



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards 2020

Farm Woodland Award Information Sheet

£2,000 of prize money

Delivery Partners:



Two competition categories: young people (farmers/crofters and/or foresters) and all farm/croft woodlands

Introduction

Farm and croft woodlands are an important part of Scotland's landscape including old shelterbelts, cherished native woodlands, productive conifer woods and young woodlands. Scotland's Finest Woods Awards recognises the very best of woodland management and is delighted to be able to add this new category for farm/croft woodlands. We aim to show how woodland on farms or crofts, of whatever type, can contribute to the economic viability and a healthy environment of the overall farming business. Please note where 'farm' or 'farming' is used this also applies to 'croft' or 'crofting'.

What is it for?

The competition is to reward the very best of Scotland's Farm Woodlands that form part of good agricultural practice. There will be exemplary use of both woodland and agricultural practice with benefits being delivered to the farming/crofting operation and quality of woodland management. SAC Consulting and Scottish Woodlands Ltd. jointly support this award. There are two prestigious trophies available to be awarded to the winning entries. For any age and kindly gifted to Scotland's Finest Woods Awards by the Royal Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland the superb Lilburn Trophy and new for 2019 the striking Scottish Woodlands Ltd. Trophy for Young People.

Who can enter?

Entry is open to active farmers/crofters and/or their forester with the active farmer/crofter's support, anywhere in Scotland. The farm/croft must have a Rural Payments' Business Reference Number (BRN) and the farmer/crofter must be directly involved, to a greater or lesser extent, with the farm/croft woodland management that forms part of the farming business and is to its benefit. For the Young People competition so long as the farmer/crofter has a BRN and the entry is made with their prior agreement the Young Person may be the forester/woodland manager only where they are different to the farmer/crofter. Entries for this competition where both the farmer/crofter and forester are younger is especially welcomed.

There are two prize categories and entrants can enter the one applicable to them:

- **Young people** where entry is open to the farmer/crofter and/or forester/woodland manager who at the time of the closing date is/are **aged 16 years and under 41 years of age** (i.e. the same age eligible for the [Scottish Government Rural Payments – "Young Farmers" Scheme](#)). One person may fulfil both roles or there may be one or both of these roles where the person is 16-40 years old. Whilst you will be younger you will be the person(s) considering the options for the land and its management demonstrating the integration of farming and woodlands/forestry by young people. You will have significant influence on the way the farm/croft woodland is managed, ideally encouraging others to also manage farm/croft woodlands in a positive way.
- **All farm/croft woodlands** that are located in Scotland that may be managed by one or more people and there is **no need to give your age!**

What type of farm/croft woodland(s)?

The area of woodland must be 2 hectares (4.9 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 older age. Therefore if planted, that happened in, or before, the 2014/15 planting season. There may be one or more woodland areas on the farm/croft that are included in the entry.

There must be benefits to the farming/crofting operations, ideally improving productivity and the wood(s) should form part of the financial sustainability of the farm/croft holding. The farm/croft'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/croft must be actively managed with a BRN.

Prizes

A £1,000 cash prize is awarded to each winning project at the discretion of the judges and other high quality entries may receive a judges' commendation. For young people there is either one cash prize or it can be split between two people where the farmer/crofter and/or forester/woodland manager are different with each receiving £500. In either case the payment is to the individual entrant(s) personally.

In addition, **the Lilburn Trophy** and completely new for 2019 the **Scottish Woodlands Ltd. Trophy for Young People** will be awarded in each competition at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year. The winner(s) 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 2020**. You will be contacted by the judges directly in April 2020 regarding any site visit. If you do not hear from the judges by early May your entry has not been short-listed.

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

- Quality of entry form and supporting information
- Clarity of management objectives clearly delivering direct farming/crofting benefits with good woodland practice
- 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/crofting activities ideally improving productivity
- How the woodland benefits contribute to the farm/croft'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/croft and/or nearby
- Ideally how peers are encouraged to also manage farm woodlands in a positive way.

Award ceremony

The winners will be presented with their prizes on **Friday, 19th June 2020** 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 should be provided though must not in total exceed 10MB – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material is sent by post by prior agreement, then two copies of all documents are needed. Copies of this entry form can be downloaded from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website 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 midnight Tuesday 31st March 2020 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 potential publicity entrants are requested to provide publication quality photography if it is available.

For more information please see www.sfwa.co.uk or contact:

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See www.sfwa.co.uk for full information and follow us on [Twitter](#) !

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