



# **‘Developing a Farm Woodland & Agroforestry Economy’**

A strategy to make farmer led tree planting credible



**Tories pledge 30 million trees a year until 2024**



**Lib Dems aim for 60 million trees a year through to 2045**

**Labour announces 2 billion more trees by 2040 = 100 million a year**

**But the reality is only 15 million publicly funded trees over the last 8 years – maybe its time for a new strategy?**



## **Farmers as foresters?**

Woodland Ownership	England (000 ha.)	Scotland (000 ha.)	Wales (000 ha.)	Northern Ireland (000 ha.)	%age of Total Woodland area	TOTAL area (000 ha.)
<b>Farm Woodland</b>	368	560	93	16	<b>33%</b> (45% of all private woodland)	<b>1037</b>
<b>TOTAL Woodland area</b>	1307	1445	308	113		<b>3173</b>



## Benefits from trees

1. Public benefits = public money
2. **Farm benefits = increased farm enterprise revenue**

## Farm benefits

### **Indirect**

- from the interaction between trees and the agricultural system e.g. nutrient provision for crops or shelter benefits for livestock
- farm management benefits e.g. water management

**Direct** – substitution or market opportunities for the tree outputs e.g. timber, fuel, food

***Strategy = more focus on the direct farm enterprise benefits of trees***



## Timber from trees?

- For on farm fencing demand and farm buildings?
- For sale to timber markets



## Fuel from trees?

- For on farm heat demand and/or local use



## Fruit production from trees?

- Hard & soft fruit
- Nuts
- Cider/Perry/Juice



## Contract growing opportunities?

- Cobnuts
- Cricket Bat Willow
- Poplar
- Cider/Perry







## Income from capital grants

- Is tree planting & maintenance really that difficult?
- Transferable skills...





## Farm fencing requirements – for trees and livestock

- Grown on the farm, erected by farmers?



## Dealing with scale

- Mobile equipment
- Machinery rings
- Cooperatives/ Groups



## Dealing with scale

- Low cost farm machinery adaptations





## Making it happen?

- Learn from longstanding initiatives – e.g. Coed Cymru
- Support for developing capacity/capability in tree management
- Rural development support for new business opportunities & supply chain development





## **The future?**

*Trees for farmers,  
managed by  
farmers...*

*...with public  
benefits as well...*

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