



Upper Rother & Dudwell Farm Cluster - Newsletter

January 2020

Welcome to your Farm Cluster Update

Here's what we have coming up over the next couple of months - if you have any questions about the stories in this newsletter or suggestions for future articles, please contact: [Ross](#) or [Christine](#).

How is your deer management going this season?

With short days, wet weather and everything else needing your attention, finding time to manage deer impact on your land can be difficult.

We are already halfway through the fallow doe stalking season, so now is a great time to review progress with your deer stalker and update your deer stalking objectives for the remaining months.

Data Collection:

At the end of April we will be asking Farm Cluster members about their deer management results; this is part of the Farm Cluster objectives to improve deer management in the landscape, so please start thinking about your data collection. If you are not sure what information to record on deer management, please look at our [sample data sheet](#) and [guidance](#).



This is all good practice for future environmental stewardship, where land managers will be expected to monitor changes on the land and collaborate with their neighbours in improving the health of the land.

Further guidance:

For those who are new to managing deer stalkers, please look at the [detailed guidance and template documents on our dedicated Deer Management webpage](#). As always, please do get in touch if you have any other questions.

Events

Farm Cluster AGM

30 January, 9am - The Wheel Inn, Burwash

Another busy year has passed for the Farm Cluster, with a packed programme of surveys, training and a farming conference! Please come along to the second Upper Rother & Dudwell Farm Cluster AGM and help us make 2020 our best year yet.

We are following last year's successful format with brief presentations followed by time to catch up with Ross, Christine and other Farm Cluster members over breakfast, ask questions and make suggestions for this year's programme. This event is for Farm Cluster members and their family, and friends or neighbours who may be interested. [Book your place online](#) or call 01424 723011.

Sussex Lund – additional drop-in session

6 February, afternoon – Woodland Enterprise Centre, Flimwell

Due to popular demand we have added another opportunity to seek expert advice from the High Weald team on your Sussex Lund application, before the deadline of 2 March. To book a slot contact Sam on 01424 723011, or email samantha.nicholas@highweald.org.

Regenerative Agriculture for Livestock Farms - Part 2: Planning

28 February – Stonegate Village Hall

Join Niels Corfield for the second part of his training programme, which will develop the skills and knowledge needed to implement the principles of regenerative agriculture. Subsidised £10 fee for full Farm Cluster members, use code **AONBclusterFeb**. [More info and book online](#).

Other news

Agricology partnership

We will be collaborating with our friends at [Agricology](#) over the coming months on a range of activities, including a No-Till farming event to be announced shortly. For those of you who haven't come across them before, this short film explains how they help farmers move towards sustainable, practical farming. [Watch the video](#)



And lastly...

Hedging – short film

We thought you might enjoy this captivating short film about hedge laying, produced by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1942. It serves as an excellent reminder of how little – and how much – has changed around land management over the years, and it certainly made us smile! [Watch the video](#)



About

The Upper Rother and Dudwell Farm Cluster helps farmers, foresters and other land managers work together to improve farm profitability and benefit soil, water, wildlife and historic features not just on their individual farms, but across the area. It has over 60 members covering over 3,500ha. [View map](#)

The Cluster is helped by the High Weald AONB Partnership with financial support from Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund, the Environment Agency (Giant Hogweed control), and the Woodland Trust (deer management).

For more information, visit the Farm Cluster page on www.highweald.org.

Useful links

[The Upper Rother & Dudwell Farm Cluster](#)

[Farm Cluster Area & Members Map](#)

[Sussex Lund](#)

[Landscape Enhancement Initiative](#)

More about the area

[Where is it?](#)

[What we do](#)

[Who we are](#)

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