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DWOSL NEWSLETTER
Summer/Autumn 2011

Chairman's Message

Ireland can and must double its forest cover. This will contribute to the recovery of our economy. It will create much needed employment and generate a further 1% to our GDP.

Farm forestry has tremendous growth potential, but with a mainly Dublin based cabinet I fear for its future. For the last number of years this sector has suffered from lowering of targets, budgetary cutbacks, environmental restrictions, soul destroying red tape and poor leadership. Now with our current financial position we again face further cutbacks, barriers to investment and the possible total sell out of the State's own timber, a resource has taken over 100 years of public investment to build up. The global recession is deepening and spreading, jobs are being lost and even our environment is being battered and burned with the effects of climate change.

"Where do we fit in?"

Lobbying at the Ploughing: - DWOSL Business committee: (from left) Charlie Doherty, John Jackson, Thomas Becht and Minister of State with responsibility for Forestry Shane McEntee (2nd from left)

Farm forestry is a growth sector with vast potential. Our superb tree growth rates give Ireland a threefold competitive advantage. Our proven timber processing industries are demanding more timber. Also timber is needed for the new wood energy market. Forest biomass is having a major role in providing renewable, clean, home grown energy. We have a vast idle land bank which is ideal for forestry. Once a tree is planted in Ireland it will be processed here, an Irish industry rooted in rural Ireland, providing sustainable, long term jobs. Allied to this is forestry's very positive role in carbon sequestration, recreation, protection of endangered plants and animals, water and soil.

Donegal Woodlands Owners Society Limited (DWOSL) is demanding a doubling of Ireland's forest cover through fast tracking farm forestry. Strong leadership is badly needed to counteract the lowering of afforestation targets, cutbacks in the forestry budget, increasing environmental and bureaucratic restrictions and the Government's total lack of focus on further forestry growth from private landowners. The DWOSL Leader 2011 Project is still on hold for the last 9 months by our Departments of Agriculture and Environment. This project delay is inexcusable considering the huge voluntary work that DWOSL carries out on behalf of forestry. The DWOSL ethos is to create employment and add value locally to our timber. Donegal has the 2nd highest forest cover in Ireland and 90% of that timber leaves the county unprocessed, so much for jobs etc. The finance for this project is available from DWOSL members and the 3 Leader Groups in Donegal have given this project their support. Farm forestry in Ireland cannot reach its full potential unless we all stand up for our right as landowners to grow trees and demand better leadership.

However, all is not lost and progress is being made. DWOSL is working at establishing its energy supply company (ESCo). A lot of background work is being undertaken and interested parties are in talks with DWOSL. Many DWOSL members are selling their timber from thinnings into the local firewood market. It is going to be a busy winter as this market is growing strongly due to increasing numbers of homeowners recognising the value and savings of high quality, seasoned, local firewood. The demand for timber is the most obvious indication of the value of our product.

Ireland needs sustainable economic recovery and jobs. Farm forestry can provide both.

John Jackson Chairman DWOSL

Fast Track Farm Forestry Now

The DWOSL Business committee sees the vast potential for forestry development in Ireland. Here's why:

A productive Investment rooted in Ireland. Our superb tree growth rate gives Ireland a large competitive advantage. We have the lowest forest cover (11% compared to EU 37%) and we have a vast underutilised land bank. Forestry is a proven industry worth €2 billion a year (1% of our GDP) which can double in size. 16,500 farmers are involved in Farm Forestry and 22,000 people are employed directly/indirectly. Our forests give the State €44M per year carbon sequestration value and a recreational value of €100M per year generating a further €250M into rural Ireland along with the environmental protection value that our forests give to wildlife, plants, soil, water and air. Sawmills and the energy markets are demanding increasing amounts of timber. Forestry is a major, long term sustainable industry, rooted forever in rural Ireland.

Ireland has a leading global role to play in leading the world in an ambitious strategic plan (with a secure rolling budget) of afforestation to combat the effects of climate change.

In Ireland **strong political leadership** is needed as various Government Departments are anti forestry development. A more balanced approach is needed urgently for farm forestry to secure and create further jobs, investment and environmental gains.

The Costs, turnover, employment and added value for every 10,000 hectares

Yearly Turnover & Employment	
Hectares	10000
Yield class	12
M^3 harvested at road side/day (motor manual)	5
Workdays per man per year	210
Labour (harvesting) cost per m^3	€20.00
Value of timber at road side per m^3	€30.00
Value of timber after sawmilling per m^3	€210.00
M^3 to harvest per year	120,000
Income to landowner per year	€1,200,000.00
Labour (harvesting) cost per year	€2,400,000.00
Number of work days for harvesting per year	24000
Employment created	114
Value of timber at road side per year	€3,600,000.00
Value of timber after sawmilling per year	€25,200,000.00

Yearly cost to the Government	
Forestry establishment cost per hectare	€3,400.00
Premium per year per hectare	€400.00
Duration of premium in years	20
Average cost per year	€5,700,000.00

A very healthy return on investment, creating much needed jobs, added value, environmental gains and a more balanced, sustainable, regional development. *To finance this* afforestation strategy, some of the carbon tax collected must be ring fenced for a secure afforestation programme. Political leadership is needed here.

Other Forestry issues discussed: Fire risk in upland areas

The increasing fire risk in upland areas is mainly caused by destocking and environmental restrictions. This contributes massively to a buildup of dead vegetation and scrub which fuels the massive hill fires we are now witnessing. The frequency, intensity and spread of these hill fires are increasing from year to year.

Dead vegetation has to be avoided through a light grazing system with livestock. Where this cannot be achieved then mechanical mulching of the vegetation and/or strictly controlled burning should take place.

Environmental restricted areas must have an active fire prevention system in place to avoid the near total destruction of the restricted areas and the fire danger this poses to neighboring dwellings, farms and forests.

Fire brigades, be they County Council or privately organized have to be equipped with vehicles that are suitable for going off-road in remote areas.

Administration through state and semi-state organizations
The processing of applications e.g. afforestation, roading and felling, especially in or beside protected areas is often delayed unnecessarily due to multilayered bureaucracy e.g. Inland Fishery, NPWS, County Councils, EPA and the Forest Service itself.

Increase afforestation on highly productive, at present under-utilized land.
Lower yield class land like in Scandinavia (yield class 7) is producing slow growing conifers of both high quality and value. The longer growth period (rotation length) is economically justifiable due to the high-end value of the superior slow growing timber.

FOLIAGE SAMPLING

by Danny O'Donnell, Committee Member and Steven Meyen, Teagasc

What is foliage sampling?

Leaves or needles are removed for analysis in a laboratory. Foliage analysis is recommended if you are concerned about the health of your trees and suspect a nutrient deficiency in your forest.

Why do foliage sampling?

It will give you a good idea if fertiliser is required, what type to use, and how much to apply. If you think that an area of your forest is not doing so well, it would be important to give that area some attention to give it a boost to catch up. A year left unattended is a year wasted. Keep in mind though that there is no point in applying fertiliser if the area is poorly drained. Drainage needs to be improved first.

Who to take the foliage sample?

It can be carried out by yourself or someone who knows what they are doing and where to take the samples from. Teagasc or a Registered Forester can do it also. There may be a cost involved.

How to take the foliage sample?

If you decide to take the samples yourself, keep the following guidelines in mind:

- Select foliage from the current season's growth, on secondary branches from the upper third of the tree. Do not cut the main shoot.
- Each sample should contain foliage from at least 20 trees of the same species in the problem area.
- Place foliage in a clean labelled plastic bag.
- Fill out a Foliage Sampling Form for each sample.
- Send sample to approved laboratory without delay. If a delay in dispatch is unavoidable, store the foliage sample(s) in a cool place.

You should use the same laboratory for repeat or future analysis.

When to take foliage sampling?

It is important that conifer samples are taken in November/December. Broadleaves and larches need to be sampled in August.

What happens next to the foliage samples?

The samples will be sent off to an approved laboratory. They will analyse the samples and in time results and recommendations will be sent to you. Keep in mind that foliage sampling is expensive.

The information you get from the results of your sampling will enable you to be involved and get the most out of your Forest.

The Teagasc Forestry website (www.teagasc.ie/forestry) has more detailed information on foliage sampling including the contact details of the two approved laboratories.

Message from our Training Department:
Chain Saw Safety: No Tricks!!!

Prepare Yourself

A safe way to prepare yourself for operating a chain saw is to read the operator's manual and obtain training from someone who is experienced with chain saws. It is very important to become familiar with the recommended safe operational procedures before attempting to work with a chain saw. You could learn the safety information from experience alone but that may have a very high price -- mishap and injury -- and probably isn't worth it.

Be sure that you are in top physical and mental condition when operating dangerous machinery. Medications, alcohol, and similar influencing factors can cause you to be a hazard to yourself and others when working with chain saws. Your chances of injury become much less when you are alert, well-rested, and healthy.

Equip yourself with protective clothing and equipment. Safety- goggles, hearing protection, steel-toed shoes, hard hat, gloves, and close-fitting clothing are all advisable when chain saw work is to be done. Chaps are available that are chainsaw resistant. They are designed to protect the left side of your leg, where most chain saw injuries occur.

Proper clothing and equipment can reduce injury.

Saw Selection

There are three sizes of chain saws to choose from based upon the type of work. Lightweight saws have an 8 to 12 inch guide bar and are best for light work, cutting small branches, and felling very small trees (6 to 10 inch diameter at the cut). Midweight saws are equipped with a 14 to 20 inch guide bar and are excellent for frequent log cutting and felling of small trees (12 to 18 inch diameter at the cut). Heavy weight chain saws have a guide bar more than 20 inches long and are for professional use, not the average consumer. So, consider the type of work you have to do and select the saw accordingly.

Prepare the Saw

Preventive maintenance always pays off with chain saws. Properly sharpened teeth will cut quickly, smoothly and more safely. Check the chain tension and lubrication system for proper function.

A clean air filter, good sparkplug, and effective muffler will make for a better running engine, making your work easier and safer. Follow the manufacturer's advice in the operator's manual when making adjustments to the chain or engine.

Be sure to wear gloves or cover the chain with a heavy rag when sharpening the saw teeth.The newly sharpened teeth will easily inflict injury. File or grind according to instructions for best performance.

Proper chain tension helps to ensure long chain life and safer cutting. A chain that is too loose will tend to derail and whip about dangerously. On the other hand, a chain which is too tight will bind and wear prematurely. All chains stretch with use and frequently need checking and readjusting. Good lubrication helps to prolong chain life and maintain tension adjustment. Check the oil often and refill according to instructions. Be sure to use the correct bar oil.

Starting and Operating Techniques

Always use both hands when starting a chain saw, one to hold the saw and the other to pull the starter rope. Some chain saws can also be held down with a foot while starting Check the owner's manual for additional starting information. Grip the top handle of the saw firmly and pull the starter rope quickly. It is not a safe practice to start a chain saw while holding it in mid-air with one hand. Always start it on the ground on a stable surface.

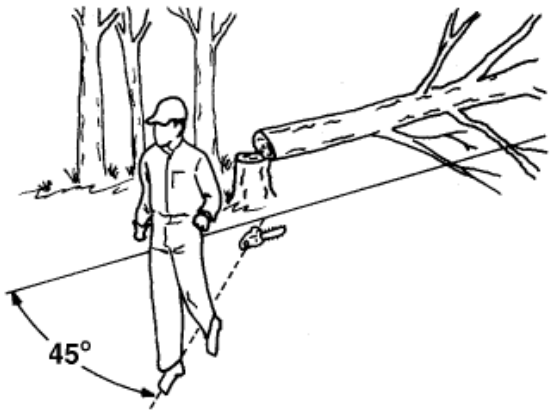
Always use both hands to control the chain saw. Cutting a tree or limb while you have only one hand controlling the saw is very dangerous. Never force a chain saw through a cut, if it is properly sharpened and adjusted it will cut, almost by itself. Keep in mind that the hardness of the wood will have a major effect on how quickly it cuts.

Start chain saw engine by setting saw on firm ground with chain out of gear and free of obstacles, placing right foot in loop of rear handle, pressing left hand down on upper handle and pulling starter rope straight up with right hand.

Felling the Tree

There are many things to do and consider before starting to fell a tree. Examine the tree; which way does it lean and how is it weighted? This has a lot to do with the direction it will fall. Is that area clear of people, power and utility lines, or anything that would be hit? Clear the area of people, vehicles, branches and debris.

If an electric power line is in the vicinity of the tree, don't attempt to work on the tree unless you are absolutely certain that it will not interfere with the electric line. If the tree must be removed and you suspect there will be a problem, call the power supplier, they have the expertise to do it safely.

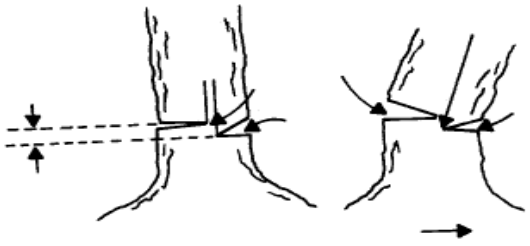


Will the wind have an effect on how and where the tree will fall? What about other trees? A very dangerous hazard is made when the cut tree entangles with another and does not fall completely. Determine the direction of fall carefully as well as an escape route. Don't wait until the tree is falling to decide which way you should move to avoid being hit.

Always plan an escape route to a safe location from where you are working. Your path of retreat should be along a line approximately 45 degrees from the direction of fall of the tree. This is most important when cutting (felling) trees. Select a place to set the chain saw; it is never recommended to run with a chain saw in your hand, operating or not. Turn off the chain saw and set it down; it is replaceable -- you are not.

Plan a safe, unobstructed path of retreat before making felling cut. When tree begins to fall, remove safe, stop motor, set it on ground and retreat rapidly at 45-degree angle from line of fall.

Plan the cuts carefully. Smaller trees (up to a 6 inch diameter) may be cut clear through with one pass. Larger trees may require a series of cuts.



Start with a 45 degree notch on the side that the tree will fall towards. Cut the bottom of the notch first, about one third of the way through the diameter. The second cut is made at a 45 degree angle that will meet the depth of the first cut. The felling cut should be made from the opposite side, about 2 inches higher than the floor of the notch. Do not cut all the way through but leave a hinge that will keep the tree from kicking back and upward as it falls. The hinge will be about 1/8 to 1/6 of the diameter where you are cutting but it may vary depending on when the tree starts to fall.

When the tree starts to fall, it is time to shut off the chain saw, set it down safely (don't throw it), and leave on your planned escape route. Do not return to the site until the tree is down and no longer moving. If the tree should roll, let it; one person cannot stop or control a moving tree.

If a tree happens to be so well balanced that it does not fall after a felling cut has been made, two wedges can be used to start the fall and influence its direction. Always use two wedges and a sledge that has a face 1/3 larger than the face of the wedge.

Plastic wedges are safer than metal since they will not damage the saw teeth or chain. Always remove the chain saw when wedges are being driven into the cut. Strike the wedge carefully since a careless blow may cause the wedge to pop out of the cut and allow the tree to fall backward, on you.

Never use an axe as the wedge or driver; the head of the axe may shatter and you could be injured by pieces of it. If cutting must be continued, insert the chain saw into the cut very carefully since the conditions are extremely dangerous.

De-limbing the Tree

Be sure that the fallen tree is stable and will not move as you work. Examine the situation at every limb to be removed. Be certain that the limb will not bind against the saw. Cut on the opposite side of the tree trunk whenever possible, this keeps the trunk between you and the saw. Never stand on the downhill side when removing limbs. Always keep in mind that the tree trunk may roll as limbs are removed. Watch for limbs that may spring out when they are cut due to the released tension. These limbs can cause injury.

Whenever possible, keep the tree limb or similar barrier between yourself and the saw blade.

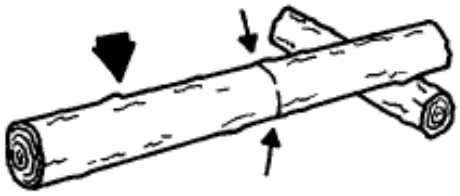
Larger limbs may require more than one cut to be removed safely. Plan the cuts so that there will be no binding. Remember that stored energy can cause a cut to pinch the blade and immobilize your saw. Wedges can be used as previously mentioned. Always plan an escape route when removing large limbs since they may roll when they become free of the tree trunk.

When cutting large limbs and the trunk of the tree into convenient lengths (bucking), be sure the trunk is supported along its entire length and will not roll. Block or wedge the trunk in place, if needed. Cut downward from the top of the trunk (overbuck) about one-third of the diameter and then roll it over to make final cuts.

Wedges can be used to keep the cut open if the log cannot be rolled over. They must be driven with care so they will not come into contact with the chain saw. Even though this should prevent pinching, always be alert to the situation.

Stand on uphill side when cutting because log may roll.

If the limb or tree trunk is supported by both ends, cut downward one-third of the way and then finish by cutting upward from the underside to meet the first cut. Be careful to keep the saw out of the dirt, the teeth will throw debris and be dulled, and wear on the chain will be increased.



As limbs become smaller in the cutting process, a saw horse will become handy. It will hold the small logs or limbs at a more comfortable height and prevent them from rolling as they are cut. Some saw horses can be made collapsable for convenient transporting.

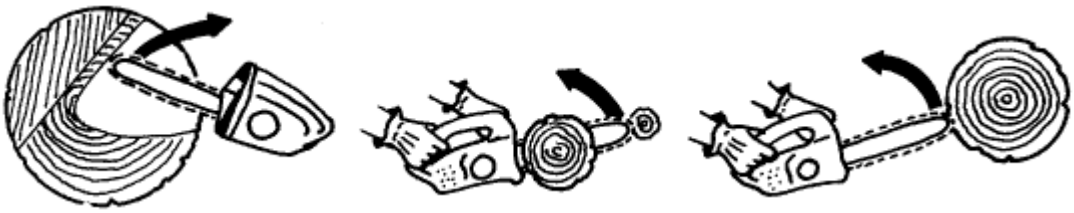
DWOSL Saw horses now for sale

Kick-Back Safety Tips

Kickback of a chainsaw is when the teeth on the chain catch on something as they rotate around the tip of the blade. The teeth may have enough force to cause the blade to kick back violently toward you, hence the term "kickback." Figure 9 shows three situations that can cause kickback:

- when the nose of the blade strikes another object.
- starting a bore cut improperly.
- when the blade nose or tip catches the bottom or side of a saw cut during reinsertion.

The best defense against kickback is to keep the tip guard on the chain saw. However this does limit what you can do with the tool. Some kickback control can be maintained by keeping a firm hold on the saw and using a saw which has a chain-brake or kickback guard.



Always be watchful for blade-pinching situations and plan accordingly. Cut branches at the base of the blade, don't saw with the tip of the blade. Use a high chain speed when reinserting the blade in a cut or removing it from a cut. Keep the saw teeth sharp so they will cut; dull teeth are more likely to cause a kickback. Always cut below shoulder height, otherwise the saw is difficult to control and too close to your face.

Avoiding kick-back - Key Safety Tips

- Always avoid making cuts with the saw between your legs, always cut with the saw to the outside of your legs.
- Don't stand on a log and saw between your feet.
- Always stand to one side of the limb you are to cut, never straddle it.
- Always keep in mind where the chain will go if it breaks, never position yourself or other people in line with the chain.
- Keep the chain out of the dirt, debris will fly, the teeth will be dulled and the chain life shortened considerably.

Transport and Storage of the Chain Saw

The chain saw should be transported in a level position with the gas cap up. Tipping will cause spillage of gasoline, a fire hazard. Do not carry the saw in the passenger area of a vehicle, it is a dangerous thing to have flying around in a vehicle accident. The saw should be transported in a case but if one is not available then keep the bar in a chain guard.

Storage of the chain saw requires draining the fuel system. In a safe, ventilated area, pour the fuel from the fuel tank into an appropriate container. After emptying the tank run the engine at idle until it stops, this removes any gasoline from the carburetor and fuel lines. Remove the chain and store it in a container of oil to prevent rust. Refer to the owner's manual for additional instructions on proper storage preparations. Keep in a dry place and out of the reach of children.

Timber Supply FORECAST GIS Application Workshop, COFORD

by Meike Siebel, Forester DWOSL

Early this year COFORD launched a workshop introducing updates of the GIS (Geographical Information System) Application FORECAST, which was developed to generate local wood production forecasts especially of the growing private forestry sector. Donegal for example, is forcasted to become the 2nd biggest producer of roundwood after Cork.

The FORECAST project depends on getting up-to-date forest inventory data supplied by private forest owners. It offers the owner total anonymity and a free analysis of the inventory data. It is up to the individual forest owner to give his concent to support this project, as the DWOSL will not give private inventory data to third parties.

More information can be found online:
www.coford.ie/researchprogramme/thematicareaestablishingandgrowingforests/forestplanningandmanagement/forecast/

MATERNITY LEAVE

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR DWOSL FORESTER MEIKE SIEBEL IS ON MATERNITY LEAVE FROM THE 9TH OCTOBER 2011. FOR FORESTRY RELATED QUERIES PHONE: ADMIN DWOSL 086 0410809

How to measure a timber stack?

Steven Meyen, Forestry Development Officer Teagasc

All members of the Donegal Woodland Owners Society who have carried out a first thinning will appreciate how important it is to know how much timber is leaving the forest. You can't expect to be paid a fair price for what you have produced if you don't even know how much you're selling!

That's why it is so important to estimate timber volumes accurately either in the forest or when leaving. A number of methods can be used:

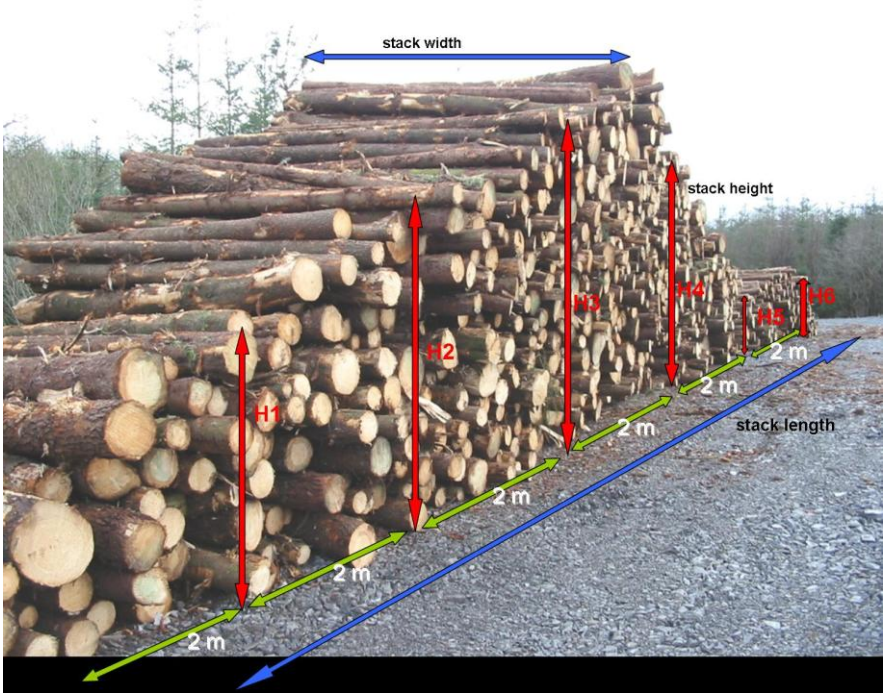
- Crop inventory carried out by a qualified professional in the forest prior to felling
- It can be calculated by modern thinning machines as harvesting takes place
- The timber can be measured in the stacks at roadside
- Weighing of the timber as it passes though the mill gate

The method described below briefly explains how to measure timber stacks. It is handy to estimate timber stacked at roadside because it can be done quickly by the forest owner. It is useful to know how much timber is leaving the forest, especially if different timber products (and therefore stacked separately) are being sold from the one harvesting operation.

However, keep in mind that all logs in a stack must be of uniform length and that the stack should be built neatly and tidy for easy measurement and accuracy. Large stacking space is required to ensure that all harvested material can be stacked at roadside before any removal is carried out by timber trucks.

As you know, to calculate the volume of a cube you multiply the length by the width by the height. This equals volume. In forestry, volume is expressed in cubic metres (m3). Stack length, width and height should be measured as follows:

- *Stack width*
  The width is the specified length of the timber product in the stack. A number of sample lengths (billets) should be checked to verify the stack width.
- *Stack length*
  Stack length is the average length of the front and back face of the stack. The stack should be measured from the centre point of the outermost billets at one end of the stack to the centre of the outermost billets at the other end.
- *Stack height*
  Stack height is the perpendicular height from the bottom of the stack to the centre of the highest billet at the top of the stack. Average stack height is the average value of a series of height measurements taken along the length of the stack. A minimum of 3-4 measurements should be taken at regular intervals along both faces of the stack or at every two metres.



The following equipment is required to measure a timber stack: measurement tape (30m) to measure the length and width of the stack; measuring stick to measure stack heights; quadrant (see below); DBH tape, record sheets and a scientific calculator.

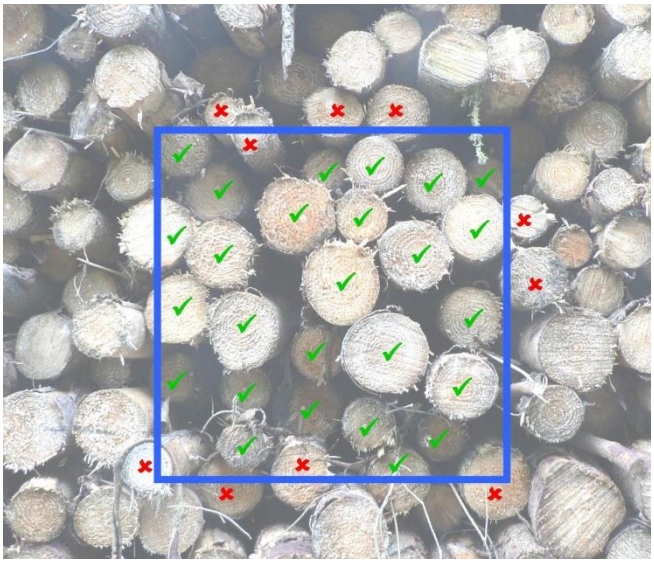
To measure the volume of the timber stack, proceed as follows:

First of all, measure the stack width (in metres), stack length (in metres) and stack height (in metres) as described above.

Then calculate the total volume of the timber stack by multiplying the stack length by the width by the height. This will give you the gross stack volume in cubic metres (m3). Keep in mind that this volume estimate also includes open spaces between the logs.

We therefore need to use a conversion factor to convert gross volume (timber volume plus open spaces) to net volume (volume of timber only). There are two options to calculate this conversion factor:

1. calculate the correct conversion factor by using an area grid (quadrant)
2. use the industry standard conversion factor



Option 1 – using a quadrant:

Insert "timberstack_quadrant" image here.

A known area grid (usually 0.7m * 0.7m = 0.49m^2) is placed on a face of a stack (represented in blue here). Count, measure (using a DBH tape) and record the diameter of all billets that are in the grid. (For those only half in, count only every 2nd one.) At least five samples should be taken across the face of the stack at regular intervals. Divide the total surface area of this known sample grid by the surface area of the billets in the sample by using the following formula:

*{Sum of [(Diameter)^2 * 0.00007854 * no of billets in each diameter class] } / no. of samples taken / surface area of the quadrant* = Conversion Factor.

Option 2 – use the standard conversion factor:

0.7 is the most commonly used conversion factor in the forest industry. Keep in mind though, that results tend to be less accurate.

Now that both the gross stack volume and the conversion factor are known, the net stack volume can be calculated by applying the following formula:

*gross stack volume * conversion factor* = Net Stack Volume (m^3)

This is the volume of timber only without air spaces.

Forest owners can measure timber stacks themselves. It is a very quick, cheap and simple way ensuring that you know how much timber is leaving your forest. It is particularly suited to small diameter wood from first thinnings and is the preferred method to quantify firewood being sold.

It will be interesting to compare your figures with the figures from the harvesting operator and from the weighing bridge.

For further details, visit www.teagasc.ie/forestry

*****NEW ADVANCED BUY & SELL SECTION*****

ON DWOSL WEBSITE: WWW.DONEGALWOODLANDOWNERS.COM

DWOSL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO EMAIL THEIR ITEMS TO: FORESTER.DWOSL@GMAIL.COM

Energy Crop report Launched at Donegal Wood Energy Workshop

14th June 2011, 1:30 pm, Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey, Co. Donegal

At the RASRLES Wood Energy Workshop in Ballybofey, Donegal, a new report **"Energy Crop Opportunities in the Western Region"** was launched by the Western Development Commission (WDC) as lead partner in the RASLRES project. The report was developed in partnership with the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland and Teagasc. This report provides an analysis of the potential of energy crops in the Western Region.

RASLRES is a European bio-energy project led by the Western Development Commission. RASLRES goes to the heart of the local community by using local resources and supporting local people to develop renewable energy projects and in turn creating jobs and enterprise opportunities for rural communities. RASLRES is funded by the INTERREG IVB - Northern Periphery Programme. Project partners are from Sweden, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Faroe Islands and Finland.

A workshop entitled "Building Local Wood Energy Markets" brought together almost seventy industry stakeholders to investigate how they might work together to build local loops of demand and supply in the wood heat market in the Western Region. Of specific interest to farmers, foresters and fuel processors, the workshop provided an opportunity to inform potential users on key issues for developing a wood energy project and to discuss experiences in the region to date including:

- The current wood energy scenario in the region, resources, markets and the potential for building local loops of wood energy provision
- Energy crop potential, fuel from forestry and issues relating to fuel supply
- Wood fuel markets and issues for users

The above areas were supported by case studies from Rural Generation Ltd and the Donegal Woodland Owners Society and lessons learned from the RASLRES regional audit of wood energy in the region. Helen Rochford Brennan, Chair of the WDC commented, "We are delighted to see such a large attendance for the workshop. This highlights the interest in the development potential for bio energy and specifically wood energy in the Western Region".

Ian Brannigan WDC Regional Development Manager added, "In addition, the launch of the report "Energy Crop Opportunities in the Western Region" provides a substantive document which informs both those who are currently involved in bio energy in the region and those who may be thinking of getting involved in this market."

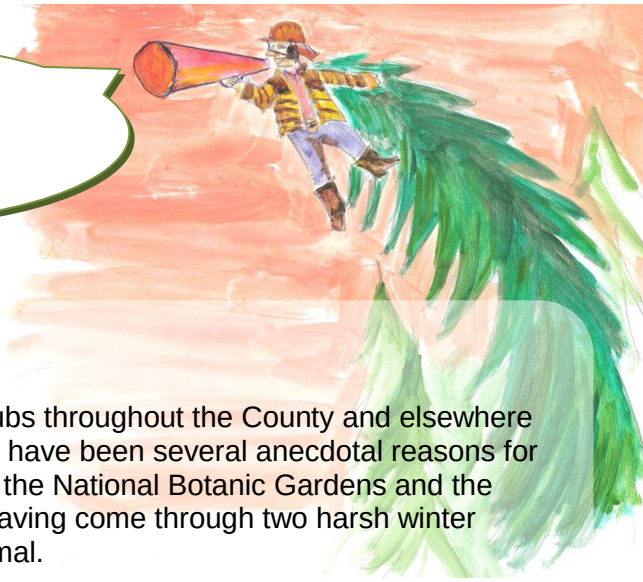
"The report makes a series of recommendations focusing on supply chain, infrastructure, fuel processing, management of plantations and supply, and issues for the user including clustering sites, mapping, the identification of plantations near centres of demand and the potential for use of marginal land. Having a report which provides an analysis of the issues, challenges and the potential of energy crops in the region in terms of building enterprise models and job growth is hugely beneficial for the development of bio energy both on a regional and national scale. The WDC through the RASLRES project looks forward to working with Government towards meeting our CO_2 emissions targets for 2020 and developing sustainable models for bio energy for the Western Region," concluded Bernadette Phelan, WDC Development Executive.

For further information on the RASLRES project log on to www.raslres.eu or email Bernadette Phelan at the WDC at bernadettephelan@wdc.ie

At the Wood Energy Workshop: Forest Owners and Industry Experts

Bernadette Phelan, RASLRES Development Executive

Shouting from the Tree Tops



Wind Damage to Leaves

Clive Evans

Extensive damage was done to the young leaves on trees and shrubs throughout the County and elsewhere along the western seaboard following the high winds of May. There have been several anecdotal reasons for this including acid rain, and volcanic ash from Iceland. Enquiries to the National Botanic Gardens and the Glenveagh National Park reveal that the authoritative view is that having come through two harsh winter periods many deciduous trees were later coming into leaf than normal.

A combination of a two-week period in May of cold strong gusting winds and below average rainfall for April and May, leaves at a tender stage, led to the damage we have experienced. In our situation it would not help with salt-bearing winds coming in from the Atlantic which would have a scorching effect on young leaves.

As to recovery we may find no great resurgence of leaf growth on deciduous trees and possible early leaf fall. But with adequate rainfall, the trees should recover next Spring.

Damage to plant life in this country by volcanic dust is as yet to be established with certainty.

Upland Management ???

John Jackson, (endangered) woodland owner

Ethnic Cleansing can be a political, economic and environmental tactic.

It can be defined as a planned deliberate removal from a specific territory, persons (competitors) of a particular ethnic group. It is done by implementing a policy that identifies a risk and uses propaganda, fear, uncertainty and doubt in the general public. To ban or severely limit agriculture and forestry in certain areas has a negative economic impact on the landowners and consequently on that region. Environmental restrictions are depopulating vast areas and are getting harsher.

Throughout Greece, Cyprus, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal, U.K. and now Ireland, upland wild fires are raging through so-called protected areas, Natura 2000 sites etc., and destroying wildlife, property and forests over vast areas. These uncontrollable wildfires are now threatening towns and cities.

It is devastating to hear woodland owners in upland areas, in Donegal, whose forests have been burned out or threatened annually with fires, say, “That’s it. What is the point? I will not plant again.” Vast areas have been totally destocked and turned into high fire-prone areas. Those of us who still make a living in these areas have seen the neighbouring landscape change into unmanaged, fire prone scrub. Fire insurance cover has risen astronomically. Fire brigade charges are huge. One forest owner got a bill from the fire service for over €7,000 even though no water was applied on the fire!

The major stakeholder in this should be the landowner. Has he/she ever been asked about their concerns, or the effects these so called environmental protection restrictions are having on their farms, their livelihoods and their communities? Massive European money is being drawn down by various State bodies for environmental research. But landowners are being treated with contempt. It feels like we are only in the way. I believe this so called environmental protection policy is a dangerous failure with little or no consultation or accountability. Are the endangered species being protected?

What damage is being done to National Heritage Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Natura2000 sites, Special Protection Areas and neighbouring land and property due to these wildfires? Are the concerns of the custodians of this countryside (landowners) being addressed in an open fashion?

I recently visited the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) headquarters in Wexford and asked to speak to someone regarding the massive upland wildfires. Not one person in that vast building was available to listen to my concerns and advise me, even though I had made a 9 hour round trip from Donegal. I was informed that it is not in the remit of the EPA to accept complaints.

FIRE FOR A QUEEN

Birch and fir wood burn too fast,
Blaze up bright and do not last.
Make a fire of elder tree,
Music within your house you'll hear.
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with a golden crown.

Elmwood burns like churchyard mould,
Even the very flames are cold.
Poplar gives a bitter smoke,
Fills your eyes and makes you choke.
Applewood will scent your room
With an incense-like perfume.
But ash green or ash dry
For a queen to warm her slippers by.

Beechwood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept for a whole year.
Oak logs burn steadily
If the wood is old and dry.
Chestnut's only good, they say,
If for long it's laid away.
But ash new or ash old
Is fit for a queen with a crown of gold.

For Hanspeter and Marianne
Joan & Clive Evans, Bruckless, 6th June 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

DWOSL FIELD DAY SAT 29 10 11 @11AM

ADDING VALUE TO OUR TIMBER; COST OF HARVESTING THINNINGS

DWOSL PLANTING SITE 30 SPECIES & SALE OF SAWHORSES, FIRE BEATERS, HIGH-VIS VESTS ETC.

AT TEEVICKMOY, STRANORLAR. JOHN JACKSON'S FOREST. MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.DONEGALWOODLANDOWNERS.COM

Newsletter produced with the kind assistance of the Forest Service, Leader (DLDC), Teagasc and Donegal County Council

Part funded by Leader (DLDC) & the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013