

Industry Update Barony College

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Wednesday, 12th March



Scottish Forestry + Timber Technologies

- New chair – Martin Gale
- Andy Leitch on-board P/T
- Already working closely with Timber frame companies exploring opportunities for HG timber and to penetrate English construction market.
- Commissioned study on opportunities for biotechnology market for forest based feedstock.
- Likelihood of announcement of £8M Construction Innovation Centre which will enable companies to access academic expertise for new product and systems – includes a timber theme.
- Expect to undertake base-line study of woodfuel sector

Forestry Commission Scotland

- Expect 50 year production forecast (which Confor requested) in April
- Working with partners to agree continuation of product innovation work currently undertaken by WPIG.



Wood supply campaign

- Minister committed to commercial softwood target through adapted SRDP and promotion
- Further £6m secured for forestry in current year, though Confor continues to press for increased future funding also
- Now focusing on protecting existing resource and promoting forestry to farmers, local authorities, communities, etc
 - Challenging reduction of commercial in planting + restock
 - Asked UKWAS to include economic productivity
 - Expanding media activity
- Eskdalemuir study



SRDP – transition in 2014

- New guidance note February
- Increased budget of £42m for 2014
- But many support measures closed

- **£45m to deliver the Scottish Forestry Strategy**



SRDP – 2014-20

- Consultation closed 28 February
- Draft regs cover all current forestry support measures
- And a whole lot more ...
 - Tree health
 - WIAT & public access
 - Grey squirrel & predator control
 - Agro-forestry
- **WE HAVE A PROBLEM**



SRDP Budget

- 9,500 hectares @ average say £4,000 / ha £38m
- Legacy grant payments, say £ 8m
- Sustainable forest management incentives £10m
- New support for pests & diseases (e.g. larch) £ 4m

- Total annual budget requirement £60m



Budget solutions

Use other Structural Funds

- Small Rural Business Scheme £20m
- Business support – Food and Drink Support £70m
- Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Fund £10m
- Advice £20m
- Broadband £ 9m
- Technical assistance (Rural Network) £15m



Budget solutions

Cut £65m of LFASSS by x% !

Prioritize our forestry spend to essentials

Fund Tree Health from central funds outside SRDP

CRG (Customer Reps Group)

Any more ideas?

FCS policy meeting this week



Other issues

- On your chair
- Tread Softly
- Scotland Timber Traffic Survey
- Economic contribution from forestry survey
- Woodfuel Group
- Etc, etc, etc



Diary dates

- 8 May – Colin Palmer pesticide workshop, Dunblane
- 15/16 May - Harvesting Demo, Little Clyde
- 15 May – Regional industry meeting, Lockerbie
- 29 May – Scotsman (Confor) conference, Edinburgh
- 21 June – RSFS Clay pigeon shoot, Forrest Estate
- 18/20 September – APF Demo, Ragley
- 1 October - Regional industry meeting, Barony (tbc)



Thank you!

