

FORESTRY

February 2023

New Forestry Programme

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The new Forestry Programme 2023-2027 will come into force in early 2023 subject to state aid approval from the EU Commission. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is currently considering and integrating feedback from stakeholders and the public further to the public consultation that was held and, subject to state aid approval, will launch the new Programme as soon as is allowable.

The proposed Forestry Programme 2023-2027 contains a series of eight different interventions:

1. Forest creation.
2. Agroforestry.
3. Infrastructure and technology investments.
4. Sustainable forest management.
5. Developing skills and empowering the forest sector for sustainable forest management.
6. Open forests: social, cultural and heritage forests.
7. Climate resilient reforestation.
8. Reconstitution.

Keep up to date with news on the new Forestry Programme and upcoming events by subscribing to our Forestry e-newsletter at: www.teagasc.ie/forestrynews.

Interim arrangement for applicants with approval

For those applicants that on December 31, 2022 hold a valid technical approval for afforestation or roads, but have not commenced work on planting or road construction, the Minister has approved an interim solution for afforestation and roads namely:

- Interim Afforestation Scheme (via General De Minimis); and,
- Interim Forest Road Scheme (via General De Minimis).

The schemes have been published and are available on the Department's website: www.gov.ie/forestry. If the applicant with a valid approval wishes to await the launch of the Forestry Programme 2023-2027, no further action is required at this stage.

Learning about planting, managing and harvesting

Teagasc is planning a calendar of events on all aspects of tree planting, forest management and timber harvesting throughout 2023. These events will be a great opportunity to see tree planting in action, meet with forest owners and understand different forest types and management based on specific objectives.

Details will be available on:

www.teagasc.ie/forestry.

An outline of our planned events is as follows:

- Teagasc/DAFM information meetings on the Forestry Programme 2023-2027;
- Signpost forestry webinar (online);
- Woodland for water event in Co. Cork; and,
- forestry event with ASSAP/Signpost Programme in Tipperary.

(Dates for the above events will be advertised once the new Forestry Programme has been finalised.)

Other events

April	Regional walks on different forest types
April/May	Marteloscope forest management training workshops, Oak Park, Co. Carlow (details on page 3)
June 1-6	Bloom – Teagasc Marquee, Phoenix Park
June	Forestry presence at Teagasc Tillage Open Day, Oak Park, Co. Carlow
July	Forestry presence at Teagasc Dairy Open Day, Moorepark, Co. Cork
July 20	Forestry presence at Energy in Agriculture, Gurteen College, Co. Tipperary
July 6	Continuous cover event, Co. Limerick
August 13	Forest and energy section at the Tullamore Show
September 19-21	National Ploughing Championships, Ratheniska, Co. Laois
October	Talking Timber – conifer marketing event



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Time for a walk

Now is a good time to walk your forest, whether it is newly planted or approaching harvest. Here are a few jobs that can be done this time of year:

- maintaining good access to and through your forest is essential – this allows you to keep an eye on how your trees are doing but also facilitates management interventions when needed;
- check tree stocking and replace dead trees where necessary – replacing trees while still dormant as soon as possible allows the new trees to keep up with forest growth;
- check drains and fences and carry out

- maintenance where required;
- as broadleaf trees approach 8-10m – mark potential crop trees;
- carry out high pruning on best quality trees if/when appropriate;
- cut inspection paths in conifer areas when lower branches are competing/dead to head height; and,
- review your insurance cover.

For more detailed information on forest management see:
www.teagasc.ie/forestry/advice.

Forest management workshops

There will be new “marteloscope” forest management workshops available to forest owners in spring 2023. Forest owners and other interested landowners willing to learn more about sustainable forest management will be able to participate in specially designed outdoor workshops later this year.

These workshops will take place in April and May in our new in-forest training facility recently installed in Teagasc Oak Park Research Centre, Co. Carlow. Each workshop will be one day in duration and involve practical exercises in a range of forest types. The main aims of this workshop are:

- to consider different forest management scenarios;
- to practice the key skill of selecting trees by their quality, vigour and biodiversity value; and,
- to demonstrate in practice how management can help integrate production with biodiversity



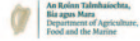
Marteloscope workshops encourage learning by doing.

and the other many important services that forests can provide to owners and society.

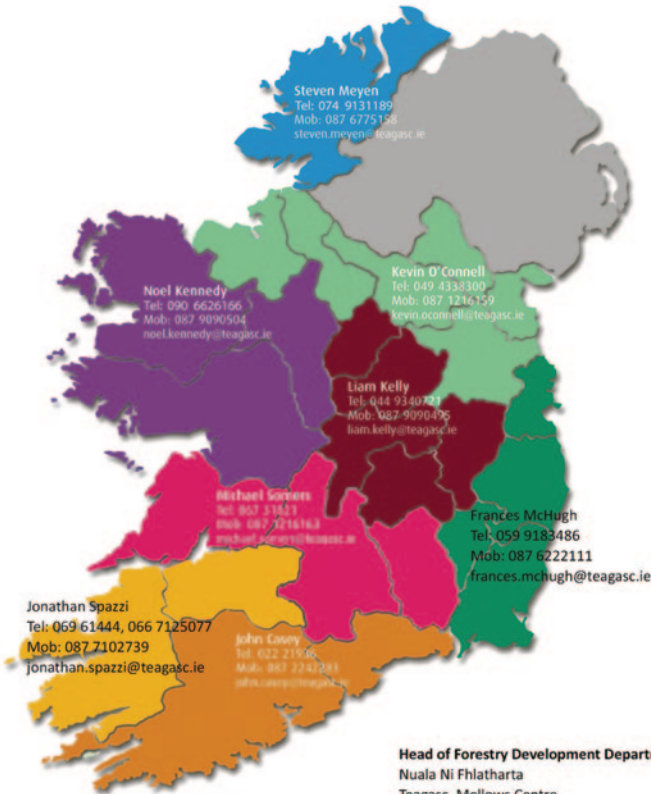
The workshops adopt a facilitation-style format and encourage participants to learn by doing, leading to group discussions and valuable peer-to-peer learning.

Further details (including registration details) on these very popular training workshops will be on our events page – scan the QR code to see more.





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



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www.teagasc.ie/forestry



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