

Forestry and Wood Update……………..August 2011 - Volume 11 Number 3

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COFORD’s activities are funded by the Irish Government under the National Development Plan.

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Newsletter compiled and edited by Orla Cashen, John Fennessy and Eugene Hendrick, Forest Sector Development Division, DAFF.

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Information and support services

# Great tree seed mast ahead for autumn 2011

The Irish forests are having an unusually prolific mast year for several tree species, especially beech and oak. This offers great possibilities for seed collection and natural regeneration in stands of good or reasonable genetic quality. This opportunity should be availed of .

The first seeds are just about to fall already. However, the majority of viable seeds will be shed in the latter half of September and in October.

An exceptional mast year does not automatically guarantee success of natural regeneration. The seeds will be exposed to high level of predation by deer, birds, mice, squirrels and snails as well as damage by fungi and insects. Infestation by mould fungi is exceptionally severe when seeds are lying on the ground over winter and when germinating is expected in the following spring.

The surface condition of the topsoil plays a decisive role in seed survival and the conditions available of the young plants.

Three major phases can be observed that endanger the seeds and the emerging seedlings:

* In mild winters the seeds are attacked by mould fungi especially on slightly to strongly acid soils with pronounced litter deposits. Moreover, they will be subject to predation by deer and other animals.
* During the period of germination and establishment in the early weeks they often root only in the litter and may dry out during short dry warm periods which often occur in spring time.
* Germinants and seedlings are prone to deer browsing as well competition from weeds.

The following activities can help minimise these problems:

* Positioning the seeds on open mineral soil has proven to be the most effective counter-measure against infestation by mould fungi. Opening up of the mineral soil by removing the litter spot- or strip-wise will increase the survival rate of the seeds remarkably.

Moreover, it will reduce the weed layer in advance.

Scarification as an alternative is an effective means of improving the condition of the top soil for self sown seedlings.

* Rotovating the seeds some centimeters (3-5 cm) into the topsoil shortly after seed fall will protect them from predation and frost damage after too early germination. Moreover, the germinants will then root in the mineral soil which prevents desiccation.
* Fencing of valuable seed stands will avoid losses through deer browsing and offer the additional opportunity to collect wildings from those parts with seedlings where they are – as usual – too dense.

In conclusion: There are not many years with such a prolific and promising mast. It should be used for seed collection and where the opportunity arises for natural regeneration.

# Events



GROWFOR **WORKSHOP**

Racket Hall Hotel

Roscrea

 Co. Tipperary

Friday 16th September 2011.

10.30 AM - 4.00 PM

This is a full day workshop on using GROWFOR, the dynamic yield model computer interface.  The workshop is led by Paddy Purser and Fionán Russell of Purser Tarleton Russell Ltd.

GROWFOR facilitates -

timber volume assessment and production forecasting using user specific forest management plans.

flexibility with regard to the timing and intensity of harvest operations across a range of conifer species and uses the users own forest inventory data as input.  It produces product assortments at every stage of stand development and users can avail of a range of price / size data to value timber harvests.

the calculation of Net present Value of crops.

The workshop involves a field session in a nearby forest in which participants gain a clear understanding of the necessary field data requirements of GROWFOR and a brief session on how these data are collected. Then participants are demonstrated the use of GROWFOR and complete a series of exercises using the package.

 Participants are asked, where possible, to **bring their own laptop computers** in order that the package can be installed correctly and in order that they can familiarize themselves with it on their own machines.

 **PAYMENT**: The cost of the workshop is €100 which includes a GROWFOR license, access to ongoing back-up support via email and any GROWFOR updates as they are developed.  Payment is by cash or cheque on the day. Cheques should be made payable to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Those wishing to attend should email Paddy Purser at ptr@eircom.net to book a place.  Please note that places are limited.

# Timber Frame - The whole story

# 20th September 2011

**Course description**

This one day course is written to provide practical information of all aspects of timber frame construction. It explores reasons why timber frame has become such a popular method of building and aims to provide a better overall understanding of timber frame during design, the construction phase and in use.

**Course content**

* Benefits of Timber frame
* Design options
* Junction details
* Level thresholds
* Thermal bridge detailing
* Air tightness performance
* Acoustic design
* Differential movement
* Fire Safety
* National Building Regulations
* Manufacturing Methods
* Erecting Timber frame
* Claddings
* Services and linings

**Trainers**

Robin Lancashire and Lewis Taylor – Timber Frame Consultants for TRADA

**Recommended for**: Anyone working or interested in timber frame building, from designers and architects to

housing developers, building contractors and timber frame manufacturers. Includes: Full day course with lunch.

CPD certificate available

**Date: Tuesday 20th September 2011 from 9.30 – 4.30pm**

Location: TRADA Technology, Chiltern House, Stocking Lane, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4ND

Cost:  £180 + VAT (TRADA member) £220 + VAT (Non-member

For more information or to book on a training course, please download the [training flyer](http://www.trada.co.uk/downloads/training/timberFrame/booking_form.pdf?enews=trade_regions_1_Sep_2011&) or contact Jane Carter +44 (0) 1494 569620 or email jcarter@trada.co.uk

w: www.trada.co.uk
e: info@trada.co.uk
t: +44 (0) 1494 569600



# All-Ireland Mushroom Festival - Killegar Estate, Carrigallen, Co. Leitrim

# 24 and 25 September 2011

Have you ever walked through fields and woodlands during Autumn and wondered which of the mushrooms you see growing would be safe to eat and which are best avoided? Here is your chance to find out! You can be part of the first ever, all-Ireland Mushroom Festival to be held in the grounds of the enchanting Killegar Estate, County Leitrim, on the weekend of 24 – 25 September, 2011.

If you enjoy the pleasure of eating something you have grown or harvested yourself, then this is a great opportunity to forage with the experts and to have the satisfaction of tasting your bounty after it is cooked up by renown Euro torque Chef, Louis Smith, a connoisseur of edible fungi and co-author of ‘Forest Fungi in Ireland’.

Specialists from the Irish Mycologists’ Society will lead small groups on guided forays throughout the day and share their knowledge not only of mushrooms but of the woodlands, abundant flora, the bird and wildlife that is found in the area.

Killegar has been chosen as the ideal location for the first all-Ireland Mushroom Festival not only because of its beautiful grounds, it has a significant and rare continuous native woodland which produces a vast array of mushroom and fungi. On just one day last October, 75 different species were discovered. A percentage of these had not been previously recorded in Ireland – who knows you might find a rare specimen never before found on these shores!

Howard Fox of the National Botanic Gardens in Dublin, Maria Cullen, President of the Irish Mycologists’ Society, Dr. Kieran Connolly, Environmental Consultant, Jonathan Spazzi, Forestry Consultant and Mycologist with a passion for mushrooms alongside specialists from across Ireland will be on hand to lead small groups on guided forays. Vivienne Mayne of Jera Baskets will demonstrate how to weave baskets, so the more crafty of you can make your own. Vivienne will give several workshops for children throughout the day and the Teddy Bear Museum’s travelling Teddy Bear hospital will be on hand to tend ailing teddys.

Curators Rob and Moira Steinke from the Museum of the Master Saddler, the only museum in the world dedicated to the ancient craft of saddlery and harness making, will exhibit traditional hand-stitching, harness-making techniques and their two minature Shetland ponies, Rocky and Rambo dressed in varius sets of harness, will work together as a pair pulling a plank harrow. The Glenview Folk museum will exhibit from their collection of antique, historical and novelties from pre-famine Ireland as well as churns, lamps, tradesmen’s tools and household items from days gone by. There will also be a variety of farmers’ market stalls showcasing the very best in local Irish produce and offering delicious things to eat as well as exhibitions of arts and crafts.

On arrival, there will be a brief introductory talk, ***A Beginners' Guide to Foraging for Wild Mushrooms***, which will explain where to look, what to look for, the component parts of a mushroom and how to identify a species. The experts can spot mushrooms/fungi/lichen in places you would not think to look and, on your foray, your guide will point out many different varieties you never even knew existed. There will be a chance to see a short presentation about the importance of mushrooms as an indicator to the health of our natural environment and about the woodlands and wildlife that are found at Killegar. The Irish Wildlife Trust will have a stand on the day. Their education officer will hold some wildlife-related games for children who will also be able to go on a mini-beast hunt in the forest.

In keeping with the multi-cultural aspect of mushrooming, there will be opportunity for Eastern Europeans to be taken on forays by Polish and Italian guides.

Bring a picnic and some wet-weather gear as the foraging will go ahead no matter what the weather. Mushroom enthusiasts are never put off by a bit of rain! However, there will be a large marquee, a coal brazier to warm yourself by and various areas for people to take cover and have some refreshments, should the heavens open up.

Various lectures throughout the day include two presentations by Wojciech Chmura – biologist and mushrooms grower:

## The Edible Assassin

There is no denying that some species are dangerous. Learn the basic rules to save making serious mistakes when hunting and eating wild mushrooms.

and

### **The Wonderful World of Mushrooms**

They are present in cuisine, culture, language and recreation. Mushrooms are more than just part of the menu, they are part of our every day environment and can deliver lots of fun and adventure.

Dr Matthew Stout, Department of History, St Patrick’s College, Drumcondra will give a lecture on:

**Fairy forts**

Looking beyond the folklore of fairy forts to discover their true origins and purpose.

After his talk he will take a group to the Killegar Fairy Fort for a more informal discussion.

(More talks on different aspects of natural heritage are being arranged).

Traditional Irish band, *Whiskers of Lichen* will be playing throughout the day making the Killegar Mushroom Festival an ideal opportunity for the whole family to enjoy recreation in beautiful, ancient woodlands, to learn about mushrooms and lots more about our natural environment from Ireland’s top experts.

Killegar is described by current resident Sue, Lady Kilbracken, as “a jewel in the heart of Leitrim”. Anyone with a love of heritage and of nature will enjoy this chance to stroll along its scenic lake shores, or beside the meandering river and through the ancient woodlands as they gather the fine bounty nature provides. All proceeds taken on the day will go to the ‘Save Killegar Campaign’ fund, which was set up in October 2006 to help to preserve this precious piece of Irish heritage.

Gates open 09.30 – Close 18.00. For more information, contact Sue Kilbracken, Killegar, Carrigallen, County Leitrim on +353 49 43 34309 or SueKilbracken@googlemail.com . Check the website [www.Killegar.com](http://www.Killegar.com) for further information, to book your ticket and your place on a guided foray.

# Native Woodland Weekend – Fungi Foray & Woodland History

# 7 – 9 October 2011

In conjunction with Woodlands of Ireland, Delphi Lodge, Leenane, County Galway, Ireland will be running a ‘Mushroom Hunting/Woodland History’ weekend from the 7th to the 9th October next.

In conjunction with the excellent cuisine and unique Delphi Lodge atmosphere, this will make for a very enjoyable and informative autumn weekend.

The weekend will start with canapés before dinner on the Friday (7.30pm). After a leisurely breakfast at 9am, there will be a short drive to the very beautiful and ancient native oak woodland, Brackloon Wood, near Westport.

The morning will be spent, equipped with wellies and buckets, foraging for woodland fungi under the watch full eye of Mycologist, Maria Cullen. During a picnic lunch and whilst enjoying a glass of mulled wine, Maria will identify all fungi collected and explain how to identify those that are edible from those that are not. Hopefully there will be enough of the edible kind to compliment dinner that evening back in the Lodge!

After lunch, Declan Little, Project Manager of ‘Woodlands of Ireland’, who is well versed in woodland ecology and history, will outline the history of woodland development since the last ice at Brackloon  i.e. the last 10,000 years or so and the interaction of people with the wooded landscape in this area.

On the Sunday morning after breakfast, there will be the opportunity to take a woodland walk around the Delphi estate with Declan and Maria. Then it’s back to the Lodge for a light lunch before leaving.

A special rate of €395 per head, for the 2 nights, including breakfast, lunch and dinner on both evenings. Lakeview rooms are allocated on a first come, first served basis. Maximum 28 people, with the last bookings being accommodated in our cottages. Bookings will be secured with a 50% deposit, payable by credit card.

Contact Michael Wade, Delphi Lodge, Leenane, County Galway, Ireland.

Tel: +353-954-2222 Fax: +353-954-2296 (From Europe 00-. From US 011-)

[www.delphilodge.ie](http://www.delphilodge.ie)

# Trees & Woodlands of England: Past, Present and Future

# 5 November 2011

A day school to be held at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, England.

English woodlands have provided for mankind’s needs for centuries, leading to a strong culture of appreciating and

wood. However in recent decades the care and management of England’s has declined.

This enjoyable course will demonstrate what woodland history can reveal about past ‘wood culture’; the state of

sustainable forest management in England today; the future opportunities and challenges of our nation’s trees

and woodlands; and how the celebration of the One Oak tree project has engaged Oxfordshire communities and

highlighted how a modern day wood culture can support sustainable communities.

**PROGRAMME**

9.30am Registration

9.45am Introduction

SIR MARTIN WOOD

10.00am Chilterns wood culture - archaeology and history

JOHN MORRIS

11.15am Coffee/tea

11.45am Sustainable forest management in England today

DR PETER SAVILL

1.00pm Lunch

2.00pm Future opportunities and challenges for England’s trees and woodlands

DR NICK BROWN

3.15pm Tea/coffee

3.45pm The story of the OneOak tree project at Blenheim Palace

DR GABRIEL HEMERY

PAYMENT

you can pay by cheque, payable to ‘OUDCE’; Visit www.conted.ox.ac.uk/online

or enrol and pay online by going to the url for this course:

To enrol online, add the code **C100-21** to the end of the URL for the Department’s website:

**www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V100-21** and you will be able to enrol directly onto this day school.

Accommodation is sometimes available in Rewley House for those who wish to stay on the night before a course.

Please telephone the Residential Centre for further information on 01865 270362.

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# Research Programme

# Update on WoodWisdom/Bioenergy ERA-Nets joint call for proposals

Earlier this year we reported on developments involving the WoodWisdom and Bioenergy ERA-Programme. Developments in the programme to-date are presented below.

For the 3rd Call of the 83 pre-proposals submitted 40 were invited to participate in the final stage. There was good Irish participation with seven pre-proposals submitted. The projects with Irish partners which were invited to submit full proposals and are listed in Table 1.

**Table 1**: Eligible Irish pre-proposals submitted to the WoodWisdom/Bioenergy ERA-Nets Call.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Project number*** | ***Acronym*** | ***Coordinator*** | ***Potential national funding programme*** |
| *WW-2010-6* | SECA Woodweld | Ireland | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-23* | EuroCoppice | Germany | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-35* | MULTIUSE | Finland | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-36* | FORESTREFINERY | Spain | SEAI |
| *WW-2010-38* | WoodApps | Germany | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-46* | ModernTIF | Sweden | COFORD |
| *WW-2010-67* | CHAPY-MOBILE | Italy | COFORD |

The submitted proposals were evaluated by an independent international expert panel in May 2011. As a result, two proposals with Irish partners were recommended for funding (Table 2).

**Table 2**: WoodWisdom-Net/ERA-Net projects - Irish partners funded by the programme.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***Project number*** | ***Acronym*** | ***Irish partner*** | ***Total funding for Irish partner over three years of programme(€000)*** |
| *WW-2010-38* | WoodApps | TSSG, Waterford Institute of Technology | 200 |
| *WW-2010-23* | EuroCoppice | Teagasc | 104 |

This represents the first success by Irish participants in the WoodWisdom/Bioenergy ERA-Net Programme and it is worth €304,000 to the successful Irish partners.

For further details contact John Fennessy at: john.fennessy@agriculture.gov.ie

Pre-announcement:

# 4th WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme Seminar and Final Seminar

of the ERA-NET Bioenergy call on Short Rotation Coppice Date:Tuesday 7 – Wednesday 8 of February, 2012

Place: Helsinki, Finland

This event will be the 4th in a series of programme seminars that started with the Opening Seminar of the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme in February 2008 in Berlin. In 2006 the ERA-Net WoodWisdom-Net initiated the joint transnational WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme. Resulting from the first two joint calls in 2006 and 2009, in total 26 transnational research projects, amounting to ca. 30M€, have been jointly funded by the WoodWisdom-Net partners so far. For this seminar, and in order to achieve an even wider outreach, WoodWisdom-Net joins forces with the ERA-NET Bioenergy. ERA-NET Bioenergy has implemented 5 joint calls so far, and this event will involve the final seminar of its 3rd joint call, which focused on Short Rotation Coppice. This public seminar will bring together researchers and stakeholders from industry, academia and policy-making organisations in the wood-based sector. It will be the:

•Mid-term seminar of the of the 2nd Joint Call for Proposals (2009),

•Opening seminar of the Joint Call for Proposals (2010) of the European Research Area Networks (ERA-Nets) WoodWisdom-Net 2 and ERA-NET Bioenergy, and

•Final seminar of the Joint Call on Short Rotation Coppice (2008) within the framework of ERA-NET Bioenergy. The objectives of the seminar will be to discuss the results from the projects, to facilitate information exchange and networking between the projects and their stakeholders and to gain feedback and ideas for the further development of the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme and the ERA-NET Bioenergy. Programme and registration A detailed programme and an online registration will be available soon. Contact Mr Mika Kallio, WW-Net Project Secretariat, mika.kallio@woodwisdom.fi Ms Karen Görner , ERA-NET Bioenergy Call Secretariat, k.goerner@fnr.de

**www.woodwisdom.net** [**www.eranetbioenergy.net**](http://www.eranetbioenergy.net)

# National and international news

# Minister of State McEntee tells International Ministerial Conference "

Our Forests must be managed in a sustainable way"

*Press Release 14th June 2011*

Shane McEntee TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with special responsibility for Forestry, attended the 6th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe in Oslo, Norway. Together with the Ministers responsible for forests in the 46 FOREST EUROPE signatory countries and the European Union, the conference discussed and agreed political options for protecting forests and securing their vital goods and services.

At this year's Conference Ministers agreed to adopt the proposal 'European Forests 2020', which presents a new vision for Forests in the pan European region.  Minister McEntee told delegates "If we are to continue to reap the immense benefits and to release the enormous potential benefits that a healthy and vibrant forest sector can bring to our society, our forests must be managed in a sustainable way".

Minister McEntee went on to say "Sustainable forest management can be further improved and more widely applied if this conference fully embraces the ambitious vision set out in the Ministerial Decision, European Forests 2020. I believe that this vision, where all our forests contribute effectively to sustainable development, where they support a green economy and address the many environmental challenges that beset this region, can and will become reality".

The Ministerial conference also decided to take further international action consisting of the elaboration of a legally binding agreement on forests in Europe and to establish an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with the mandate to develop a legally binding agreement on forests.  Minister McEntee described this decision as a watershed in the successful history of the, heretofore voluntary, Forest Europe process and one that has the potential to significantly increase and improve the application and the standard of sustainable forest management throughout the region and beyond.

This high-level event follows previous Ministerial sessions, which took place in Strasbourg in 1990, Helsinki in 1993, Lisbon in 1998, Vienna in 2003 and Warsaw in 2007.  The 6th MCPFE was organised under the joint chairmanship of Spain and Norway, and was hosted by the Norwegian Minister for Agriculture and Food.

# European forests growing, good news for climate: report

*from the 6th Ministerial conference on the protection of Europe’s forests*

Europe's forests have expanded over the past 20 years and are thus absorbing more carbon dioxide, a report published in Oslo Tuesday showed, offering some good news in the battle to limit climate change.

According to the report published during a ministerial conference on the protection of Europe's forests, the continent, including Russian territory, today counts 1.02 billion hectares (2.5 billion acres) of forest, accounting for about a quarter of the world's woods.

"Over the last 20 years, the forest area has expanded in all European regions and has gained 0.8 million hectares each year," reads the report, entitled "State of Europe's Forests 2011".

During the same period, Europe's total stock of forests, which takes into account the density and height of the trees, has grown by 8.6 billion cubic metres (303 billion cubic feet), which is equal to all of the forests in France, Germany and Poland combined, the report said.

And since trees absorb carbon dioxide as they grow, the expanding European forests removed some 879 million tonnes of the greenhouse gas from the atmosphere each year between 2005 and 2010, the report said.

That corresponds to around 10 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in Europe in 2008.

However, the report also points to problems of air pollution that affect the soil in many forest regions, as well as destruction caused by insects, disease and natural disasters like storms and fire.

The ministerial conference, known as Forest Europe, was created in 1990 with the aim to encourage protection and sustainable development and management of forests.

Ministers from its 46 member states are meeting in Oslo this week to try to draw up a legally binding international agreement to further that agenda.

AFP

Saturday, 18 June 2011

# Minister of State McEntee attends "Alternative Woodland Ventures" Field Day at Stradbally Hall

*Press Release 27th June 2011*

Shane McEntee TD, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine with responsibility for forestry, today attended the "Alternative Woodland Ventures" field day, organised by the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) at Stradbally Hall, Stradbally, Co Laois.

Noting the theme of the field day 'Alternative Woodland Ventures' and the schedule organised by the ITGA and the hosts, the Cosby family, Minister of State McEntee commented,  "Events like today highlight the multi-faceted nature of forestry and the opportunities it presents".  The Minister of State also noted the wide range of items included in the Field Day.

The Minister said that "we often refer to the non timber benefit of forests, and rightly so, and today's field day highlights one of the most important and widely appreciated - forest recreation.  From small woodlands in our towns and cities to larger forests located in our countryside, forests are among Ireland's most widely used recreational amenities.  Irish woodlands and forests very often have layer upon layer of natural, historical and cultural heritage encompassing a wide range of features and attributes"  Consequently, they are hugely versatile, being suitable for a wide range of activities involving people of all ages and abilities, from afternoon strolls and family picnics to orienteering and mountain biking.

In addition, wider benefits also accrue to the surrounding community, as visitors from Ireland and abroad come into the area and visit other attractions and create welcome business for local accommodation providers, shops, pubs and restaurants.  Minister of State McEntee "also added that forest recreational amenities can contribute significantly to rural income, development and employment."

**

Minister of State, Shane McEntee TD opens the Irish Timber Growers Association field day in Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois on Friday. Standing from Left to Right: Brendan Lacey, ITGA, Thomas Cosby of Stradbally Hall- field day host, Minister of State Shane McEntee TD, Donal Whelan, ITGA, John McLoughlin, SIF, Adrain Cosby of Stradbally Hall, John O Halloran, Bord Na Mona, Kevin Hutchinson, SIF.



Minister of State Shane McEntee TD opens the Irish Timber Growers Association field day to Stradbally Hall, Co. Laois on Friday. Standing from Left to Right: Brendan Lacey, ITGA, Minister of State Shane McEntee TD, Thomas Cosby of Stradbally Hall- field day host, Donal Whelan, ITGA, John McLoughlin, SIF.

# Teagasc Forestry focused on Felling Licences and Stack Measurement at recent Tullamore Show

Ireland’s largest one day agricultural show attracted over 60,000 visitors. Teagasc in association with the Forest Service organised -once again- the Forest & Energy Section at the recently held Show.

The Forest & Energy Section featured an indoor exhibition area, an outdoor trade stand section and a demonstration area with active displays organised throughout the day.

About thirty forestry and renewable energy companies were represented. Companies and organisations put great time and thought into having eye-catching stands or displays in order to grab the public’s attention. Once again, live demonstrations taking place throughout the day proved to be very popular; displaying different aspects of modern forestry and the production of quality timber products and crafts.

Teagasc Forestry focused this year on Felling Licences and Stack Measurement. Many people called into the Teagasc Forestry stand to find out how to fill out correctly felling licence application forms. The stand displayed on large boards a correctly filled out felling licence application form. This attracted many questions and comments!

A timber stack with a known timber volume was placed outside the marquee inviting people to participate in a quiz on Stack Measurement. People were invited to calculate the volume and value of this stack of timber. Very interesting replies were received.

The many people who visited the Forest and Energy Section of this year’s Tullamore Show reflect the growing significance of forestry within the Irish agricultural sector.

Due to the substantial number of enquiries received at this year’s Show, the information on filling out a General Felling Licence and measuring a timber stack, have now been made available on the Teagasc Forestry website:[www.teagasc.ie/forestry](http://www.teagasc.ie/forestry)

