

Devon Farming and Food News

September 2006 Edition 2

Hello!

British Food Fortnight is about to commence its fifth year and starts off a series of local food events over the coming weeks. Devon Celebration of Food runs throughout the month of October with events such as Chocolate letterboxing, Celebration of Devon Wine and Gastro Game Weekend. The Exmoor Food Festival billed as 'a deluxe sandwich of culinary delights crammed between 7th and 15th October' offers some very tempting events including a chocolate making demonstration and chocolate fountain feast a fungi walk and falconry luncheon. So there's no excuse for not trying some fantastic local food and drink—spread the word!

www.britishfoodfortnight.co.uk www.exmoorfoodfestival.co.uk www.celebrationoffood.co.uk

Kate Harris, Sustainable Farming and Food Co-ordinator, Devon County Council

CELEBRATION OF FOOD

Devon Celebration of Food 2006 is a month of great eating in October. There are over 95 food and drink events taking place, from an evening with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall to Fine Dining for Kids events to special beer and banger pairings in pubs across Devon.

This year Devon County Council are the main sponsors of the Devon Celebration of Food and one of the first events to take place will be the official launch event of the South Devon and Dartmoor Food and Drink Group. The launch will feature stalls selling food & drinks from producers within the group. Cookery demonstrations, tutored tastings of wine, cider and other drinks

For further information visit

www.celebrationoffood.co.uk

FOOD CHAIN CENTRE



The Food Chain Centre was formed in May 2002 as part of a national strategy to improve the competitiveness and profitability of UK food and farming. The Food Chain Centre's mission is to support the most efficient UK food chain with the most effective flow of information.

The new Food Chain Centre web site (www.foodchaincentre.com) is packed with useful information covering all the sectors including case studies and market trends.

REGIONAL SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND FOOD

It has been two years since publication of "Making a difference", the South West's Sustainable Farming and Food Delivery Plan. A progress report to be published in mid September, will document achievements and examine the challenges to face in the foreseeable future. It will form the basis of a complete review, with publication of a refreshed Plan in spring 2007.

The South West Chamber of Rural Enterprise (CoRE) working in partnership with NFU and the Farming and Countryside Education (FACE) have created a 'Reconnecting Farming and Food' trailer, funded by SWRDA. Primarily staffed by FACE, it will be used at agricultural shows and school visits and will be a useful tool, particularly as next year will be the 'Year of Food and Farming'. Starting from Autumn 2007, the concept will be centred around reconnection and is broadly based around improving young people's understanding of where food comes from and improving awareness of the role of farming and the countryside.

For more details contact SWCoRE on 01392



GUIDE TO LOCAL WOOD PRODUCTS & SERVICES

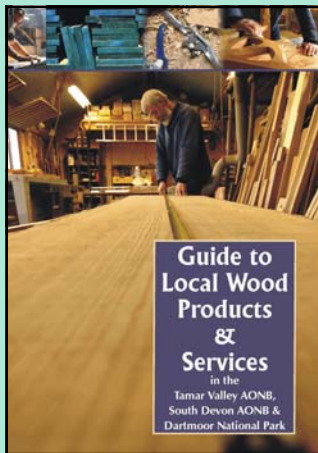
This contains over one hundred local businesses and organisations from across the Tamar Valley and South Devon AONBs and Dartmoor National Park areas. The listings include woodland management services, tree surgery, tree nurseries, timber suppliers and local sawmills, coppice workers, furniture makers, traditional builders and timber framers, boat builders, advice on orchards, wood energy, wildlife management and much more.

The Guide has been split into easy to use categories and also contains a location map, information on available grants, trees, hedges and the law, useful tips when employing a contractor or advisor and a list of other useful contacts.

The Guide is just one way of encouraging people to buy wood products locally. It is estimated that a staggering 85% of the wood and timber products used in the UK comes from overseas. Buying locally grown timber not only helps to strengthen the local economy and secure incomes for the many businesses connected with the forestry industry in Devon and Cornwall, it also encourages woodland owners to manage their woodlands sustainably, in turn, supporting

biodiversity, conserving the local landscape and providing thousands of acres of space for people to enjoy.

For further information contact Jacqui Orange, Woodland Industry Project Manager 01579 351316



BOVINE TB UPDATE

Devon's beef and dairy farmers continue to battle against bovine TB with over 2500 cattle slaughtered to date this year in the County. The changes in compensation rates have angered farmers, particularly those with pedigree and organic herds. Continued pressure from industry groups has encouraged Defra to look more closely at the levels of compensation but no amendments have been made as yet.

All of the major farming organisations met last month to agree a common position on the actions needed to tackle Bovine TB.

A seven point statement was agreed by the stakeholder group at a meeting hosted by the NFU. The statement has now been delivered to Ben Bradshaw.

FOOD MILES TASK GROUP

Devon County Councils Environment and Economy overview and scrutiny committee set up a small task group to look into the issue of food miles in. The group, chaired by Cllr Gordon Hook heard from a number of expert 'witnesses' on issues around the large retailers, public procurement, distribution and the consumer. 21 recommendations have been made including continued support for more healthy, fresh food in school meals and other CC canteens, supporting small food and drink businesses and continuing to push the 'buy local' message to local residents and visitors to Devon. More money is now spent on eating out than eating in the home, this is a great opportunity for local hospitality businesses who in turn can support a number of local food and drink producers.

For further information please contact Karen Strahan on 01392 383143

Events/Dates

Woodfair South West - Dunster Castle, 30th September, bringing together foresters, furniture makers and fuel providers as well as craftsmen and conservation groups. There'll be a wide-range of beautifully-crafted products to buy; demonstrations by local craftsmen and exhibitions of traditional rural skills which are currently enjoying a resurgence. Please visit www.woodfairsouthwest.co.uk for more details.

The Devon Towns Forum in Partnership with Devon Renaissance and the Devon Rural Network are delighted to offer a limited number of **free** places for a **Devon Renaissance Funding Master Class**. The event will be held in the Kingsbridge area of Devon on **Wednesday 4th October 2006**. This special half day event is aimed at those developing significant Community Projects and Enterprises in and around Southern Devon who wish to know more about Devon Renaissance Funding, the work of Devon Renaissance, the Devon Rural Network and the Devon Towns Forum please e-mail to: info@devontownsforum.org.uk or telephone 0180-5 624874

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