

50-year animal ban for cruelty case farmer



■ **OVERWHELMED:** Charles Amery

A LUSTLEIGH farmer who neglected his sheep escaped a custodial sentence yesterday but has been banned from keeping animals for 50 years.

Charles Amery, 37, of Kelly Farm, has been fined and banned from keeping livestock after admitting a total of 17 separate offences relating to the welfare of livestock.

Magistrates decided not to send him to jail after his solicitor argued he had become overwhelmed while trying to keep the farm running unsupervised.

Justices sitting at Newton Abbot imposed the 50-year ban on keeping livestock and ordered him to carry out a 300-hour community order, including 200 hours of unpaid work.

They also imposed an order to pay £1,000 costs.

Amery appeared before magistrates yesterday.

At a previous hearing in May, he pleaded guilty to the 17 offences

By **STAFF REPORTER**

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dating back to July and August last year.

They involved 13 charges of causing unnecessary suffering to sheep, three of failing to ensure the safety of livestock and one of not supplying an adequate supply of fresh water to livestock.

Each offence carries a maximum sentence up to 51 weeks in jail and/or a fine of up to £20,000.

The 76-hectare farm is owned by Amery's 73-year-old widowed mother Mary Amery.

Amery who suffers from dyslexia, and his brother Justin work there.

Mrs Amery had originally been charged with identical offences as her son but they were withdrawn before the previous court hearing in May.

That hearing also heard the animals' condition was discovered after police were called in when three of the

Amerys' bulls escaped from a field and got on to the A382 Bovey Tracey to Moretonhampstead road on July 31 last year.

During four separate visits, vets found poorly sheep which were examined before some were put down.

The animals had raw, open lesions, probably caused by flystrike, which had been left untreated and contained maggots. Some animals were so lame they could barely walk.

Yesterday, the hearing was told Mrs Amery had badly broken her ankle and had to spend a month in hospital and Amery was left to run the farm himself.

He also had to make sure his mother's house was adapted so she could live at home while recovering from the injury.

John Smith, in mitigation, said: "Charles was spending a lot of time at hospital, getting her ready so she could return home and he had to make arrangements for her home to be kitted out downstairs.

"That seems to be one of the

reasons why the situation deteriorated to the extent that it did."

He argued Amery's limited intellect meant he worked better when following instructions and was unable to cope without them, adding: "With his mother not around to oversee him, he did his best but it was his inadequate best.

"He was experiencing difficulty in trying to look after his mother and himself and was not getting much help from other members of the family."

He also said only 13 sheep out of a flock of up to 130 were found to be suffering which was 'just 10 per cent of the total flock', he told the court.

Chairman of the bench, Mary Calderwood, told Amery they had given the matter 'a great deal of consideration' but had decided to impose the community order and financial penalty.

She ordered the remaining cattle be seized and taken into care.

So you want to be a rock 'n' roll star...

DO YOU want a brand new house on an episode of Cribs, or a bathroom you can play baseball in? Do you dream of being a rock star?

Well dream no more, here is your chance to take the music world by storm and be part of the music world's next big thing.

Today the Herald Express is launching a major new project to find the most talented musicians from across South Devon to form a great British rock 'n' roll band.

Our readers will choose the band's line-up, name and then select which tracks will be released.

In partnership with music industry specialists from across South Devon and beyond, we will stage open auditions where we will be looking for the hottest singer/songwriters, guitarists, bassists and drummers around. Auditions will be filmed and put on our website so our readers can vote for their favourite.

Once the line-up is complete we will have a vote to name the

MIKE BAKER

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band, which will then go into a recording studio to lay down some original tracks.

Then all that's left is the job of building a loyal fanbase and conquering the world...

Herald Express editor Andy Phelan said: "This is a really exciting project and one which promises to be a lot of fun.

"We've never tried to do anything like this before but I'm confident that our area has the right people with the skills to make it a huge success.

"The hardest thing for any new band starting out is getting the kind of publicity which will make sure everyone knows their name.

"We'll get right behind our band and see that they get massive exposure, opening them up to a wide audience.

"Muse have proven that you can launch an internationally-recognised band from our area, and I don't see any reason why our band can't do the same."

First up we're looking for a singer/songwriter/performer to

lead our band on their road to stardom.

If you have the songs and you can perform, you might be the person we're looking for. If you think you have what it takes, just enter using the form on our website. Visit www.thisissouthdevon.co.uk/rockstars for more details.

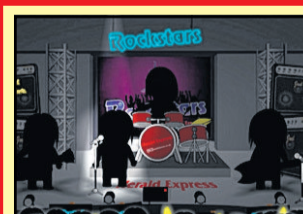
Obviously we'll need to hear an example of your work, so you'll need to send in one complete demo track with your entry.

To be successful, you'll need to have more material ready to go — the band will work up a promotional half-set of six or seven songs so you'll need to have that many tracks in at least basic form, ie: music, structure and lyrics worked out even if they're not laid down on your portastudio / PC.

Once we've found our creative force, we'll recruit the rest of the band — then the real fun can begin.

The band will be mentored by Steve Jenner, a multi-instrumentalist teacher and session musician, who will guide our hopefuls through rehearsals before

The website



To enter Rock Stars you need to visit our great new website where you can find out all about our talent search. Visit www.thisissouthdevon.co.uk/rockstars and take a first step on the road to rock stardom

they head to the studio and then on to the live stage.

The only stipulation for entry is that applicants are at least 18 years old, and are able to provide us with examples of work.

They say that most of us go to our graves with our music still inside of us. Don't be one of them, enter Rock Stars today.

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