|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SFW dark blue | **Scotland’s Finest WoodsAwards** |

**Farm Woodland Award 2018**

**Winner’s Prize: £1,000**

**What is it for?**

The competition is to reward the very best of Scotland’s Farm Woodlands that form part of good agricultural practise. There will be exemplary use of both woodland and agricultural practise with benefits being delivered to both the farm’s operations and quality of woodland management. The Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland and Scottish Woodlands Ltd. jointly support this award. There is a prestigious trophy kindly gifted to Scotland’s Finest Woods Awards by the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland which will be awarded to the winning entry.

**Who can enter?**

Entry is open to active farmers anywhere in Scotland and must have a Rural Payments’ Business Reference Number (BRN).

**What type of farm woodland(s)?**

The area of woodland must be 2 hectares (2.5 acres) or more in size, with tree canopy cover (or the potential to achieve this if a young woodland) of at least 20%. It can be of any established tree species or woodland type and contain integral open space and/or woody shrubs or other farm crops/ground cover. If the woodland is younger or of mixed age it may have been established by planting or natural regeneration on previously bare or cropped land or on land that has previously had tree cover. Any young woodland must have had at least five years minimum of growth and can be of any age over that. Therefore if planted, that happened in, or before, the 2012/13 planting season. There may be one or more woodland areas on the farm that are included in the entry.

There must be benefits to the farming operations ideally improving productivity and the wood(s) should form part of the financial sustainability of the farm holding. The farm’s woodland(s) will be used in a sustainable and potentially enterprising way with responsible management providing direct farming benefits. For example: generating income from sustainably managed woods; using biomass, fuelwood or wood chips on site or selling these as a renewable, clean, Carbon neutral energy; or creating new woodlands to off-set carbon produced from agricultural operations; or for livestock shelter, sporting interests, amenity or other objectives. The farm must be actively managed with a BRN.

**Prizes**

A £1,000 cash prize is awarded to the winning project at the discretion of the judges and other high quality entries may receive a judges’ commendation.

In addition, the prestigious **the Lilburn Trophy** will be awarded at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year. The winner and commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

**Judging**

The judges aim to **visit short-listed** **entries during April/May 2018**. You will be contacted by the judges regarding any site visit during April 2018.

Our judges' task will be to find and reward the pursuit of excellence and the judges will assess entries against the following criteria:

* Quality of entry form and supporting information
* Clarity of management objectives clearly delivering direct farming benefits with good woodland practise
* Quality of project design and implementation
* The degree of progress and necessary adaptation(s) since inception
* Likelihood of achieving the project’s original objectives.

Aspects that the judges will be looking for include:

* An innovative and/or enterprising approach
* Successful integration of the woodland(s) with the farming activities ideally improving productivity
* How the woodland benefits contribute to the farm’s financial sustainability
* Woodland type appropriate to the site with natural heritage and any historic environment safeguarded
* Maximising overall biodiversity benefits
* Direct or indirect economic benefits to those on the farm and/or nearby.

**Award ceremony**

The winners will be presented with their prizes on **Friday, 22nd June 2018** at the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston.

**How to enter**

Simply complete a short entry form with basic location, contact details and state in no more than **500 words** why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award.

If you wish, please provide any supporting information such as a summary management plan, woodland composition – species/age/type map(s), soils maps, any publicity or information document(s) and photographs that will help our judges make their decision. In addition, a short video may be included though this must not be any longer than 60 seconds maximum length. Emailed versions of all material is preferred though must not in total exceed 10MB – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material is sent by post then two copies are needed. Copies of this entry form can be downloaded from the Scotland’s Finest Woods’ website [www.sfwa.co.uk](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) and should be submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance.

**Closing date for entries**

**Please submit your application as early as possible and by Saturday, 31st March 2018 at the very latest. Late entries will not be considered.**

**Publicity**

An objective of Scotland’s Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage others. By entering the competition, entrants are accepting that their woodland may be used as an example of good practice in post-competition publicity and, as may be agreed with the entrant, in other ways.

In order to maximise the potential for obtaining publicity entrants are requested to provide publication quality photography as well as a video of up to a maximum 60 seconds length if available.

**For more information please see** [**www.sfwa.co.uk**](http://www.sfwa.co.uk) **or contact:**

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, c/o A Douglas Consultancy, 3 Salisbury House, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9AU. Tel: 07969 327015. Email: admin@sfwa.co.uk

**You can now follow us on** [**Twitter**](https://twitter.com/ScFinestWoods) **as well as** [**Facebook**](https://www.facebook.com/SFWAwards) **!**

**Scotland's Finest Woods** is a company limited by guarantee registered in Scotland (SC294388)

and a Scottish Charity (SC039099

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SFW dark blue | **Scotland’s Finest WoodsAwards*****Farm Woodland Award 2018*** |

**Name of farm: ……………………………………………………………………………...................**

**Location: ............................................................................................................................................**

**Ownership details: ………………………………………………………………………………….…..…**

*It is important that a contact point is provided who will be responsible for liaising with us on important aspects such as arranging any judging visit.* ***Both the owner and farm names stated on this application form will be used on any certificates, or other records, in event of winning.*** *Therefore please ensure these are correct. Do include details of an additional contact if you are likely to be unavailable for significant periods.*

**Name of Contact: …………………………………………………………………………………….……..**

**Contact Address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………**

**..............................................................................................................................................................**

**..............................................................................................................................................................**

**Phone Numbers: ……………………………………………………………………………………………..**

**Email address: ……………………………………………………………………………………………….**

*Please include a map showing the farm location, where the farm woodlands are and the meeting point with directions as necessary. You may provide us with a revised meeting point at a later date but it saves time for us to have this information at the time you make your entry.*

**Meeting point for judging visit: …………………………………………………………………………...**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Please provide a brief summary of your farm woodland(s)’s background, aims, woodland management objectives, farming activities and how you are integrating the woodland with the farm. State the area of both the farm and woodland(s) being entered in hectares.**
 |

|  |
| --- |
| **2. In no more than 500 words please describe what you have achieved through your integrated farm woodland management and highlight the progress made towards meeting your objectives, state why you think your entry would make a worthy winner of this prestigious award. Clearly explain your existing farm practise and state how the woodland improves your farming activities and ideally your productivity.** |
| **3. You must include a location map showing the meeting point and directions to the meeting point for the judging visit.**Please list any other supporting material you are submitting that will help our judges make their decision. For example: a summary management plan, woodland composition – species/age/type map(s), soils maps, any publicity or information document(s) and photographs that will help our judges make their decision. These should all be supplied by email unless otherwise agreed in advance and must not in total exceed 10MB – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. |

Your entry form and any supporting information should be submitted as early as possible and **at the very latest by Saturday 31st March 2018.**

Any entries received after 31st March 2018 will not be considered**.**

Submit this entry form electronically to admin@sfwa.co.uk with any supporting material (see page 2 ‘How to Enter’ earlier) unless otherwise agreed in advance. Two hard copies of any supporting material can be sent to:

Angela Douglas, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards,

c/o A Douglas Consultancy, 3 Salisbury House, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire, IV14 9AU.