

Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter – most importantly we hope that everyone is well and coping with these strange times. The Pendle Hill Team are all still working from home so if there is anything we can assist you with, please do get in touch. As the Clitheroe office is still closed, so it's best to use email, either Sarah (sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk) or Helen (helen.coar@lancashire.gov.uk) or phone Sarah on 07818 645662. We are also able to undertake outdoor visits with social distancing, so if you need a visit, just get in touch.

Carbon Foot Printing Online Talk

For our next online meeting we will be working with Becky Wilson from the Farm Carbon Cutting Toolkit. She will be delivering a session on environmental impacts and carbon foot printing. Please read the session outline below.

There seems to be a constant focus at the moment on agriculture's environmental impact and more specifically on its carbon footprint. With the new net zero targets for agriculture, the attention on emissions from livestock, the opportunities for agriculture to be a climate solution, and the need to adapt our farming systems to be more resilient to changing weather patterns and new payments systems, what does this all mean for farmers and how can we make the most of it for our business.

In this introductory webinar, we will be discussing what net zero means for farmers in a policy context, look at how we measure carbon on-farm, and discuss some of the opportunities for farmers to improve carbon sequestration through soil management and the potential new income streams that this may bring. The webinar will cover:

- What net zero means in practice
- Carbon foot printing - the principles behind how it works
 - The opportunities for emissions reductions on-farm
 - The opportunities for increasing sequestration on-farm
 - Putting it all into practice

The meeting will be hosted on Wednesday 23rd October at 7pm via zoom. If you would like to join us, please follow the link below. Please let us know if you will be attending.

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/84184367736?pwd=Zld6ZDYrY25tbFF5bWQyWXJoYndpZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 8436 7736

Passcode: 029765

Hedging Funding

The Woodland Trust has released additional funding for hedging. Please see the attached documents for how to apply. If you need any help with your application, please let us know.

Future of the Pendle Hill Farmers Network

As you know the Pendle Hill Farmers network is funded by the Facilitation Fund part of the Countryside Stewardship, in a four year agreement which is due to come to an end next March 2021. Obviously this year we have not been able to hold our normal range of meetings and visits, and so we have not used all the budget allocated to us.

We have an opportunity to apply for a 12 month extension to end March 2022 from the RPA, but in order to be successful, we need to show evidence of the following:

- That the group is used and valued by its members
- That the group have a range of relevant topics still to cover during the extension period.

I would be very grateful for your thoughts, I know this sort of discussion is much easier in person, but please if you have any comments/suggestions, please can you email them either to Helen or Sarah.

Carbon Foot Printing in Practice - Part 2

Following on from the first online meeting with Becky Wilson, we will be hosting a second meeting looking at carbon foot printing in practice.

This webinar will focus on practical steps that you, as farmers, can take to reduce emissions and the impact that these will have on costs, carbon and management. Using farm examples, we will run through a carbon calculation, share hints and tips on how to fill in the data required and look at what the carbon footprint tells us about where to go next. This will include the impact of the change in methane metrics, the potential of soil carbon sequestration and some common management opportunities that will save costs and cut carbon. There will be plenty of chance for discussion and questions. You should leave the session with a clear understanding of how to do a carbon footprint and what it means!

This event will take place on Wednesday 7th October at 7pm. Joining instructions will follow at a later date. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

New Pendle Meadows project

This summer Sarah has been surveying meadow sites across the Pendle Hill area, as the start of a project to help to diversify them more, adding in missing characteristic meadow plant species. In the main we have been looking for meadows which already have species such as yellow rattle and red clover in them, and then this autumn we will be adding additional seed to those meadows.



So far we have looked at ten meadow sites, seven of which are on member's farms.

Diversifying meadows and managing them with low inputs of FYM and a late hay cut can be a great way of increasing the biodiversity on your farm, as well as adding to the 'ecosystem services' such as pollination and soil health which your farm can deliver. All important as we move towards the new ELM scheme.

If you are interested and would like to know more, just give Sarah a ring on 07818 845662. This project is part of the Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership 'Wild about Pendle' project and is funded by PHLP.

Upcoming Events

We have lots of exciting events and opportunities coming up over the next few months (depending on Covid restrictions). Please add the dates to your calendar and will send out further information nearer the time.

23 rd September	7pm	On farm carbon accounting – talk with Becky Wilson from Farm Carbon Toolkit - Introduction	Zoom
7 th October 2020	7pm	On farm carbon accounting – talk with Becky Wilson from Farm Carbon Toolkit – Part 2	Zoom
Autumn 2020	7pm	Update from the Hill Worth project looking at whole farm planning and payment for public goods	TBC
Autumn 2020	n/a	Start of IPM worm counts	TBC
Autumn 2020	12noon	Visit to Bowland UU estate to look at beef in the uplands *depends on local restrictions*	TBC
4 th Nov 2020	7pm	Trees and hedges - opportunities	TBC
2 nd Dec 2020	7pm	Annual meeting with NFU updates	TBC
3 rd March 2021	7pm	Grants and ELMS update	TBC