

Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network Newsletter. We hope you and your family are well after what seems to have been a very busy year playing catch up! It's been great to re-start our events in person this summer and as we move into the winter, the events will go back to being held on a Wednesday evening (in person at Barley Village Hall).

Our November meetings are listed below - **Please let us know if you would like to attend**

Wednesday 3rd November 2021 – 1pm

Rush management workshop with Ian Cairns **Dean Farm, Stubbins Lane, Sabden**

Wednesday 24th November - 7pm

Training session with Becky Willson on the Farm Carbon calculator. A laptop or tablet will be required, and please bring along the requested documents to enable you to complete your farm carbon calculation (see details below) **Barley Village Hall**

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

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

Soil & Dung Sampling

Thankyou to everyone who has taken part in our Integrated Parasite Management project, where we have been collecting dung samples for the testing of faecal eggs counts, we hope this has proved useful to you. Testing is still available if you would like to get involved - you can pick up a sampling kit at the rush management meeting on the 3rd Nov or get in touch with Nichola who can get a kit to you before the next round of sampling on the 8th Nov.

We have also been out taking soil samples for carbon testing, the results of which will be discussed at our January meeting with James Bretherton. If you would like us to take some soil samples then please get in touch, we offer it for 3 fields per farm.

Curlew project

The RSPB grant to do habitat work for curlew in the Forest of Bowland AONB is still available but work must be finished by March 2022.

This funds work that benefits curlew including **rush management** and the **creation of wet features**. For more info get in touch with Philip Miller at philip.miller@rspb.org.uk



Photo taken at the Croasdale Farm field visit in September, talking to Malcolm Handley about his farming techniques and diversification

Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme

Sarah has now moved into her new role as the Farming in Protected Landscapes lead officer, but will be continuing to work as the facilitator for this group until our agreement ends March 2022.

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, please take a look at the information online and submit an enquiry form.

Farm Carbon Calculator - Data requirements for the farm

Our meeting with Becky Willson on Wednesday 24th November at 7pm, will require you to bring a laptop or tablet so you can input your data with assistance, please also bring along the below documents to enable you to complete your farm carbon calculation. The data needs to be collected for a 12 month period; you can use the 12 months that are easiest to collect the data for (could be the financial year, cropping year or calendar year, it doesn't matter!). Where possible, try and only include items that are used by the farm, avoid including the farmhouse.

The main records to find are included below. These are:

Fuels:

- diesel and other liquid fuels – recorded in litres.
- Electricity consumption and source of electricity including renewable sources
- Any gas or solid fuels used and the amounts
- Any contracted activities – this can be split out per activity (for example 110 ha drilled) or just recorded as a fuel use.
- Any renewable energy produced on-farm and whether it is used or exported to the grid.

Materials

- Items used on the farm in the specified 12 month
- Includes fencing, repair and maintenance projects
- Water use on-farm (m³)
- Other consumables – silage making, office supplies

Capital items / inventory

- All machinery, implements and buildings that are under 10 years old on the farm
- Machinery – year of manufacture and engine size for tractors, combines and loaders and trucks
- Implements – year of manufacture and either width or plated weight (whichever is easier for you).
- Buildings – year of construction and dimensions of building and materials used.
- Include the renewable energy projects here (if they are under 10 years old)

Fertility and cropping

- Cropping – area and yield of annual crops for the specified year of footprinting
- Any bought in manures / composts
- Any cover crops (area and mix)

...continued on the next page....

Farm Carbon Calculator - Data requirements for the farm – continued....

Inputs

Amount of fertilisers and sprays applied in the specified year. Sprays can be grouped by product name or broad type (fungicide, herbicide etc)

Livestock

- Numbers of livestock on-farm (split out by age and category, for example 200 bullocks 12-18 months, 100 calves 0-12 months)
- How the animals are managed in terms of manure (type and application, for example bullocks out grazing 6 months, in the shed on straw for 6 months)
- Any Livestock feed not produced on-farm (for example cake – amount fed and type)

Waste

Tonnage of waste produced on-farm and whether it is recycled

Sequestration

- Areas and details of stewardship options.
- Areas of hedgerows and single / in-field trees on farm
- Any soil test results that you have that reflect soil organic matter analysis
- Any perennial crops or areas of wetland on-farm
- Areas of grassland

Total area of the farm -

Area of temporary grassland -

Area of permanent pasture -

Area of arable -

Membership

As we are now in the last six months of the Pendle Hill Farmer Network agreement, we have decided to close the application process to become a member. If however you know somebody who isn't a member but would like to attend a particular meeting – please get in touch as we may have space to accommodate them.

Thankyou

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

Please get in touch with Nichola if you would like to join the Farmer Network WhatsApp group, for last minute communications and reminders