



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Farm Woodland Awards 2024

£1,000 of prize money available for each Award
- all farm/croft woodlands & those where young people are the farmer/crofter and/or forester

What is the Award for?

Farm and croft woodlands are an important part of Scotland's landscape with a variety of woodland types, from newly planted woods to old shelterbelts, native and productive conifer species. With 2 separate competitions, the Farm Woodland category demonstrates the [integration of trees](#) into the farming business to show the added benefit of trees on a farm which may help the business to grow, become more resilient, or increase biodiversity.

Please note where 'farm' or 'farming' is used this also applies to 'croft' or 'crofting'.

Who can enter the Farm Woodlands Awards?

General criteria for all entries in the Farm Woodlands Awards (FWA)

- Entry is open to active farmers/crofters with a farm/croft anywhere in Scotland.
- The business must have a Rural Payments' Business Reference Number (BRN).
- 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. The [Integrated Trees Network](#) includes examples of such benefits.
- Your entry can include more than one woodland block on the farm. The 'Guidance for Entrants' notes (at the end of this form) gives more details about size and type of woodlands that are eligible.

1. Scottish Woodlands Farm Woodland Trophy for Young People competition

- This award is sponsored by [Scottish Woodlands Ltd](#) and is presented with the Scottish Woodlands trophy and £1,000 in prize money.

Criteria for entries

- So long as the farmer/crofter has a BRN and the entry is made with the farmer/crofter's prior agreement, the **Young Person** may be the forester/woodland manager only and may apply where they are different to the farmer/crofter.
- Entries for this competition where both the farmer/crofter and forester are younger is especially welcomed.
- **As of the closing date, the Young Person/People is/are aged 16 years and under 41 years of age** (i.e. the same age eligibility as 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.

2. Fountains Forestry Farm Woodland Award for an active farmer or crofter

- This award is sponsored by [Fountains Forestry UK Ltd](#) and is presented with the Lilburn trophy and £1,000 in prize money.

Criteria for entries

- **Farm/croft woodland** is located in Scotland and may be managed by one or more people - there is no need to give your age! You will demonstrate the benefits of [integrating trees into your business](#).

What type of farm/croft woodland(s)?

Please refer to the Guidance Notes at the end of this form for eligibility of your farming business and woodland enterprise.

Guidance for Entrants

'Guidance for Entrants' notes are listed at the end of this form. Please read these notes before completing your entry form.

Closing date for entries

Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Sunday, 31st March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.

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

Jean Nairn, Scotland's Finest Woods Awards, 1 Ravelston House Loan, Edinburgh EH4 3LY Tel: 07954 847055 Email: admin@sfwa.co.uk Socials: [Twitter](#); [LinkedIn](#)



Scotland's Finest Woods Awards

Woodland Awards 2024

Name of farm/croft:	
Location:	
Farm/croft owners name & type of ownership:	
BRN:	
How did you hear about the Award:	
<p>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. Do include details of an additional contact if you are likely to be unavailable for significant periods.</p> <p>The farm/croft and owner, as well as their forester if applicable, stated on this application form will be used on any certificates, or other records, in event of winning. Therefore please ensure these are correct.</p>	
Name of Contact(s):	
Contact Address:	
Phone Numbers:	
Email address:	
<p>Please include a map showing the farm/croft location, where the farm/croft woodlands are and the meeting point with directions as necessary (including a What 3 Words, W3W reference, https://what3words.com). You may provide us with a revised meeting point at a later date, but it saves time to have this information when you enter.</p>	
Meeting point for judging visit (W3W):	

Please mark the competition category that you are entering:				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Farm/croft woodlands – has a BRN in Scotland, with woodlands of at least 2ha (4.9 acres) and a tree canopy of at least 20% with a minimum of five years growth (young woodlands).			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Young people - farmer/crofter and/or forester/woodland manager who is 16-40 years old at 31/03/2024 with significant influence in the management objectives. The other criteria above must also be met.			
For the <u>Young People</u> category only, your age(s) on 31st March 2023, role(s) and applicant:				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Farmer/Crofter:	Name:		
		Age:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forester/Woodland Manager:	Name:		
		Age:		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Who is applying (please tick):			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	the Farmer / Crofter	<input type="checkbox"/>	the Forester / Woodland Manager
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Both

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

Important Additional Note for Young People entrants: judges will also be interested in the extent to which you have considered the options for the land and its management demonstrating the integration of farming/crofting and woodlands/forestry. If you have encouraged others to also manage farm/croft woodlands in a positive way please outline how you have done this.

2. In no more than 500 words please describe what you have achieved through your integrated farm/croft 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/crofting practice and state how the woodland improves your farming/crofting activities and ideally your productivity.

3. Location Map and Supporting Information (please tick boxes as appropriate):

- a. You **must** include a **location map** showing the meeting point (including What 3 Words, W3W reference) and directions to the meeting point for any judging visit.

- b. **Supporting information and images** – please acknowledge that you have read the ‘Guidance for Entrants’ notes below.

- c. **Supporting information and images** – please list attachments of relevant supporting information (documents / maps, photographs, videos). Please state if photos can not be used for publicity purposes – see the ‘Guidance for Entrants’ below.

Your entry form and any supporting information should be submitted **by email** to: admin@sfa.co.uk as early as possible, unless otherwise agreed in advance, and **by midnight on Sunday 31st March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered. If material needs to be sent **by post**, this needs to be **arranged in advance and three copies** are required.

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

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Guidance for Entrants

Why enter – the prize

A **£1,000 cash prize** is awarded to the winning project at the discretion of the judges as an exemplar to others. In addition, a prestigious trophy, as stated on page 1, will be awarded for each competition at the discretion of the judges with custody for one year. Other high-quality entries may receive a judges' commendation.

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The winner and any commended entries will receive a **certificate** and a **wooden display plaque** recording their achievement.

How to enter

- Download the current entry form from the Scotland's Finest Woods Awards' website: www.sfwa.co.uk.
- After reading the **How to Enter and Criteria** sections on page 1 and **type of farm woodland** below, complete this entry form if your project complies with all the entry criteria for the competition you would like to enter. Please also refer to the **Supporting Information and Images** section below.
- **Completed entry form and any supporting information** including images to be **up to 10MB per entry** and sent by email (sent in 2-3 emails if necessary). Any videos can be submitted as a hyper or downloadable link.
- The completed entry form and any supporting information should be **submitted electronically unless otherwise agreed in advance**. If material needs to be sent by post, **three copies are required**.
- If eligible, you may enter more than one category (one the entry form for each category).
- Please submit your application as early as possible and **by midnight on Sunday, 31st March 2024 at the very latest**. Late entries will **not** be considered.
- Our judging panel will consider entries and make awards at their discretion. If your project is shortlisted, expect the judges to arrange a site visit with your nominated contact person – see below.

What type of farm/croft woodland(s)?

- The farm/croft must be actively managed with a BRN.
- 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%.
- 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, the trees were planted in or before, the 2018/19 planting season.
- 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.
- There **may be one or more woodland areas** on the farm/croft included in the entry.
- The [Integrated Tree Network](#) illustrates some of the benefits to integrating trees and woodlands into the farming/crofting operations. The farm/croft's woodland(s) will be used in a sustainable and potentially enterprising way with responsible management providing direct farming benefits in terms of productivity and financial sustainability. 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; creating new woodlands to off-set carbon produced from agricultural operations; or for livestock shelter, sporting interests, amenity or other objectives.

Judging

The safety of Judges and entrants is paramount. The judges expect to directly notify **shortlisted entries** in April 2024 and will aim to safely **visit selected sites during April/May 2024**. If you do not hear from the judges by early May unfortunately your entry has not been short-listed. However, you are encouraged to re-apply in future years!

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

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- Ideally how peers are encouraged to also manage farm woodlands in a positive way.

Supporting information and images

You may include relevant **supporting information especially images** with your entry to help our judges in their decision making. Examples can include:

- Materials can be previously published documents such as a summary management plan; maps - species' distribution / vegetation pre-woodland establishment / soils; publicity leaflet(s).
- Photographs – **up to 15 photographs**. Each one to be no larger than 2MB in size, and preferably in a landscape format. Please include people and / or scenic views in your images.
- Videos – **up to 3 videos** and each one can be up to 60 seconds in length. Any videos should be a maximum file size of 5MB and can submitted as a hyper- or downloadable link (e.g. WeTransfer).
- Please state if photos / videos cannot be used for publicity purposes.
- **Your complete entry (form and attachments) should be no greater than 10MB** with all attachments – you may send 2-3 emails if necessary. If material needs to be sent **by post this must be agreed in advance and three copies** are required.

Publicity

An objective of Scotland's Finest Woods and its partners is to showcase entrants as exemplars of good practice so as to encourage other projects in future years. 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 invited to provide publication quality photography as well as videos, if available. Guidance is given in the section above about submitting images and videos for those who wish to do so.

Keeping safe

- It is requested that **only one person on behalf of the entrant is available to meet the judge(s) on-site**. The entrant is to **have a pre-arranged route for the judging** where any travel is on foot or on a surface reasonable enough to allow the judge(s) to use their own vehicles (road cars unless advised otherwise) or that does not require any vehicles/transport and that has **suitable, specified viewpoints**.
- Judges are to be specific with entrants in advance of the visit about what they want to see and / or have made available before or at the site visit.
- Entrants must provide the most relevant supporting information including images in the form of photographs, site-based or aerial based video. All visual supporting material must be in short, small file sizes ideally provided as website or YouTube links. Please refer to Supporting Information and Images section above.

Award ceremony

The 2024 prize-giving awards ceremony will be confirmed after the March closing date. **The Awards' Ceremony may coincide with the Friday of the Royal Highland Show at Ingliston, i.e. 21st June 2024**, for those invited to attend in person and able to do so.