

Oakbank E-News December 2020

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

Supplementary feeding for farmland birds (EF23/HF24 & AB12) – a reminder that the feeding period for AB12 starts on 1st December and EF23 on 1st January (HF24 can be either) so make sure you have your food ready to go. We are concerned that a number of customers are saying they have seed left over from last year, which means they did not feed what they should have done. If you have an inspection you need to prove that you have fed the amount you are being paid for. Having invoices for the correct amount of AB12 will help show that you have been complying with your agreement. 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.

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



Tel: 01480 890686 Email: info@oakbankgc.co.uk

Skylark Plots (EF8 & AB4) – make sure they are sprayed out of winter cereal crops by 31st Dec. Each plot must be at least 3m wide and a minimum area of 16m².

Post-Brexit Farm Payments: For those of you who haven't seen the Agricultural Transition Plan this link [Farming is Changing](#) delivers most of the key points in a fairly concise document. If you want a more detailed read then go for this one ['The Path to Sustainable Farming: An Agricultural Transition Plan 2021 to 2024'](#).



Cover Crops

If you were unable to see the webinar with the excellent Joel Williams from Integrated Soils held last night, the event can be seen [here](#)

The event discussed the pros and cons of Multi-species Cover Crops and will feature recent scientific studies, as well as Joel's own experience.

Hedging and trees – a reminder that we supply top quality hedging plants, trees and shrubs along with all the accessories (spirals, canes, tree guards etc). Please contact us for a quote.



Tree planting isn't the only answer - natural regeneration should be funded too. The Woodland Trust has launched [a petition](#) urging the Government to provide financial support for farmers and landowners in England who wish to encourage woodland expansion through natural regeneration as well as through planting.

Finally, biodegradable tree shelters that might actually biodegrade? Two UK firms have secured £59,000 of government-backed funding to develop and test a new generation of biodegradable tree shelters made from bioplastics. [Read all about it here.](#)

Are our beech trees next in line for imported disease problem? An emerging threat to beech trees – *Petrakia liobae* has recently been published on the Forestry Commission (FC) blog. This fungal disease is already affecting beech trees in central Europe> Research has shown that the disease is relatively slow-spreading and unlikely to result in the death of mature trees but it reduces tree health and visual appeal, especially in newly planted trees. Read the Forestry Commission [new post](#) here. Know what to look out for and how to report suspected findings of any tree pests or diseases through the online Government portal [TreeAlert](#).

Matt England – sadly, last month we said goodbye to Matt England. Matt joined the team in 2016 and developed a large and loyal customer base through a combination of enthusiasm, energy and an understanding of how environmental schemes fit into different farming operations. He was always keen to persuade his father, Mark, to try out different seed mixes and management techniques on the farm at home. Matt has moved on to a large agri business and we wish him all the best for the future.

As one door closes another opens and we welcome **Ryan Peach** to the Oakbank team. Ryan has qualified twice! First in game & wildlife management from Sparsholt and then in Agricultural management from the RAU. Ryan has a lot of experience working on farms and has a passion for agriculture, for conservation and for country sports, so he should fit in well (despite having been to Cirencester)!

Christmas Opening Hours: The Oakbank Office will be closed from 12 o'clock on Thursday 24th Dec and will re-open on Monday 4th January 2021.

MERRY CHRISTMAS