

FORESTRY

October 2022

Talking Timber

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Tuesday, October 25
Racket Hall, Roscrea,
Co Tipperary

Teagasc, in association with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), is organising an event focusing on supplying sustainable timber products. Scan the QR code to access further details and registration for this event.

With many private forests on the pathway to producing high-quality, large-volume logs along with many other products and services, it is important to keep an eye on what this timber is used for beyond the sawmill and what the market views as important. Timber has many uses, e.g., construction material, fencing material, packaging, fuel source, and as a long-term carbon store. As with many other farm products, forest owners need to understand the unique qualities and potential of timber. This in

turn can inform good forest management decisions leading to supplying what the market and society demands into the future.

Teagasc's Forestry Development Department will run this timber marketing day to give forest owners with timber to sell the opportunity to engage with timber buyers, harvesting contractors and foresters.

Talking Timber will run from 9.30am to 2.30pm and will include:

- excellent networking opportunities with timber buyers;
- log and timber products display;
- short presentations on selling timber and what the market demands; and,
- opportunities to have your questions answered.

This event is free but registration is required at: www.teagasc.ie/talkingtimber.

Growing opportunities

The transition to the new Forestry Programme, the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES), and the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) will present opportunities for tree planting and forest creation.

With the new CAP and Forestry Programme imminent, and details of ACRES announced, it is an important time for landowners to take a fresh look at how to optimise land use and see how the appropriate mix of new schemes can help to maximise income, efficiency and sustainability.

The current Forestry Programme remains open for applications and when details are finalised it is envisaged that applications in the system will be able to be transferred to the new Forestry Programme if applicants wish to do so.



Teagasc provides extensive supports for people considering tree planting and new forest creation.

New Forestry Programme

The 'Shared National Vision for Trees, Woods and Forests' was published recently by the

DAFM based on extensive public engagement. This vision will form the basis of the new Forestry Programme and associated schemes and measures, and will be made known shortly as part of a Strategic Environmental Assessment Process. The new programme will include a continuation of important existing measures and supports, and also new and enhanced measures.

ACRES

Details of the new ACRES programme are also emerging. Included in the many options for landowners are three tree planting measures.

1. Planting trees in riparian buffer zones.
2. Tree belts for ammonia capture from farmyards.
3. Tree planting.

It is important to consider carefully the details for each measure and look for advice on tree species selection on appropriate sites, establishment and tree protection in order to achieve good results. Along with your Teagasc advisor, forestry advisors are available to discuss these measures with you.

CAP strategic plan 2023-2027

Within the current draft CAP strategic plan, eco schemes are being proposed for the first time as part of the next CAP and they will be funded by ring-fencing 25% of Ireland's direct payments allocation. The aim of Ireland's eco scheme is to reward farmers for undertaking actions beneficial to the climate, environment, water quality and biodiversity. Farmers will apply annually as part of their online Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) application. It is proposed that the planting of native trees will be one such option.

RESEARCH UPDATE



MOOCFORCHANGE project



Continuous cover forestry (CCF) is a management approach suitable to both conifers and broadleaves.

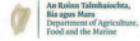
It allows for the production of commercial timber, while retaining a forest cover at all times. Teagasc has been involved in research into CCF through the TranSSFor and ContinuFOR projects. It has also established a marteloscope network – a series of plots that are being used for training provision purposes. Another project in which both research and development staff are involved is the MOOCFORCHANGE project.

Ian Short (researcher) and Jonathan Spazzi (Forestry Development Officer) recently went to a MOOCFORCHANGE project meeting in Belgium. The project, funded by EU Erasmus+, is coordinated by Forêt Nature (Belgium), with Teagasc, ProSilva (France) and *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Naturgemäße Waldwirtschaft* [Working group on Natural Forest

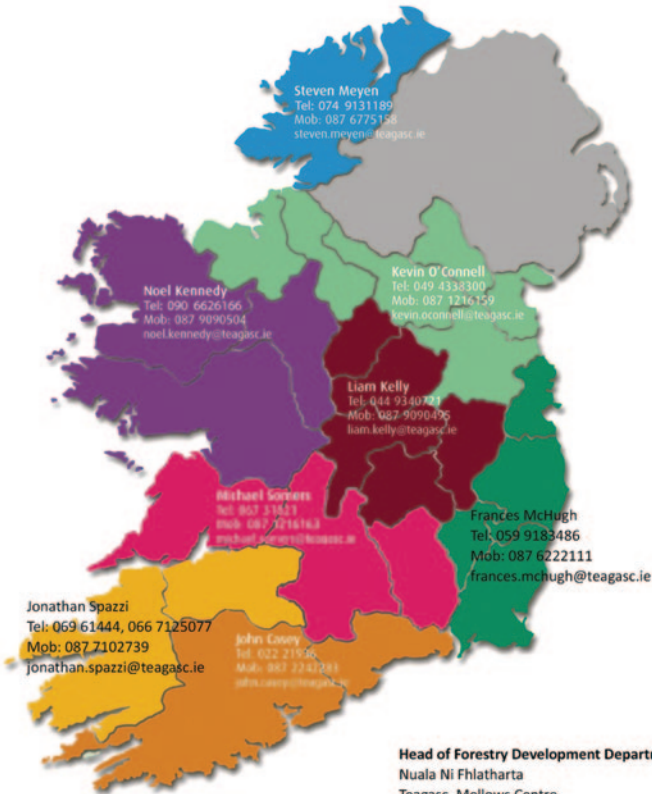
Management] (ANW) (Germany) as partners. The objective of the project is to improve the level of information, knowledge and skills of forest managers and owners in the field of CCF in order to promote management adapted to the challenges of climate change. This involves informing forest managers, forest owners, and the general public of CCF, so that they can play a role in changing the behaviour and motivation of forest management. The project will create the first massive open online course (MOOC) in CCF within the EU. This introductory MOOC will be freely accessible in three languages – English, German and French. This first face-to-face project meeting was a mix of outdoor and indoor brainstorming to create a structure and outline content for the eight chapters of the course. Each chapter will include videos and online content derived from the partner countries and is planned to go live in October 2023. For more information, contact either Ian Short or Jonathan Spazzi.



The objective of the project is to improve the level of information, knowledge and skills of forest managers and owners in the field of CCF.



For all your forestry advice and training needs Contact your local Teagasc Forestry Development Officer:



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