

Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter

Welcome to the seventh edition of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter. We hope you had a nice Christmas and wish you a happy and healthy new year!

We are now down to our last three meetings before the group finishes in March. Please let us know if you would like to attend any of the below -

Wednesday 19th January, 12.30pm – Visit to Lower Gazegill Farm, Rimington

A chance to hear more details about the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme which is now running in the AONB. Find out what is covered by the programme, how to request a visit from Sarah to discuss projects, and put in an application. We will walk and talk as we visit the work already underway under the FiPL programme at Lower Gazegill, and there will also be a chance to see the current diversification developments on the farm, have some lunch and also to visit the farm shop if you want to.

Wednesday 16th February, 7pm – Barley Village Hall

Talk from James Bretherton on soil health, in particularly about the importance of soil carbon, and analysing the results that have been taken from some of your farms.

Wednesday 16th March, 7pm – Final PHFN Meeting and hot supper at the White Bull in Gisburn

You can keep up to date with all of our up-coming meetings on our website here

<http://www.pendlehillproject.com/farmer-network-meetings>

Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

As you know, Sarah is now working as the Farming in Protected Landscapes lead officer, but will be continuing to work as the facilitator for this group until our agreement ends in March 2022. It is worth noting that the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme can fund facilitation groups such as this one, so if there is an appetite for the group to continue, that is something we can look at. The group would need to have a facilitator, (to take over Sarah/Nichola's present roles). This could be an existing farm member or someone from the local community with experience of working with similar groups. Please contact Sarah if you would like to discuss this option.

Information on **The Farming in Protected Landscapes programme** has been released and full details can be found here <https://www.forestofbowland.com/farming-protected-landscapes>

The programme will run from 2021 to 2024. If you are interested in what it has to offer, why not join us at our next meeting on Wednesday 19th January to find out more. Alternatively, please take a look at the information online and submit an enquiry form.

Defra Future Farming blog

The Defra farming blog is a good way to receive information about developments within the Agricultural Transition Plan, you can subscribe here: <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/subscribe/>

An example of the type of posts can be found here where they are talking about the three elements of the ELM <https://defrafarming.blog.gov.uk/2022/01/06/find-out-more-about-local-nature-recovery-and-landscape-recovery/>

Soil Sampling still available

James Bretherton is speaking at our February meeting about soil health and in particular about the importance of soil carbon. There is still time to have three fields sampled to determine the amount of carbon currently stored in the soil. Carbon storage is going to become an increasingly important element of support packages in the future (e.g. ELM), and so this is a great opportunity to see how much carbon your soils are currently storing. We would recommend you select three different types of grassland on your farm according to the types you have, for example improved silage ground, pasture, low input grassland, species rich meadows, upland pasture or hill ground. Once you have selected the fields you would like sampled, please let Nichola know and one of us will come and take the samples for you. You have until the end of February to let us know so that the samples can be analysed before the end of our Facilitation Fund agreement at the end of March 2022

Photo taken at the Rush Management meeting at Dean Farm, Sabden back in November.



The Pendle Hill Landscape Partnership Website

If you haven't had a look already, we have a dedicated page for the Farmer Network group. Information such as our work on Traditional Boundaries, the Pendle Meadows, Natural Flood Management, and the Farming in Protected Landscapes programme is all available here.

<https://www.pendlehillproject.com/explore-farming>

As always, please get in touch if there is anything we can help with-

Email Sarah on sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk or tel: 07818 645662 or Nichola on nichola.gill@lancashire.gov.uk or tel:07890 030 548