engaging with employers to help you address work issues and supporting you with attending work based meetings.
- Help with managing sickness absences from work, support with occupational health meetings, or returning to work after having time off unwell.
- Advice around reasonable adjustments or changing your job.
- Signposting regarding benefits, general guidance on employment law and employment rights.

If you would like to find out more or self refer to TALKWORKS, please visit the TALKWORKS website (www.TALKWORKS.dpt.nhs.uk) or call 0300 555 3344.

SHOW & SALE FUNDRAISER

A new fundraiser was introduced at the County Show & Sale – a 50/50 draw which raised a total of £172.00 with the total being split 50/50 between Devon YFC and Lucie Hoskin (number 130).



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MAY

- 15th-17th: Devon County Show
- 15th: Rugby 7's Finals
- 16th: Agri Debate at Devon County Show
- 19th: Tractor Run Meeting
- 24th: Meshaw YFC 80th Anniversary
- 26th: North Devon Field Day
- 29th: North Devon Show & Sale

JUNE

- 5th: General Council
- 7th: North Molton 80th Anniversary Ball
- 8th: County Sports Day
- 11th: Arla Tour
- 14th: Chulmleigh YFC Charity Duck Race
- 14th: Outdoor Activities Day
- 21st: Clay Pigeon Shooting Finals
- 22nd: Splashdown Quaywest
- 23rd: British Wool Tour
- 29th: SWA Competitions Day



DEVON YFC SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

HAMPER RAFFLE

Hampers include: Roast Dinner, Afternoon Tea, Breakfast & more!

★★★★★

To be drawn on
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Tickets available by contacting any of the Devon YFC Scholarship Team, or via WhatsApp/text to Katie on 07706760500



 **DEVON YFC
TRAINING**



Find information about all our upcoming training courses, from telehandler courses to self defence, as well as all the forms to sign up here!

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