

Latest news from the Group

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Farming, land management and COVID-19: How we can help

Hello! We know many of you are extremely busy at the moment with farm and family commitments but we hope you are all safe and well.

The High Weald AONB team are here to support you in any way we can - whether it's helping with CS applications, promoting your produce on social media or even just a quick chat.

We've put together a round-up of useful information and ideas below, but as always please do give [Ross](#) or [Christine](#) a shout if there's anything else we can help with.

Virtual site visits - always nice to see a friendly face...

Although Ross and Christine are unable to carry out site visits or provide help with Countryside Stewardship applications in person, you can have a 'virtual' site visit or meeting using the video conferencing software [Zoom](#) or [Skype](#).

You can video chat, share photos and documents and even look at GIS data and maps at the same time. Ross has already had a few of these virtual meetings with great success.

If you'd like to have go, please email Ross and he can talk you through setting it up. **Please be advised this is dependent on your computer spec and broadband speed in your area - and of course a good old fashioned phone call is also an option!**



Farm Cluster Whatsapp group

The Whatsapp group has been running for a couple of weeks now and is a great way to keep in touch, ask questions and share ideas. If you're not already in the group there are two ways to join if you would like to take part:

- If you're reading this email on a smartphone, [click here](#) to join
- Or ask Ross or Christine and they can add you to the group

We can help promote your produce

Now more than ever before it's vital that people support their local farmers, growers, food and drink producers and sellers. We are using our Facebook, Twitter and Instagram channels to help promote local producers across the High Weald AONB. If you need some extra help getting the message out we'll need the following information:

- Product/s
- Stockists
- URL or contact details to order
- Photo or product image

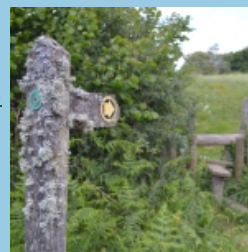


Please send your details to info@highweald.org. So far we've promoted beef and lamb, organic wine and yoghurt, and they have all been very well received by our followers!

Useful information and other support

Defra guidance on public rights of way

We are aware that many of you are seeing a higher level of foot traffic on footpaths on your land at the moment, as local residents take their daily exercise. Ahead of the Easter Bank Holiday, [Defra has released updated guidance for farmers on how to keep yourselves, your livestock and the public safe.](#)



COVID-19 Government advice for farmers

The latest official information for farmers, landowners and rural businesses [can be found on the GOV.UK website.](#)

Farming Help confidential helpline: 03000 111999

A partnership of Farming Help charities, supported by The Prince's Countryside Fund, are working together to support the farming community during the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. [The free and confidential advice helpline is open from 7am to 11pm every day](#), and can help with finding local assistance for those self-isolating such as feeding livestock or collecting prescriptions.

Farming Advice Service - latest newsletter

Information on claiming BPS after or during flooding, cross compliance updates and how to contact the advice helpline. [Download the newsletter here.](#)

Remember: Basic Payment Scheme application deadline 15 May

Everything you need to apply for BPS this year is now available on [GOV.UK](#), including the 'Basic Payment Scheme: rules for 2020' and more.

About

The Upper Rother and Dudwell Farm Cluster helps farmers, foresters and other land managers work together to improve farm profitability and benefit soil, water, wildlife and historic features not just on their individual farms, but across the area. It has over 60 members covering over 3,500ha. [View map](#)

The Cluster is helped by the High Weald AONB Partnership with financial support from Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, the Environment Agency (Giant Hogweed control), and the Woodland Trust (deer management).

For more information, visit the Farm Cluster page on www.highweald.org.

Useful links

[The Upper Rother & Dudwell Farm Cluster](#)
[Farm Cluster Area & Members Map](#)
[Sussex Lund](#)
[Landscape Enhancement Initiative](#)

More about the area

[Where is it?](#)
[What we do](#)
[Who we are](#)
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