

## Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter

Welcome to the fourth edition of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter. We hope this finds you and your family 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. It's best to use email or phone, Sarah is on <mailto:sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk> and 07818 645662.

The BIG news from us is that Helen has just given birth to a baby girl named Amelia May, mother and baby doing well! AND we will be welcoming Nichola Gills to the team to cover Helen's maternity leave!

### Upcoming Events – CS and ELM update webinars

We still can't meet up, even in small groups, However, we do have two on-line Zoom meetings coming up over the next few weeks:

Following the publishing of the Government's Agricultural Transition Plan in November 2020, farming is set to undergo significant change over the next few years. The Forest of Bowland AONB has joined with The Farmer Network to offer local farmers the chance to find out more about some of these changes and to ask what support and advice they might need during this transition period.

The online webinar will be held via Zoom and there are a choice of two dates: Wednesday 17th February from 7.30pm – 9pm or Friday 19th February from 12.30pm – 2pm.

**Places on the webinar are free, but interested farmers need to book in advance for their chosen date by ringing the Farmer Network on 01768 868615 or by emailing [admin@thefarmernetwork.co.uk](mailto:admin@thefarmernetwork.co.uk)**

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Agri-environment schemes and the future:

How to get the best for your business – webinars hosted by the National Association of AONB's.

The programme:

Hear from farmers already in agri-environment schemes: The benefits and pitfalls.

Countryside Stewardship: What has changed in this year's scheme?

Farming in Protected Landscapes: An update on this new scheme

Question and Answer session

Three dates are available 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb, 5<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> March,

**follow the link below to register**

**<https://landscapesforlife.org.uk/workshops>**

### New Curlew project

The RSPB has received a grant to do habitat work for curlew in the Forest of Bowland AONB. The scheme will start in early 2021 and work must be finished by March 2022.

This will fund work that benefits curlew including **rush management** and the **creation of wet features**. If you would like to benefit curlew on your farm, get in touch with Hilary McGuire to talk about eligibility at [hilary.mcguire@rspb.org.uk](mailto:hilary.mcguire@rspb.org.uk) or 07971 753456.



Photo credit: Gavin Thomas, RSPB

### **Countryside Stewardship scheme open to applications**

As you are probably already aware, Countryside Stewardship 2021 opened for applications this week. More information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

Mid tier, Wildlife offers, Higher tier, Capital grants, Woodland support grants are all open as of the 9<sup>th</sup> February. Closing date for Higher tier and Capital grants is 30 April, Mid tier and Wildlife Offers closes 30 July.

As members of this group you can receive a 20% 'uplift' in your points score for Mid tier with an endorsement form from Sarah. We as a team are also available to help with Boundary grant application, we can provide you with maps and photographs as required in your application.

Please do get in touch if we can be of help or you want to talk through your ideas for an application.

### **Future of the Pendle Hill Farmers Network**

The Pendle Hill farmer Network has been running since April 2018, and is currently set to close at the end of March 2021. However, there is the chance of an extension for another 12 months, and we would like to take this up.

You should have all received a letter from Sarah with a reply slip and sae to return your signature to say you would like to remain part of the group. We need to have at least 2000ha of coverage in order to apply for this additional year. Many thanks for all the replies we have had so far, we are around 400 ha short at the moment, so if you would like to stay involved and have not yet had a chance to return your slip, we would be very grateful if you could fill it in and return it.

### **Pendle Hill Boundary Restoration Scheme**

We have three more hedgerow restoration lengths going ahead this winter, as well as another stretch of walling in the spring. This means that we have reached capacity in the budget available, but we will be seeking further funding, as the scheme has proved so popular with members.

