

Teagasc Walks Highlight Largest Hedgerow Planting in 200 Years

22nd January 2008

Nationwide farmers are busy planting hedgerows on their land, with 15,000 individuals expected to plant an incredible length of 5,000 km of new native Irish hedgerows in the next few years. This will change the landscape of every parish in Ireland as farmers participate in the REPS 3 and REPS4 schemes. A national series of Teagasc farm walks begins tomorrow to demonstrate the best planting techniques recommended to ensure vigorous, stockproof hedgerows that will last the next 200 years!

The first in the series of these biodiversity walks will be held in Cork, tomorrow, Wednesday, 23 January at 11am and will be followed by walks in Sligo, Roscommon and Galway later this week. Up to 25 farm walks will take place around the country between now and the end of February.

The Teagasc walks will demonstrate best practice in hedgerow planting and maintenance. A full range of native Irish hedgerow species are being planted on farms including: whitethorn, holly, hazel, spindle, guelder rose and blackthorn.

Tim Hyde, Teagasc environment specialist said: *“Correct planting methods and maintenance will ensure the establishment and survival of all these new hedges. This is the start of widespread planting in the countryside so it is important to get it right first time. All the stages including cultivation, planting, pruning, weed control and fencing will be featured.”*

Most Irish hedgerows were planted in the 1700s and 1800s. Acts of Parliament were then passed, making it obligatory for landowners to plant hedgerows at that time. Hedgerows along townland boundaries often date from medieval times or earlier. Over time if hedgerows are not managed they grow into an escaped hedgerow with a thin gappy base. One management option for such hedgerows under REPS is to rejuvenate by laying or coppicing. A further 2,800 km of our existing hedgerows will be rejuvenated. The skill of hedge laying will be demonstrated in many counties. And at a number of events contractors will demonstrate coppicing with a circular saw.

A range of other demonstrations/stands will also be presented at this series of Teagasc Biodiversity walks and may include broadleaved tree planting, traditional orchards, LINNET crops for wildlife, The Hen Harrier Scheme and slurry injection methods.

The walks are being held in association with Coillte Nurseries, the Irish Seed Savers Association, the Hedge Laying Association of Ireland, the Professional Contractors Association of Ireland and others.

Biodiversity Demonstrations

January 2008

Date	Venue & Time
23 January	Mitchelstown, Cork 11.00 am
24 January	Bunninadden, Sligo 2.00 pm
24 January	Lecarrow, Roscommon 11.30 am
25 January	Tuam, Galway 2.00 pm
28 January	Agric. College, Clonakilty 2.00 pm
29 January	Tulla, Clare 2.00 pm
29 January	Goleen, Cork 2.00 pm
31 January	Mullingar, Westmeath 2.30 pm
31 January	Kenagh, Longford 2.00 pm

February 2008

Date	Venue & Time
1 February	Agriculture College, Mountbellew 2.00 pm
5 February	Templeglantine, Limerick 11.00 pm
5 February	Tinahely, Wicklow 2.00 pm
6 February	Bagenalstown, Carlow 2.00 pm
7 February	Kildalton College 11.00 am
7 February	Borrisokane, Tipperary 2.00 pm
7 February	Timahoe, Laois 2.00 pm
8 February	Athenry, Galway 2.00 pm
9 February	Ballinamore, Leitrim 2.00 pm
12 February	Abbeydorney, Kerry 2.00 pm
13 February	Caherciveen, Kerry 2.00 pm
16 February	Killala, Mayo 11.00 am
19 February	Emyvale, Monaghan 11.00 am
20 February	Agricultural College, Ballyhaise, Cavan 11.00 am
21 February	Oilgate, Wexford 2.00 pm
26 February	Ardee, Louth 2.00 pm
27 February	Trim, Meath 2.00 pm

Links

Hedges

<http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/campaigns/briefingsmore/hedges.htm>

Hedgerows

<http://www.naturenet.net/trees/hedgerow/index.html>

Ancient and or species-rich hedgerows

<http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ukplans.aspx?ID=7>

Hedging - Alan Brooks & Elizabeth Agate

ISBN 0 946752 17 6

<http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/index/book/6>

Hedges In Our Landscape by Paul Blissett

<http://www.hedgelaye.freeseve.co.uk/hedlan.htm>

Action for Scotland's Biodiversity

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library3/environment/afsb-00.asp>

Cornish Hedges

<http://www.cornishhedges.com/>

The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 (uk)

http://www.iow.gov.uk/living_here/planning/images/HedgerowLeaflet.pdf

National Hedgelaying Society (uk)

<http://www.hedgelaying.org.uk/>

Rural Education and Arts (uk)

<http://www.reapweb.org.uk/>

Open Spaces Society

<http://www.oss.org.uk/>

Seeing the woods for the trees

The Woodland Trust's approach to conservation (1999)

<http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/publicationsmore/SeeingTheWoods.pdf>

LIFE and European Forests

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/publications/lifepublications/lifefocus/documents/forest_lr.pdf

...Suggest a link?

Contact: info@aughty.org