

Stewardship reminders

Enews Novmeber

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

Hedging and trees – there is a real shortage of planting stock for this winter. Several nurseries are already sold out of mainstream species such as blackthorn, whitebeam, buckthorn and guelder rose with others reporting shortages of holly and sweet chestnut. If you have a planting project planned for this winter and don't already have the stock ordered, then we suggest you do so asap.

EF23/HF24 and AB12 Supplementary Feeding – if you haven't done so already then you should buy your small seed mix this month as the feeding period begins on the 1st Dec or 1st Jan, depending on your agreement. And even if you don't have a stewardship agreement then feeding your farmland birds is something you should consider anyway! This year we have three standard mixes. The first is a complete mix with 70% cereals, although we only use 60% wheat to allow the inclusion of 10% naked oats, which are higher in energy and natural oils. The other two mixes are 'small seed mixes' for people who wish to use their own wheat in the ration. We can make up bespoke mixes (minimum order 500kgs) or sell certain species as straights for people making up their own. Packed in 25kg or ½ tonne bags. Please contact the office to discuss your requirements.

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?



Pre-winter stewardship check list:

Take photos of all rotational options in each field (e.g. winter bird food plots, over-winter stubbles, winter cover crops, nectar flower mixes) as evidence, should you have an inspection or be required to submit evidence with your annual claim.

Clear out gutters and check traditional farm buildings are weatherproof. The winter is also a good time to remove any encroaching scrub such as bramble or ivy that might impact on the building infrastructure. Take photos of any work being done on your traditional farm buildings and ensure you log it in your plan.

Check new hedges and tree planting to see if any failed whips need replacing

CS Capital Claims: remember if you have an agreement that started on the 1st January 2020 you must have completed the work and submitted your claim by the end of this year.



NEW STARTER

We are delighted to welcome Max Battison to the Oakbank Woodland team. Max joins the team as a graduate forestry consultant, having graduated from Bangor University and being selected for the Royal Forestry Society Forestry Roots Bursary.

COP26 Summit – as the 80 vehicle cavalcade of the US President makes its way across Europe to Glasgow, how can British agriculture help to absorb the emissions? 1 tonne of soil organic carbon amounts to 3.67 tonnes of CO₂, so regenerative farming practices that are increasing soil carbon, whilst still producing food should be on the COP26 agenda. We just hope it's not another opportunity for politicians to 'talk the talk' without actually 'walking the walk' (or more likely 'driving the car').

East of England Farming Conference – November 18th. Oakbank is one of the sponsors of this event at the East of England Showground later this month. There are some fantastic speakers lined up <https://www.eoefarmingconference.co.uk/speakers/> and should you wish to attend there is a 10% discount for Oakbank customers – simply use the discount code OakbankEoEFC when you book your tickets.

Woodland & Trees

Evidence of changing climate?

As is evident here in Eastern England with our Scots pine and beech, extensive dieback of beech and Norway spruce has been reported from central Germany following the droughts in 2018 and 2019. This report in *Agricultural and Forest Meteorology* also identifies the need to think about resilience. Fortunately for us, this year's growing season has proven to be slightly less problematic, which hopefully has given our stressed trees a little bit of respite. Hopefully next year's growing season is as kind.

Another new tree disease found in the UK

A 'new to the UK' fungus-like pathogen – *Phytophthora pluvialis* – has been discovered on mature conifers in Cornwall. This pathogen is known to affect a variety of trees including Douglas fir, western hemlock, and some pines. It was originally reported in Oregon, USA in 2013 on tanoak and Douglas fir and was subsequently identified as the pathogen responsible for 'red needle cast' of radiata pine in New Zealand. Please look out for this and report any suspected sightings to [TreeAlert](#).
[The symptoms.](#)

More evidence for the need for an improved UK wood processing sector

The UK is the second largest net importer of wood products in the world after China and, in 2021, we imported a record-breaking volume of wood products as reported by the Timber Trade Federation, read more [Here](#).