

# What future the SW Uplands?

## An iconic landscape and cultural heritage

- Shaped over thousands of years by farmers
- Delivering immense benefits for biodiversity and our landscape
- Supporting a vibrant tourist economy worth over £5 billion annually to the region
- Supplying 90% of Devon and Cornwall's drinking water
- Encompassing 10% of the region's ancient monuments

### Keynote speaker: Dr Stuart Burgess

In the Report of the Rural Advocate 2007, Stuart Burgess states "I believe the future for our hill farming communities merits particular attention. There needs to be stronger recognition that the management of these upland landscapes and environment has a real economic and social value, alongside the production of food and crops." Dr Stuart Burgess, the Government's Rural Advocate, is backing a Commission on the Future of Hill Farming.

### Keynote speaker: David Fursdon

Former President of the CLA, David has said "Hill farmers have the responsibility for some of our most dramatic and best-loved scenery, some of our most vulnerable habitats and some of our most fragile economic communities. This is the front line in so many respects".

### Additional Speakers:

Layland Branfield, Dartmoor Commoners Council Farmer  
Professor Henry Buller, University of Exeter  
Mel Hall, NFU  
John Mortimer, CLA  
Guy Thomas–Everard, Exmoor Farmer  
Pat Thompson, RSPB  
Martin Turner, University of Exeter  
Andrew Slade, Government Office for the South West  
Dr Nigel Stone, Exmoor National Park Authority  
Sir Harry Studholme, SWRDA  
Janette Ward, Natural England

You are invited to participate in a conference at which solutions to the issues surrounding the Uplands will be proposed to both government decision makers and Upland farmers. This is your opportunity to influence the practical outcomes that will secure the future of our Uplands.

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2008 from 9.30am to 4.00 pm



# South West Uplands Conference 2008

## Background

- Upland environments offer significant public services and benefits from landscape, water quality and storage, access and biodiversity
- The agri-environment system has and will continue to change, and changes must reflect the true value of our uplands
- The Single Payment has resulted in some redistribution of support but the deficit in financial support will continue to worsen



## Issues

- Challenges faced by farmers with rapidly declining farm incomes as a result of increased costs and decreased livestock prices
- Farmers are under great pressure to restructure their businesses, with potential loss to livestock numbers and skilled employees
- The risk of de-stocking and abandonment of our uplands will put pressure on these unique environments

## Your opportunity to be part of the solution

- University of Exeter have been commissioned to examine the economic viability of hill farming and the public goods they provide (due early summer)
- Farmers must also be given confidence that long term investment is a viable option

## There is commitment to developing short and long term solutions which may take into consideration:-

- New opportunities for diversification and adding value
- Continued support for hill farmers to sustain profitable farm management and public services

**This event seeks to encourage a good representation from farmers, as well as organisations who will play a key role in supporting and securing a viable future for the Uplands.**

**To book your place:**

**Place:** Dartington Hall, Totnes, TQ9 6EL      **Date:** Friday 27th June      **Time:** 9.30am to 4.00pm

**Cost:** £10 including lunch. Concession: £5 for farmers, on quotation of a holding number

Please fill out the slip below and enclose a cheque or postal order payable to South West Chamber of Rural Enterprise. Return to SW Chamber of Rural Enterprise, Darts Farm Village, Topsham, Exeter, Devon, EX3 0QH by **Monday 16th June**.  
T: 01392 878334    E: enquiries@swcore.co.uk    W: www.swcore.co.uk

## SW Uplands Conference 27th June 2008 Booking Form

Company/ Organisation name: .....

Name of Delegate: .....

Job Title: .....

Address: ..... Postcode: .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

Dietary/ Mobility requirements: .....