

Environmental Farming BDGs

Environmental Farming BDGs (Business Development Groups) are a new option within the BDG scheme whereby farmers across a range of farm types meet six times a year for training events focusing on farming in ways that protect or enhance the environment.

Farming environmentally is widely recognized as important and is expected to feature increasingly in Government policies for agriculture. Environmental Farming BDGs will select topics of particular interest and relevance to the local group. Topics will include practical on-farm measures to enhance biodiversity, improve water quality and improve air quality. Practices demonstrated may include tree and hedge planting, hedgerow management, upland habitat management, designated site management, agroforestry, habitat & microhabitat creation, soil health check, arable options for biodiversity, nutrient management with inorganic and organic manures, grass/legume and multi species swards, measures including building design to reduce ammonia, carbon accounting and sequestration measures and farming uplands for carbon. Group members will have the opportunity to measure their environmental achievements and develop conservation / environmental plans appropriate to their land type and specifically for their farm. Help to understand and comply with environmental requirements (including Environmental Farming Scheme agreements) will also be provided.

The training events will mainly take place on the farms of group members and will be facilitated by a CAFRE agri-environment adviser. Environmental Farming BDGs are open to all farmers who meet the usual eligibility criteria for BDGs, whether you are applying as a new BDG member or are already a member of another BDG group.

Further information

Please refer to

Business Development Groups Scheme - Notes for Farmers, November 2019.

Note that

The benefits of being part of an 'Environmental Farming' Business Development Group are as follows:

- Development of environmental/conservation plans specifically for your farm
- Guidance with interpreting farm environmental data to help identify areas that have the potential to be improved.
- Improve your environmental performance for biodiversity, water quality, air quality, carbon and soil health
- Help you understand and comply with the Environmental Farming Scheme and future schemes.
- Keep up to date with the latest technologies
- Enjoy meeting and learn from like-minded farmers interested in farming and conservation.