

## Oakbank E-News November 2020

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

**Hedging and trees** – if you are looking to plant a hedge or a new wood this winter please give us a call. We source all of our plants from an excellent, family-run Nursery in Yorkshire and the quality of the plants is exceptional.



**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 1<sup>st</sup> Dec or 1<sup>st</sup> 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! For simplicity we are packing two standard mixes this year. The first is a basic mix which includes 70% cereals and the second is a more diverse, small seed mix for people who want to use their own wheat in the ration. We can make up bespoke mixes (minimum order 500kgs) but we feel that our two standard mixes should cover most requirements. Packed in 25kg or ½ tonne bags. Please contact the office to discuss your requirements.

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

**Premium Mix:** 20% white millet, 30% oilseed rape, 10% red dari, 10% black sunflowers, 10% red millet, 10% canary seed, 10% linseed



### **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

### **Country Food Trust Winter Appeal**

The Country Food Trust has launched its 2020 winter appeal to help feed children in need this winter. As well as the pheasant and partridge-based meals, the Trust has recently created a 'Country Bolognese' – a tasty, child friendly and lead-free venison ready meal. This is proving very popular. A £5 donation will provide 5 meals to hungry children. Donate [here](#)

They are also running a Winter raffle, with weekly draws taking place through November and December and a host of fabulous prizes [click here](#)

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