



DEVON YOUNG FARMERS NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2025



**MENS & LADIES
NATIONAL TUG OF WAR
CHAMPIONS**



**JUNIOR SCHOLARSHIP
TO SCOTLAND**



**BENNETT FAMILY
DAIRY TOUR**

www.devonyfc.co.uk

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

Tel: 01647 24120 Email: admin@devonyfc.co.uk



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FROM THE CHAIRMAN

If you ever get the chance to travel with YFC, don't hesitate, dive in and make the most of it - you won't regret it.



As the last of the summer days are closing in we are far from slowing down, in fact we have lots planned!

In July we had the opportunity to take part in mental health first aid training. This now means there are mental health first aiders throughout Devon that are able to support all of our member's needs.

We are now getting ready for our first ever County Speed Shear being held on the 20th September at Higher Thornton Farm by kind permission of the Berry family. Plans are well underway to ensure a fantastic evening with a bar, food, a children's fun area and of course lots of talented shearing. Get the date in your diary!

The European Rally 2025

What an opportunity it was to attend the Rural Youth Europe Rally held in Slovenia this year. Every year NFYFC selects four members to attend the European Rally to represent NFYFC at a European level. This year's event was entitled 'Planting Ideas, Cultivating the Future' and we covered the topics of youth participation and advocacy.

Throughout the week we took part in various energisers, farm tours, reflection sessions, excursions and even got to stay with host families.

At the start of the week we were put into small buddy groups. In my group there was Sara Hana from Slovakia, Enni from Finland, Letizia from Germany, Oto from Latvia and our buddy leader Michael from Switzerland. Throughout the week we took part in the Rally Olympics where we had the chance to win points by completing different tasks, from making reels of the day, to getting everyone to do a dance. I am super proud of our team finishing third overall!

The evenings were filled with different activities. One evening we had the international buffet where we all brought food and drink from our countries. This was a great evening, not only being able to sample different country's delicacies, but also talking about different cultures.

We had spent the week living together, learning together and above all laughing together. Saying goodbye to new friends

was hard and reflecting on the week, it's safe to say this is an experience I will never forget. Memories were made and the new friendships formed will hopefully bring us together again. If you ever get the chance to go on one of these incredible trips, don't hesitate, dive in and make the most of it, you won't regret it.

K. Lovegrove

Kayleigh Lovegrove
County Chairman



COUNTY ORGANISER

Fern Lindsay



It has been a busy and successful month for Devon YFC members having taken part in a range of competitions at National level including public speaking, cheerleading, ballroom dancing, auctioneering, netball, football, clay pigeon shooting, dairy stockjudging and tug of war. Well done to everyone who took part and a big thank you to your trainers too.

Also last month, AGRI Chair, Chloe, organised a dairy farm tour by kind permission of the Bennett family and tour and talk at Brinicombe's in Crediton. Plus, Travel Chair, Harry, successfully arranged the Junior Scholarship to Scotland. Find out what they got up to in Harry's travel report.

Keep a look out for tales from the Senior Scholarship trip to Spain soon, dates for upcoming Sports and Social events, information

about the AGRI Business Programme sessions, and of course the start of the county rounds of competitions this Autumn.

The federation also held a successful consultation evening with members and supporters last month and the Board heard useful feedback and have taken on points to action in the new YFC year. For anyone who wasn't able to attend, please feel free to send me (organiser@devonyfc.co.uk) any comments and feedback you have about how County can best support our members.

As many of you will know, I am stepping down from my role at the start of September after almost three years in post. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with Devon YFC and it has been a privilege to work with all the wonderful members and volunteers and staff over the years. I wish you all the best of luck for

the future and I look forward to seeing Devon YFC grow from strength to strength. As always, I am at the end of the phone or email for the next couple of weeks so please get in touch if I can support you or your members. Thank you all for your help and support, I could not have done this job without it!

Save the date...



After Party at Gooseford

Saturday 13th September from 8pm. Come along earlier in the day to check out the Gooseford and South West Handling Open Day. See Facebook for more information.

Charity Speed Shear

Saturday 20th September, 5pm.
Higher Thornton Farm, Kenn, Exeter, Devon, EX6 7XH.

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SPORTS & SOCIAL

Phoebe Parker



It's been a slightly quieter month for sports and social activities at a county level, but Devon YFC members have still been making their mark.

Members from across Devon YFC proudly represented the county at the British & Irish Tug of War Championships 2025, with fantastic results including Anstey finishing in first place in the men's 600kg open and 560kg, as well as in the mixed 580kg category!

Devon YFC Success at the National Tug of War Finals

What a weekend we had at the NFYFC tug of war finals - Devon YFC are Men's and Ladies Tug of War National Champions! A huge congratulations to Anstey Men's and Honiton Ladies who both won the national finals. We also had our brilliant Honiton Junior team who represented the county incredibly well. Reaching a national final is a huge achievement - the future of TOW in Devon is certainly looking strong.



Looking ahead, the Gooseford Dairy Open Day After-Party will take place on Saturday 13th September. I can also confirm the much-anticipated return of the Devon vs Cornwall Tamar Cup rugby match which will be held on Friday 31st October - we will shortly be asking people to register their interest to be a part of the team!



COMPETITIONS

Hannah Rich

After a full-on weekend of competitions at Nationals earlier last month, things have been slightly quieter over the past few weeks.

Congratulations to all the members who travelled to the Great Yorkshire Show to take part in the national dairy stock judging finals. Our juniors Macie Lewis, Jane Horton and Lily Rowdon placed 4th, 27th and 29th respectively in the junior

category, with Charlotte Horton coming 27th in the intermediate category. A big well done also to Ellen Layzell, who achieved 9th place in the senior category. Such an incredible achievement to reach a national final and place among the top 30 stock judges across England and Wales.

In recent weeks, it's been great to see so many clubs and groups getting stuck into competitions at various



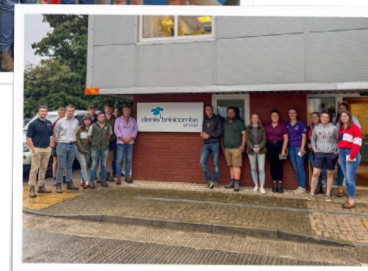
shows and rallies, with members staying busy on the competition front across the county. We now look ahead to the autumn months, when the public speaking competitions begin once again!



AGRI Chloe Arscott

Since the last newsletter, we've been on another two agri tours. Our first tour took us to Lane End Farm on 6th July, where we were welcomed by Robin Bennet for a farm tour. We had a tour of their newly installed robotic dairy system. The farm is milking 240 cows, Holsteins and Fleckvieh, through 4 Lely robots. Being an organic herd, it was interesting to learn how they balance grazing with a robotic system. Thank you to the Bennett family for having us and for Robin for taking the time to show us around.

Our second visit of the month on 16th July saw us visit Brinicombes at Crediton. The evening started with a presentation from James Brinicombe about the business and their products before we headed out on a tour of the mineral plant. The evening finished with pasties and a quiz, with some members winning some merch. A big thank you to Brinicombes for their hospitality for the evening, and a special thank you to Tizzy for organising the tour for us all.



Behind the scenes prep is well underway for this year's Agri trip and the Agri Business Programme for this winter. The Agri trip will be taking place at the beginning of November and places will be limited, so keep your eyes out on socials for more details soon!

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Check us out!



TRAVEL Harry Sprague

And just like that, the first Scholarship of the year is done and dusted. Our Juniors have just arrived back from a week away in Scotland enjoying a fun filled programme.

From the cities of Glasgow and Edinburgh, to the Highlands and Lochs of the beautiful countryside that surrounded them. They enjoyed a fun-filled day at Loch Tay finding their inner Braveheart with some archery, followed by a guided canoe tour. Wednesday saw them find their inner sommelier with a tour of the famous Aberfeldy Whisky distillery in the heart of the Highlands. This was followed by a Highland Safari where they got to experience the local

wildlife in Scotland. On their penultimate day the group got to experience the world famous Edinburgh Fringe festival which looked absolutely amazing. I'm sure the trip was enjoyed by all in attendance, and I would like to send a special thank you to Anneliese and Robin, the junior leaders, for being a fantastic scholarship mum and dad for the week!

Not forgetting the seniors of course, they set their sights on Spain in the coming weeks, so be sure to hang around for next month's edition where we will be reading about what they got up to!



We can also now start to look forward to winter and that of course means the annual Devon YFC ski trip. Sports and Social Vice Chairman Alex Rodd is taking on the reins of next year's trip where we will be heading off to Tignes in the French Alps. After the trip being announced on social media, the 60 spaces sold out in less than 48 hours, but you can still join the waiting list via the link on our socials.

WEST COUNTRY TECH

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Making tax digital

Simpkins Edwards

For young farmers across the country, 2026 marks another significant milestone in the agricultural calendar – but this time, it's not about lambing season or harvest deadlines.

Making Tax Digital (MTD) for income tax self-assessment (ITSA) becomes compulsory from Spring 2026 for sole traders with a turnover of £50,000 or more.

While this might feel like another regulatory hurdle to navigate, the key is early preparation and staying informed. There's still time to get ready, and with the right approach, MTD can streamline your record-keeping rather than complicate it.

Taking stock of your current approach

Now is the perfect time to assess how you currently manage your farm accounts. Are you still relying on paper records, spreadsheets, or a mixture of both? Many young farmers have grown up with technology, yet when it comes to bookkeeping, traditional methods often persist – sometimes passed down through generations of farming families.

The reality is that MTD for ITSA requires digital record-keeping and quarterly submissions through

compatible software. This isn't just about compliance; it's about modernising your business operations to work more efficiently.

The importance of professional support

Just as you wouldn't attempt complex veterinary procedures without proper training, navigating MTD successfully often requires professional guidance. An accountant who understands the agricultural sector can help you choose the right software, set up your systems properly, and provide ongoing support.

This is particularly important for young farmers who may be balancing multiple responsibilities – from day-to-day farm operations to long-term business planning. The right professional support means you can focus on what you do best: farming.

Building confidence through preparation

With suitable accounting software in place and proper training, quarterly MTD submissions should become as routine as other regular farm tasks. The key is starting now, not waiting until the deadline approaches.

Consider taking these practical steps:

- Evaluate your current record-keeping methods
- Research MTD-compatible software options
- Speak with an accountant who specialises in agricultural businesses.

Like any significant change in farming, success comes from preparation and planning. With the right support, this transition can strengthen your business foundations for years to come.

Ready to get started?

If you'd like more information about Making Tax Digital for Income Tax or assistance with preparing your farm business for the 2026 requirements, our agricultural specialists are here to help. From software selection to setup and training, we understand the unique challenges facing young farmers today. Get in touch with our experts to discuss how we can support your business through this transition and beyond on 01392 211233 or info@simpkinsedwards.co.uk.



CLUB UPDATES

YFC updates from across the county



YARCOMBE YFC

This month Yarcombe have been busy hosting Cheshire YFC for our exchange. This involved a busy weekend, beginning with a tour of Barleymow's farm and our water party in the evening. Followed by a Saturday filled with a tour of William Venn's, a talk from David and Anne Mitchell at Rumwell farm shop and a tour of Parris Tractors. We finished the evening with a meal at the Sidmouth Arms and some live music!

Sunday rounded off their trip with a tour of Coryton Farm, where Kevin and Richard Dare took us around and showed us their robots. Then the trip ended with a BBQ before we waved goodbye ready to visit them in three week's time! Thank you to all who hosted us on tours for helping to make the weekend an interesting and fun one.

Eleanor Gibson



ROBOROUGH YFC

In July Roborough YFC's 80th Anniversary was celebrated by over 100 past and present members - ages ranging from 12 to 92! We put on a cream tea - many thanks to Harpers Feeds for sponsoring the scones and Langage Farm for sponsoring the cream. There was an anniversary cake which was cut by one of the oldest and most supportive past members, Mrs Mary Murrin. A great social was had by everybody - long may it continue!

Emma Horton

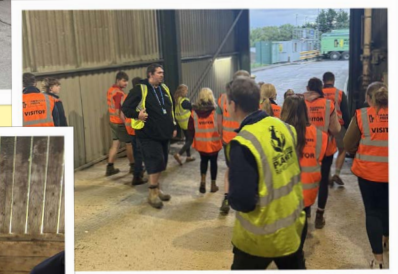


WOOLSERY YFC

Woolsery YFC have had a busy month preparing for our first carnival of the year on the 9th August at Hartland. Members also represent the club at the Tarka Rally - thank you to Buckland Brewer YFC for doing a great job of hosting this year.

July's fun meeting was a tour of Harpers Feed Store and Massey Harpers shop - thank you for the 10% off! We all loved learning about how they make sure farmers get the right feed for their animals.

Georgia Daniel



WHIMPLE & BROADCLYST YFC

Whimble and Broadclyst YFC have had a fantastic July full of socials, farm tours and tug of war success. We started with a club slip and slide social followed by BBQ, where many members came along for the evening - we even had the drone out getting footage of the fun!

We then had a fantastic day at the Mid Devon Show, taking home the win in the Ladies and Youth Tug of War against very strong competition. To carry on with the tug of war success, two members were invited to pull at the British and Irish Tug of War Championships, coming away with gold, silver and bronze medals across the Men's, Under 23's and Mixed 4x4 competitions.



Following this, we then had a club farm tour at Otter Farm to learn about their dairy and cropping operations, which had a great turnout. Coming up we have the Honiton Show, where our members are busy with show preparations and tug of war training. We are also very proud that several of our members have been selected to pull at the YFC TOW Nationals and the TOW World Championships in Nottingham!

Olivia Eden



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CLUB OF THE MONTH

BLACKMOOR GATE YFC

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This year Blackmoor Gate YFC are celebrating their 90th anniversary and have had an incredibly busy year so far. The club certainly have a rich past, and their current officers are planning a year that will be one for the history books.

Earlier this year they held their club rally, which is something the club has done ever since it started. From cookery and crafts, to floral art and photography, the rally was a brilliant showcase of their member's talents.

Mel Gregory, Blackmoor Gate YFC Club Secretary, says: "We are incredibly proud of our Club Rally and a massive thank you to

the Blackmore family for hosting us, for what must be the tenth year in a row!

"As well as the domestic classes, we also have club sheep shearing competitions. We hold practices in the build-up and it's an opportunity for our members to learn new skills and give shearing a go. We've had members in the past go on to shear professionally."

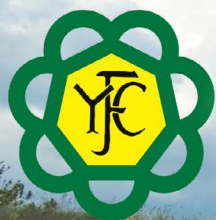
As well as a successful club rally, they had lots to celebrate at this year's Devon County Show, having come third in the club cubicle competition this year. They are currently busy preparing for the North Devon Show, alongside the rest of their varied club programme.

Mel adds: "As well as getting involved in the shows, we have had a tour of Harper Feeds and every Monday we also have tug of war practise.

"We kept club sheep again this year, with our show and sale held at Blackmoor Gate Market alongside Braunton YFC. This is always one of our biggest events of the year due to the large amount of members getting involved.

"Coming up we are planning a car treasure hunt. Also, as we are celebrating 90 years of the club, we are organising a 90th anniversary dinner. This will be held at the Old Station Inn, Blackmoor Gate, on 3rd October. We look forward to celebrating the club's history!"





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

Lantra Tractor Driving 13-15 Years Tuesday 26th August 2025

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
9am-4pm. £170 with funding available for members.

Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler Friday 3rd October

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
9am-4pm. £245. Funding available.

Lantra Rough Terrain Telehandler Monday 1st - Tuesday 2nd September

Gooseford Dairy, Whiddon Down, EX20 2QQ
2 day course £366. Funding available.

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A brand-new supporters club for Devon Young Farmers friends, followers and past members. Support the running of our federation whilst also receiving 'Friends of Devon YFC' benefits:

- Entry into three cash prize draws throughout the year!
- Stay up-to-date with Devon YFC news by receiving our monthly digital Devon YFC newsletter and quarterly exclusive 'Friends of Devon YFC' news.
- Invitation to the County AGM and our annual Chairman's Reception at the Devon County Show.
- Early bird tickets to Devon YFC's Performing Arts show in February.
- Invitation to special commemorative events.

Sign up here!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

11th-17th: Senior Scholarship - Spain

15th-18th: SWA Junior Weekend

21st: Chagford Show

22nd: North Devon YFC Party

22nd: Travel applications close

29th: Withleigh YFC Barn Bash

SEPTEMBER

4th: General Council

6th: Bampton YFC Big Barn Bash

10th: Bickton Freshers Fair

13th: Gooseford & SW Handling Open Day

20th: County Charity Speed Shear

26th: Exe Valley YFC Dinner & Dance

27th: Newton Abbot YFC Dinner & Dance

27th: NFYFC Cookery Finals

28th: NFYFC Floral Art Finals



DEVON YOUNG FARMERS
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DEVON YFC TRAINING



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