

## **Stewardship reminders**

**ELS DECEMBER** – hedge and ditch bank cutting continues as does ditch cleaning.

**Skylark Plots (EF8 & AB4)** – make sure they are sprayed out of winter cereal crops by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. Each plot must be at least 3m wide and a minimum area of 16m<sup>2</sup>.

**Supplementary feeding for farmland birds (EF23/HF24 & AB12)** – a reminder that the feeding period for AB12 starts on 1<sup>st</sup> December and EF23 on 1<sup>st</sup> January (HF24 can be either) so make sure you have your food ready to go. Remember you can use your own wheat and oilseed rape but that at least 30% of the overall mix needs to be small seeds such as oilseed rape, millet and canary seed. You **MUST NOT** use tailings/screenings. Please contact the office to discuss different mix options and prices.

Standard Mix: 60% wheat, 10% naked oats, 15% white millet, 10% oilseed rape, 5% canary seed

Small Seed Budget Mix: 45% white millet, 25% red millet, 10% oilseed rape, 10% linseed, 10% red dari

Small Seed Premium Mix: 35% white millet, 25% oilseed rape, 15% red millet, 10% sunflower hearts, 10% red dari, 5% canary seed

**AB12 Supplementary Feeding starts December 1st**  
**Have you ordered your Small Seed Mix?**



**Tel: 01480 890686 Email: [info@oakbankgc.co.uk](mailto:info@oakbankgc.co.uk)**

A reminder that the **Farming Equipment and Technology Fund** is now open and provides grants towards the cost of buying new kit from an approved list. There's a minimum grant of £2,000 and a maximum of £25,000; equipment includes rainwater harvesting tanks, direct drills, cover crop rollers and mobile stock handling systems. The items bought must meet the specifications shown and be brand-new. Applications are made-online and the deadline is midday on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022. We recommend reading the [full details](#) before applying.

If you farm in a National Park or AONB in England, the **Farming in Protected Landscapes** scheme is also open. This is quite a flexible scheme, offering up to 100% funding towards capital items, equipment and annual work for wildlife, climate resilience, landscape etc. It doesn't matter if the land is or is not already under a Stewardship agreement, as long as the work proposed isn't already paid for by Stewardship. The deadline for funding for the first year of this programme is *31<sup>st</sup> January 2022* and it's well worth talking with your local National Park/AONB team before making an application.



### **Another New Starter - Tom Olivant joins our Regen Ag team.**

Tom comes from a farming family in Lincolnshire and graduated from Harper Adams in 2020. He has always been involved with and passionate about farming and the environment and has worked for a range of farm businesses, including an 8-month stint on a farm in Western Australia. He also completed a research project studying the factors affecting the uptake of Conservation Agriculture techniques in the UK. This sparked his appetite to develop his knowledge around the area of Regenerative Agriculture and we are delighted to welcome Tom to the Oakbank team

## **Woodland & Trees**

### **UK timber prices up on 2020**

The latest National Statistics on Timber Price Indices, produced by Forest Research, were released on 18 November 2021. Timber prices were generally up from last year, demonstrating the buoyant domestic timber industry and demand for home grown wood products. See example below:

#### **Coniferous Standing Sales Price Index:**

- The index was 47.9% higher in real terms (49.9% higher in nominal terms) in the year to September 2021, compared with the previous year.
- The average price for coniferous standing sales was £40.12 per cubic metre, overbark, standing, in nominal terms in the year to September 2021, an increase from £26.78 in the year to September 2020.

See full Forest Research Indices [Here](#).

### ***Phytophthora pluvialis* found in Cumbria**

After this pathogen was first discovered in England in September 2021, outbreaks of *Phytophthora pluvialis* have been found in Cornwall, Devon and most recently in Cumbria. In the southwest, an updated Notice from the Forestry Commission came into effect on 19 November with additional areas now being included in the demarcated area to stop the spread. In Cumbria, a Notice came into effect on 26 November. Scottish Forestry is undertaking targeted inspections for the disease across Scotland as a precautionary measure. Please continue to report any suspected tree pests and diseases via TreeAlert.

### **Deer-vehicle collisions mapped out across the UK**

Deer numbers are getting out of control in large areas of the UK and as such are not only severely damaging ecosystems but are also being increasingly involved in RTA's, which of course have human health implications. This website highlights the hotspots for deer-vehicle collisions across the UK. Check out [your area](#) which will give you an indication of the sustainability of your local deer numbers.

### **Productive forests – the way forward**

Tree plantations are an effective weapon in the struggle against global heating, and can help meet the world's growing need for timber, argues a letter in **The Guardian**. Only 3 per cent of total global forest cover comprises productive plantation forest, yet it produces one third of the world's industrial timber. A must read!

## **Christmas Opening Hours:**

**The Oakbank Office will be closed from 12 o'clock on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec and will re-open on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022.**

# **MERRY CHRISTMAS**