

# TREES AND LIVESTOCK

Mains of Fincastle

15 September 2016

# Programme

- 10.30** Introductions (Sally Westaway, ORC), welcome to the farm (Andrew Barbour) and overview of agroforestry (Jo Smith, ORC)
- 10.50** Trees and animals: How farm animals can benefit from tree rich environments (Lindsay Whistance, ORC)
- 11.20** Livestock management in woodlands (Stewart Hendry, Forest Enterprise)
- 11.40** Policy, grants and support available (Mike Strachan, Forestry Commission)
- 12.00** AFINET introduction to the new UK agroforestry network (Sally Westaway, ORC)
- 12.30** Lunch
- 13.30** Farm walk (led by Andrew Barbour with contributions from John Holland, SRUC and Kate Holl, SNH)
- 15.30** Q&A and close



## Trees

Nutrient inputs from manure

Pest /weed control

## Livestock

Animal welfare

Alternative feed resources

Increased productivity:

- synergistic interactions
- use of marginal land

### Environment:

- reduce pollution
- Flood control
- C storage
- biodiversity

### Economics:

- enterprise diversification
- reduced feed inputs
- on-farm energy production

**BUT: Establishment costs? Management? Negative interactions??**

# Pontbren Farmers

"Caring for the environment; farming with care"

## Pontbren News

HRH The Prince of Wales at Pontbren

## More information

About Us

Project Background

Our environmental work

Research

Environmental benefits

## The Pontbren Farmers Group



Welcome to Pontbren, a group of 10 neighbouring small farmers and their families located in the heart of the Welsh countryside. The group is committed to farming at the highest possible standards of environmental management and animal welfare.

The Pontbren initiative was recognised and encouraged by a [visit](#) from HRH the Prince of Wales in July 2006.



# Pont Bren: landscape scale agroforestry

- Farmer-led initiative to achieving more sustainable upland land management
- Increased 'canopy cover' from 1.5% to 5%

**Water infiltration in shelter belts was 60 times that of neighbouring grassland**

**Peak stream flows reduced by 40%**

Also.....

- Increase in farm net income
- Improved efficiency of livestock enterprises
- Future proofing
- Reducing the risk of water pollution and biosecurity



**Forest grazing, Fife**

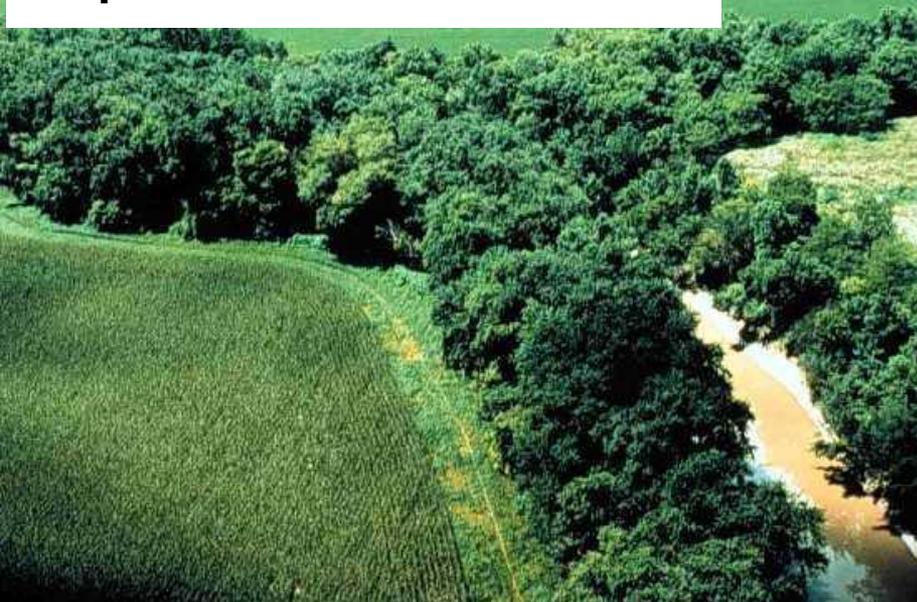




30.07.2014



Riparian buffers



Shelter belts



Soil conservation











© Paola Fernandez/TNC  
<https://global.nature.org/content/growing-our-way-to-a-healthier-climate>



**Tim Downes, Shropshire**



FAI



# Pigs and forestry at Esgair



Photo: David Pilbeam

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# AGROFORESTRY INNOVATION NETWORKS



Supporting innovation through enhancing knowledge transfer between farmers, foresters, researchers and advisers.

In the UK, the AFINET project is led by the Organic Research Centre and Abacus Agriculture.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727872.



# UK Agroforestry Network



## Working with the Farm Woodland Forum

Bring together practitioners, researchers and innovators who share a common interest in agroforestry.

We will coordinate a web based knowledge hub and organise a series of practical on farm events tailored to the interests and needs of the network. Through these activities the project aims:

- to identify and fill some of the gaps in current knowledge
- to share ideas that work well
- to identify opportunities for innovation



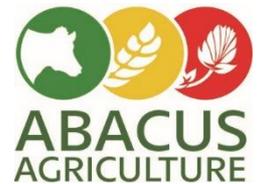
# UK agroforestry innovations survey



Farmer/ land manager	46 %
Researcher	22 %
Conservation organisation/ charity	10 %
Advisor	9 %
Forester	7 %
Government organisation	6 %
Contractor	1 %

## Silvopastoral systems

- 85 people interested
- 30 people have experience
- 26 are currently practicing



# Biggest problems and barriers to setting up an agroforestry system

1.	Economics	31 %
2.	Policy	22 %
3.	Time and expertise	19 %
4.	Advice/ best practice examples	19 %
5.	Access to land/ tenure	17 %

## Problems/ barriers

**‘Lack of relevant advice/toolkits to suit our farm and land. ‘**

**‘Funding (in Scotland) - the agroforestry option within the Forestry Grant Scheme is very restrictive’**

**‘As a forester there is a culture of fear around grazing animals’**

**‘Trying to understand how it will impact on current levels of grass availability’**

# Innovations/ solutions

**‘Finding partners who will pay for the trees and have tree growing experience, access to markets and the harvesting/ processing set up.’**

**‘Utilising existing areas of unmanaged woodland - i.e. calving in areas of coniferous woodlands.’**

**‘Hebridean sheep as vegetation control in young hardwood stands.’**

# What additional information on agroforestry would be useful for you?

1.	Working examples/ case studies, knowledge exchange/ training	34 %
2.	Profitability, yield data. Costs/ benefits.	25 %
3.	System design, species choice	22 %

## Useful information

**‘One site where you could see lots of different agroforestry systems’**

**‘Variety recommendations and a beginner's guide to starting agroforestry.’**

**‘More detailed and costed examples and case studies of systems that work’**

**‘Exact clear guidance on what is/isn't allowed in regard to BFP/Higher/mid tier schemes, CS capital grants Greening etc.’**

**‘The economic potential in poor quality land in the uplands of Scotland?’**

## Next steps.....

- **Survey responses will guide the website content and workshop programme.**
- **Workshops will provide networking and knowledge sharing opportunities and offer support and training for specific subject areas.**
- **Partnerships within the groups (e.g. with Innovative Farmers) will allow further research/ trials/ knowledge gathering**

# We would like to invite you to be part of this UK agroforestry network

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please pick up a leaflet, add your email address to the list at the back or visit:

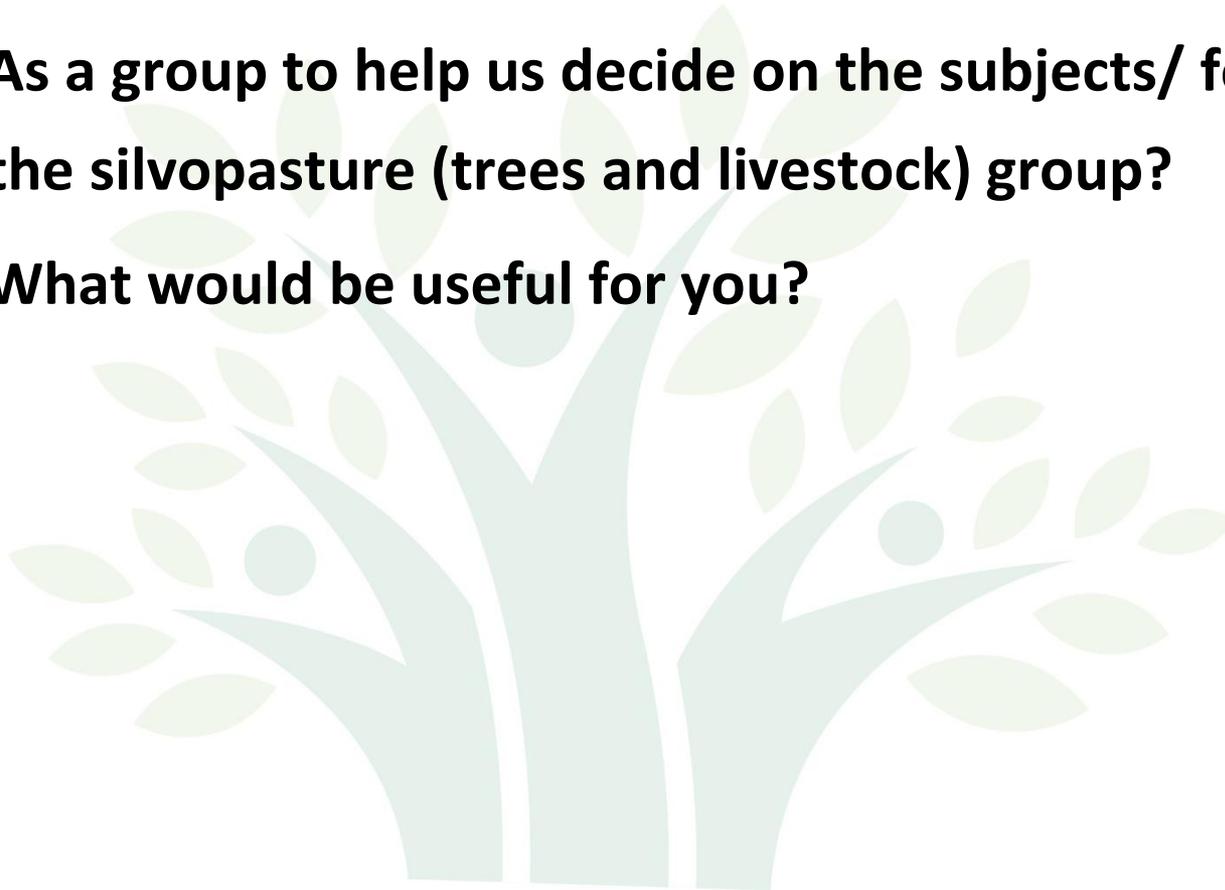
<http://eepurl.com/cYnhN1>



# What we are asking you today



- As a group to help us decide on the subjects/ focus of the silvopasture (trees and livestock) group?
- What would be useful for you?



# Focus areas for group

1. Profitability, yield data. Costs/ benefits.
2. System design, tree species choice
3. Grant and policy.
4. Ecosystem service provision
5. Tree management and establishment
6. Social factors influencing uptake
7. Other



## Trees and livestock: things/places/people that have been inspirational/interesting

This is why you need trees on farms.....



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