

PENDLE HILL FARMERS GROUP



Diary 2021 - 2022

The group aims to:

- Increase understanding of local Countryside Stewardship priorities and knowledge of landscape scale conservation techniques, and to encourage the uptake of schemes
- Work together with as many group members as possible implementing these techniques on, and across, members' farms by:

i) Restoring, managing and expanding priority habitats: woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and moorlands

ii) Restoring traditional boundaries

iii) Implementing natural flood management techniques

iv) Providing training and information relevant to improving the delivery of agri-environment schemes

Date	Time	Event	Location
April 2021		Farm walk with Hilary McGuire from RSPB and Rob Howe from LLM vets to talk about habitat management for waders and Integrated Parasite management	Cockshotts Farm Sabden
May 2021		Meeting with Annie Landless about measuring soil carbon and the soil health monitoring App 'Soil Mentor'	
June 2021		Training activity on how to complete farm carbon calculations with Becky Willson	
July 2021		Demonstration visit to look at techniques for meadow restoration with Sarah Robinson plus contractors Steve Marsden & Peter Blackwell	Bell Sykes
August 2021		Field visit to Croasdale Fell to look at moorland restoration using traditional breed cattle with Malcolm Handley	Croasdale Fell
Sept 2021		Field visit to look at woodland planting and management techniques and talk from Kristina from RRT on woodland support schemes	
October 2021		Annie Landless & Becky Willson join us for a knowledge transfer meeting about farm carbon calculations and results from the 'Soil Mentor' monitoring app	
November 2021		Rush management workshop with Ian Cairns	
December 2021		Winter meeting with guest speaker Adam Briggs NFU	
January 2022		Talk on soil health, bringing together the work done on carbon and pesticide use with James Bretherton	
February 2022		CS 2022 update meeting with Natural England & Sarah Robinson	
March 2022		Final meeting, ELM update, discussion on next steps for the Farmer Network group with Adam Day	

In order to deliver the group aims we will provide training in:

- Understanding priorities and applying for Countryside Stewardship grants (boundaries, woodlands, catchment sensitive, Mid Tier agreements)
 - Sustainable soil management (including soil tests)
 - Natural flood management
 - Farming for pollinators
 - Whole farm water management & planning
 - Rush management techniques
- Activities will also include:
- Surveys of farmland and woodland birds and other farm wildlife
 - Managing woodlands and boundaries (skills training)
 - Annual forums (including guest speakers and discussions)
 - Farm visits to view boundary and woodland management; green hay transfers; wetland management, high nature value farming
 - Group Visits to other farmer networks to view natural flood management; RBAP trials; peatland restoration
 - Practical action to support local wildlife

