

Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter – most importantly we hope that everyone is well and coping with these strange times. Stresses can come in many forms at the moment – worries about the health of our family and ourselves, missing seeing family and friends, financial stresses and strains, additional visitor pressures...to name a few. The Pendle Hill Team are all working so if there is anything we can assist you with, please do get in touch. The Clitheroe office is 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 now able to undertake solo outdoor visits with suitable hygiene and social distancing, so if you need a visit, just get in touch.

Invitation to Zoom Meeting

INTEGRATED PARASITE MANAGEMENT

Come and join us on ZOOM, 5.50pm on Wednesday 17th June for our first online meeting to take part in an Integrated Parasite Management workshop with local vet Rob Howe of LLM Farm Vets.

Our next meeting will be in the form of a Zoom meeting. This may be new to some of you, but it is straight forward, and Helen has produced a helpful guide that will be sent out shortly. Sarah says her parents are in their mid-eighties and got to grips with zoom calls in just a few minutes with a little bit of help!

Please see Sarah's email from 3rd June for further information.

Update on the Traditional Boundaries Project

The walling and hedging contractors have now completed the first and second rounds of work, with 278m of walling and 1445m of hedging completed so far. We have another 588m of walling already tendered and due to begin later on in the year, as well as a further 1818m hedging out to tender with 4 contractors at the moment. As you know we have looked to you as members to be the beneficiaries of this Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership project. We are currently working on obtaining more funding to ensure as many members as possible can benefit. If you are interested in seeing some of the restored boundaries, there is about 500m of hedge laying alongside the A59 at Smithies Bridge and a cracking length of walling just completed alongside the road at Pendleside.

Mid-Tier Applications

Catchment Sensitive Farming is now in a position, through a remote approval process, to be able to start initial conversations around Mid-Tier and Water Capital Only applications for 2020 where CSF approval is required to authorise CS options. As part of this process we will require a degree of input from farmers and agents to collect the evidence needed to approve the items without site visits. In order for the process to work as effectively as possible CSF will be requesting a range of information such as detailed photos and descriptions of the planned works, highlighting the runoff pathways and risks to watercourses and benefits from the proposed items. A step-by-step guide to remote approval is available to all applicants and agents. If you would like a copy let us know.

Mid-Tier Applications – One to One Phone Advice Available to Book

These will be in the format of a secure 1:1 clinic session (maximum 1.5 hours) via telephone conferencing and/or visual technology between an adviser and the farmer/land manager. The sessions will run as they would have done face to face talking through the relevant options for the farm and discussing the next steps for preparing an application, such as highlighting consents, approvals and evidence that is required and signposting to CSF etc. There will also be the opportunity for a follow up session to run through an application to check for completeness before submission to the RPA. (but there will be no completion of applications).

The booking details for the clinic sessions are now on GOV.UK <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/mid-tier-farm-advice-framework-faf-events>. In Cheshire, Cumbria, Cheshire and Lancashire the details are telephone 07593 449868 or email: bookings@chrisseabridge.co.uk

Mid-tier Applications

Applications for CS Mid-Tier opened on 11 February and will close on 31 July 2020.

Visit GOV.UK for more information.

Defra said last week: "Applying for CS this year is a stepping stone to the future Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, which will reward farmers for producing 'public goods', such as better air and water quality or improved access to the countryside. Those signed up to CS who secure a place in the ELM National Pilot from 2021, or join the ELM scheme when it is fully rolled out from 2024, will be able to leave their CS agreements at agreed exit points without penalty."

If you are planning on applying for a mid-tier agreement this summer, please do get in touch as we will be able to write an endorsement for your application which provides a 20% uplift in your points total, making it more likely you will be successful in your application. Email Sarah on sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk or phone on 07818 845662 to arrange a visit.

Dairy Response Fund

A new [dairy response fund](#) will open for applications on 18 June.

Farmers in England who have lost 25% or more of their April 2020 average price paid per litre compared to February 2020 will be able to apply through the RPA for a single payment.

Those who are eligible will be entitled to up to £10,000 to cover up to 70% of your lost income during April and May, to ensure your farm can continue to operate and sustain production capacity without impacts on animal welfare.

Further details on the fund and application process will be shared by the RPA in the coming weeks. Eligible farmers can get ready to apply now by preparing details, including milk statements, for February, April and May 2020.