

**Sue Eberle**

**Raising cattle on the moor.**

*What is the importance of this management of the moor?*

Well its several-fold, we need the animals there to graze the area, so it looks the beautiful landscape that it is, two, it provides the biodiversity and the conservation interests, because they manage and graze the area in a way that other species and plants, that are important in conservation terms, benefit from, and thirdly it provides an income for farmers.

*What stock do we find on the moor here?*

Well you'll find sheep, cattle and ponies; ponies aren't seen as an agricultural animal but you will see them on most areas of the moor. Both cattle and sheep traditionally used to be kept in in the winter and put out in the summer, the grazing though is quite rough, its not nutritionally rich and so traditionally stock have been sold off the moor to be fattened, so the animals are actually born on the moor and then when they need to be fattened up then they get, generally, sold onto the lowland farms, and being very hardy animals they actually benefit from the richer grasses and fatten up nicely. However that is changing and farmers now, if they can, are trying to finish the animals actually on the moor and therefore benefit from selling the produce direct to local people who are interested in high quality local food.