

Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter

Welcome to the fifth edition of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter. We hope this finds you and your family well and coping with the ongoing strange times we are living in. The Pendle Hill Team are still mainly working from home, but with the easing of restrictions we have managed to get out and about a bit more and have enjoyed hosting our last two meetings in person. Please get in touch if there is anything we can help with, Sarah is on sarah.robinson@lancashire.gov.uk and tel: 07818 645662 or you can email Nichola on nichola.gill@lancashire.gov.uk or tel: 07890 030 548

We have also set up a WhatsApp group for the Farmer Network, to provide another means of communication - as we know how rarely the majority of Farmers check their emails! If you would like adding to the group then please contact Nichola, it has worked really well so far for last minute communications.

Upcoming Events

We now have a dedicated 'What's On' page on our Website, where you can find details of all our up-coming events <http://www.pendlehillproject.com/farmer-network-meetings>

The next three meetings are listed below **Please let us know if you would like to attend ASAP**

Thursday 8th July 2021 - 1pm

This will be the launch meeting for our brand new Integrated Parasite Management project, led by Rob Howe from Lambert Leonard & May Vets. This project will enable you to get faecal egg counts done at specific times of the year, in order to focus your worming regime to the animals who need it most. This helps to reduce costs, environmental impacts and the use of vet-med. This will be a walk and talk meeting, and as Rob calls it – a Dung Beetle Safari! Please drive up the lane past Cockshotts Farm, Sabden and take the first left turning over the cattle grid towards Sabden Reservoir. Park on the right hand side in the field next to New York Farm Buildings. BB7 9EH

July 2021 - Date & Time tbc

Demonstration visit to look at techniques for meadow restoration with Sarah Robinson plus contractors Steve Marsden & Peter Blackwell, **Bell Sykes, Slaidburn – please let us know if you are interested in attending this one ASAP**

Wednesday 4th August 2021 - 1pm

Training activity on how to complete farm carbon calculations with Becky Willson, and with Annie Landless about measuring soil carbon and the soil health monitoring App 'Soil Mentor', **Barley VH tbc**

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 Philip Miller to talk about eligibility at Philip.miller@rspb.org.uk

Pendle Hill Farmers Network - Extension request granted!

The Pendle Hill Farmer Network has been running since April 2018, and was set to close at the end of March 2021. However, our request for another 12 month extension has been granted! Thankyou to everyone who helped make this possible, we hope our final year will prove valuable to you all.

Countryside Stewardship scheme open to applications

Just a reminder that both Mid tier and Wildlife Countryside Stewardship applications close on the **30th July**. More information is available here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/countryside-stewardship-get-paid-for-environmental-land-management>

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.

Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

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, and proposals are invited from 1st July 2021. The funding is for one-off projects and is not an agri-environment scheme. Receiving funding from this programme will not prevent farmers or land managers from participating in the emerging Environmental Land Management Schemes, and projects on land within existing stewardship agreements can be funded provided they are additional to the current agreement.

Examples of what the programme might support:

- Re-wiggling a straightened watercourse, for the biodiversity and natural flood management benefits this can bring
- Replacing stiles with gates on public footpaths to promote easier access
- Restoring drystone walls across a landholding
- Creating wader scrapes, or creating ponds to support a variety of wildlife
- Promoting connectivity between habitats
- Creating and promoting a series of farm walks across a cluster of farms, providing new access opportunities, links to the rights of way network and interpretation of farming and of the natural and historic features on the land
- Conserving historic features on a farm, such as lime kilns or lead mining heritage
- Parking improvements at a key site provide safe access to popular walking routes and reduces congestion for visitors and for local residents
- A pop-up camping facility, alongside the provision of new walking trails and on site activities, including e.g. stargazing and dawn chorus walks
- Supporting a locally-branded food initiative which promotes the links between the product and the landscape in which it is produced
- Re-wilding an area of land and promoting natural processes
- Action to reduce carbon emissions on a farm
- Whole farm planning for conservation, energy efficiency and economic resilience, including in farmer clusters