



BRIDE Project

Newsletter July 2019



BRIDE Project
Farming with Nature

PROJECT UPDATE

Thanks to all our farmers who have come in to the office over the last month to finalise their BMP's (Biodiversity Management Plans). They are now mulling over the options and measures that were discussed with the ecologist before putting forward their plan to secure funding. The Project will offer up to €2000 worth of capital costs to each of the successful applicants. This includes funding towards pond creation, new hedgerows, mini woodlands, pollinator and biodiversity plots, invasive species control, nest and bat boxes, multi-species grassland, riparian buffer strips and the option of a suitable farm specific measure. Farmers will have 6 months to carry out the plans.

MONTHLY REMINDER

Even though Sept. 1st is the official opening of the hedge-cutting season, allowing at least another 2 weeks up to Sept 15th before commencement will allow any late nesting species such as yellowhammer to fledge their young. Preferably, let hedge-cutting go until well into the winter as there are still many wildflowers along the hedgerow margins that are vital for pollinators. Side trimming rather than top-cutting the hedge is more environmentally beneficial. Following on from last month's newsletter, as an alternative to chemical spraying of field margins another option is to use a front-loader mounted hedge trimmer to cut



Mechanical Control of Field Margins

underneath the wire. This could be a viable option for any farmer as there is a need to transition away from chemical control of field margins. This machine is Irish made and is

available from Slanetrac, in Co. Meath.

Try to refrain from using glyphosate on fields earmarked for spring grain next year. This will allow green cover (winter stubble) on the field over winter. This will provide both food and shelter for many small birds (yellowhammer, skylark, and all finch species) and prevent nutrient leaching over the winter.

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

Now is peak time for many of our pollinator and butterfly species. As a citizen science initiative why not walk any length of hedgerow on your farm and record the number of butterfly and bumblebee species. Don't worry about identifying the different species, record the number and repeat again next week or next month. Keep the record and next year after perhaps some environmental improvements the number could rise. For those who are tech-savvy recording it on the Biodiversity Data Capture App from the National Biodiversity Data Centre will allow you to take a picture at the location and record the species in real time.

SUSTAINABLE FARMING TIP

An increasing problem on livestock farms is parasitic resistance to drugs. Like antibiotic resistance, the continuous usage of anthelmintic

of clean, running water and seek medical advice. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice. In case of accidental ingestion, wash out mouth immediately with plenty of water, seek medical advice and show the package leaflet to the physician. Do not smoke, drink or eat while handling the product. This product contains deltamethrin which may produce tingling, numbness and blotchy redness on exposed skin. If you feel unwell after working with this product, consult your doctor and show this label.

Other precautions

Deltamethrin is toxic to dung insects. The risk to dung fauna can be reduced by avoiding too frequent and repeated use of deltamethrin (and other synthetic pyrethroids) in cattle and sheep, e.g. by using a single treatment per year on the same pasture.

Use during pregnancy, lactation or lay

Laboratory studies (rat, rabbits) have not produced any evidence of teratogenic or embryotoxic effects. No studies have been conducted with the product in pregnant cows and ewes. The product can be used in pregnant cows and ewes during pregnancy and lactation only accordingly to the instructions of the responsible veterinarian.

drugs over the years has led to internal parasites developing a resistance to many of the more common doses used on Irish farms. These drugs can also be lethal to the larvae of the many insects

that play a role in breaking down the dung once it is passed out onto pasture, leading to poor and delayed decomposition. Before dosing livestock, take a dung sample to your vet for a worm count. The lab results will provide information as to whether there is a need to dose or not, rather than routinely dosing your stock. Pour-on wormers, oral wormers and fly repellents all have a negative effect on dung insect larvae. Your vet will offer advice on different grazing management strategies that will reduce the need for doses and drugs



INVASIVE SPECIES

Recently we liaised with the local Castlelyons / Bridebridge Tidy Towns group on an Invasive Species Project funded from a Cork Co. Council grant. It involved a survey of 2 tributaries of the River Bride. Even though it was a small survey, the results are significant. We now know the source of the Giant Hogweed problem on the River Bride and can begin implementing a control programme next year with the permission of the landowners on the river. Other invasives in the area were also recorded including Old Mans Beard, Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam, Himalayan Knotweed and Gunnera. This information will form the basis of drawing up a more comprehensive plan to deal with this environmental issue in the long term.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

- One of our most common butterflies out on the wing at the moment – the *Small Tortoiseshell*. These are the ones that often hibernate in our homes in the winter months.
- Barn owl chicks are now at fledging stage, but their characteristic snoring may still be heard from old or derelict buildings or trees with a suitable hollow.



MOOREPARK OPEN DAY 2019

A big thank you to the many of you who called to our stand at the Moorepark Open Day. Next month we hope to be present at the Virginia Show in Co. Cavan on August 21st so maybe we'll see you there.

WHATS IN BLOOM...

Blackberry: Most of the hedgerow and tree species are now developing fruit, seeds or nuts but one of the last shrubs still in bloom is the blackberry (the dreaded bramble or briar!) Although hated by many farmers because of the thorns and creeping growth structure, it is a hugely important plant species for many of our pollinating insects and butterflies as it is rich in nectar and pollen. Any locally-produced honey will almost certainly contain the sweet characteristic taste of the blackberry.



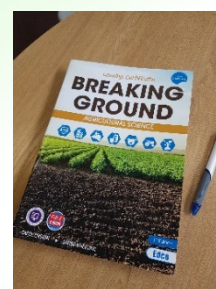
Hedge Woundwort: This is a common and easily identifiable plant of field margins in the Bride Valley. The small purple flower will be evident but taking a leaf and smelling it is the real giveaway. Important flower for bumblebees.



LATEST...

Getting the message out there....

We were delighted this week when a copy of the Leaving Cert. Ag. Science Textbook "Breaking Ground" was posted to us featuring none other than The BRIDE Project. The feature was to promote the importance of biodiversity on Irish farmland as part of the curriculum. Great to know that a local project like BRIDE will hopefully have a very positive influence on our young people and especially the future farmers of Ireland.



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