

Contribution of Farm Woodlands to Regional Woodland Strategies

FWF New Futures for Farm
Woodlands, National Forest YH
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Gerry Lawson, NERC

Issues to be Covered

- Implementation of the EU Forest Strategy & Forestry Measures in the RDR.
- Recent agroforestry developments in France.
- Coverage of farm forestry in National Forest Strategies and the English Regional Frameworks.
- Farm forestry in regional action plans and the English Delivery Plan
- Trends for the future.

Implementation of Forestry Measures in the RDR (2009)

- Four Axes of Rural Development Policy

- 1. Improving the competitiveness of the agricultural and forestry sector
- 2. Improving the environment and the countryside
- 3. The quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy
- 4. Leader

- Axis 2

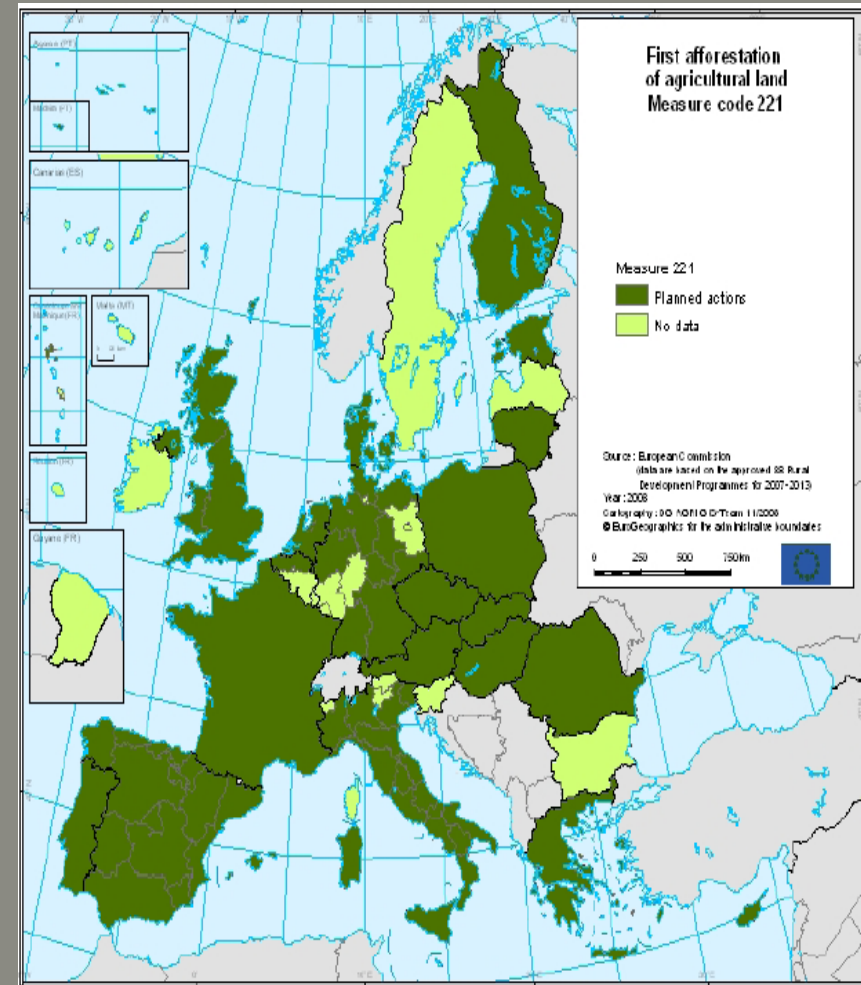
- First afforestation of agricultural land (M 221) - €4235m
- First establishment of agro-forestry on agricultural land (M 222) - €47m
- First afforestation of non-agricultural land (M223) - €778m
- Natura 2000 payments (M 225) - €159m
- Forest Environment payments (M 225) - €265m
- Restoring forestry production potential (M 226) - €781m
- Support non-productive investments (M 227) - €1597

- The healthcheck (Nov 2008) identified :

- Climate change, bio-energy, biodiversity and water management as the new challenges that EU agriculture and forestry should face.

First Afforestation Agric land (M221)

- NE Europe – establishment costs are 1000€/ha for conifers and up to 3600 €/ha for broadleaves. Maintenance is 300-500€/ha/yr
- Central Europe densities are up to 8000/ha
- Atlantic establishment costs vary from 750 to 2150 €/ha for conifers and 2100-3700 €/ha for broadleaves. Maintenance costs are 400 €/ha
- Establishment costs 1500-5200 €/ha for conifers and 1100-9000 €/ha for broadleaves. Maintenance higher because of fires/irrigation



First estab. of agroforestry on agric. land (M 222)

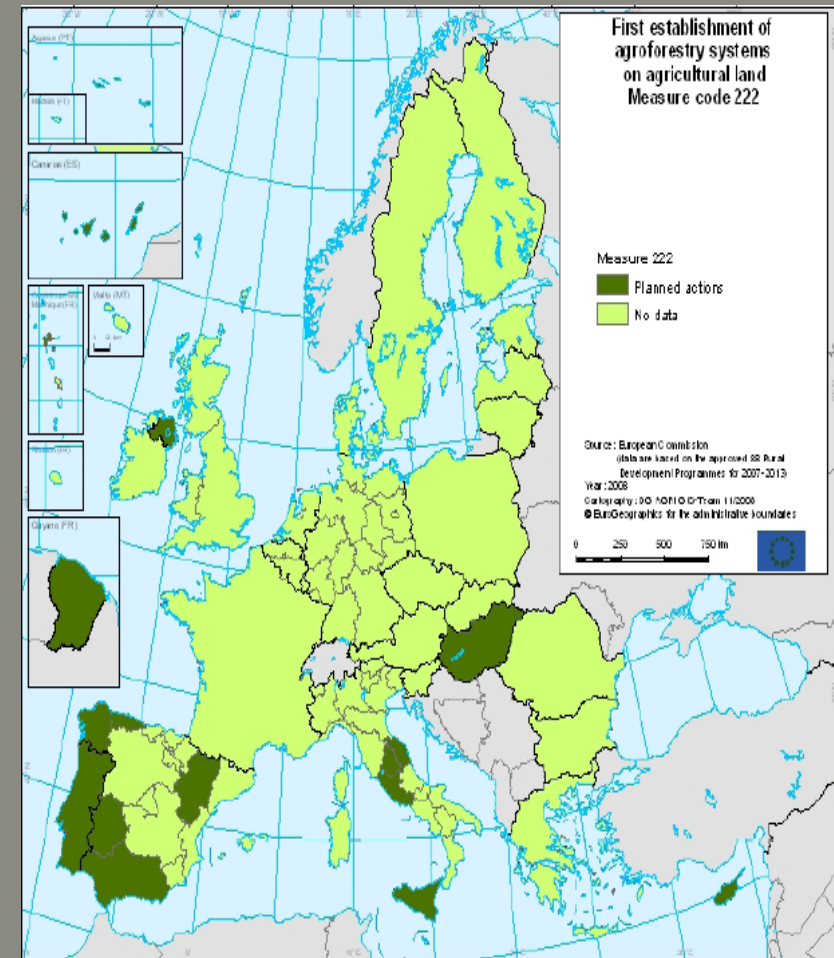
Spain, Extremadura

- **Objectives:** The purpose of the measure is to support the establishment of agroforestry systems with their high ecological and social value and aimed at production of high-quality wood and other forest products.
- **Eligible actions:** Support will cover the costs of establishment of “Dehesa” type agro-forestry system. The areas of intervention are mixed systems of forests and grazing or rotational crops with tree cover ranging from 5% and 60%. The ground is used for grazing and crop production, and the forestry component yields various high quality wood products and timber.
- **The density of planting** must not exceed 200 plants / ha. The agrarian use is the extensive grazing or dry crops; the forestry use is high quality wood and other forest products (cork, fruits).

Hungary

- **Objectives:** The measure will contribute to the objectives of establishing a new land use system by combining extensive agricultural and forestry systems with a view to maintaining a sustainable land management and facilitate protection of soils against erosion.
- **Eligible actions:** establishment of agro-forestry systems for grazing purposes to be maintained for a minimum period of 5 years (support only for the establishment of tree elements), maximum density 250 trees/ha.
- **Targets:** 3 000 ha new agroforestry system involving 300 beneficiaries.

Altogether 17 programmes, mainly in the Mediterranean regions (CY, ES(6), FR(2), HU, IT(5), PT(2), UK(1)) include this measure; however, also Hungary and Northern Ireland have selected this measure into their programmes and more than 3000 beneficiaries will establish new agro-forestry systems on 60 000 ha.



Recent developments in France

- France didn't apply Article 44 (measure 222)
- But will now – till 2020
- Agroforestry is one measure out of 60 – focused on biodiversity, agronomy, landscape and soil protection



Occurrence of 'keywords' in National Forestry Strategies

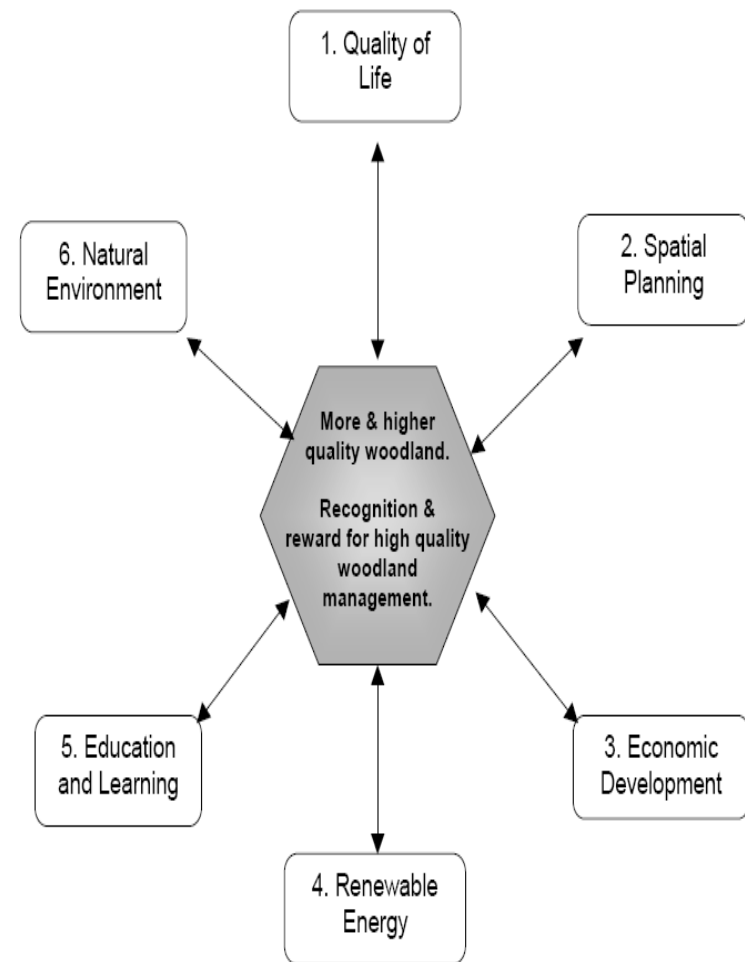
| Country | Pages | Farm | Pasture | Fuel | Parkland | Crop | Farm Woodland | Hedge | Orchard | Agrofor |
|-----------------------|-------|------|---------|------|----------|------|---------------|-------|---------|---------|
| Scotland (2005) | 88 | 6 | 4 | 41 | 2 | 7 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Wales (2001) | 25 | 24 | 1 | 15 | - | 1 | 6 | - | - | - |
| NI (2006) | 22 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| England (2006) | 45 | 22 | 6 | 20 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| EU Action Plan (2005) | 87 | 3 | 1 | 13 | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | 1 |

Occurrence of 'keywords' in English Regional Forest Frameworks

| Region | Pages | Farm | Pasture | Fuel | Parkland | Crop | Farm Woodland | Hedge | Orchard |
|--------|-------|------|---------|------|----------|------|------------------|-------|---------|
| EMid | 32 | 4 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 3 | - |
| EEng | 66 | 4 | 10 | 19 | 5 | 7 | - | 6 | 1 |
| Lond | 78 | 4 | 2 | 10 | 2 | - | - | 12 | - |
| NE | 36 | 8 | - | 16 | 1 | - | 1 | - | - |
| NW | 60 | 2 | - | 5 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| SE | 64 | 9 | 4 | 19 | 5 | 1 | - | 1 | - |
| SW | 40 | 12 | 1 | 42 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| WMid | 76 | 12 | - | 14 | 2 | 2 | - | 5 | 5 |
| YorkH | 44 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 2 | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |

Frameworks - East of England (2003)

- Landscape studies show “**farmland shelterbelts/tree lines** and wooded areas are of importance in giving character to the more open parts of the region;
- “Wood products traded within garden centres, DIY sheds, garage forecourts and **farm shops** were valued at about £23.7 million in 2001”.
- “There is the potential for a considerable increase in the area of woodland, particularly short-rotation coppice specifically for energy, generation, as a form of **farm diversification**”.
- Opportunities for Renewable Energy .. “Encourage the use of wood for heat in public buildings, schools, leisure centres, glasshouses, armed forces bases, prisons, rural estates and **farms**”.
- A component of the biodiversity strategy, is the population of wild birds.... “The objective being the reversal of the long-term decline in populations of **farmland and woodland birds**”.



Frameworks - West Midlands (2004)

- Mention of strategy for **sustainable food and farming**
- Mention of **wood-chipping on farms**
- Mention of **sale of compost products** are British Standards certified and are sold to farmers, landscapers, local authorities and garden centres.
- Woodlands are key to some areas of recreation, for example, walking, shooting and cycling. But there can be tensions between certain activities and access for wellbeing, as well as with the **costs incumbent on the landowner and farming practices.**
- Mention of farms benefiting from the **National Forest Tender Scheme**
- Mention of **farmland and woodland birds**
- (Action under Objective 6) One aim Promote and target woodland planting and management on appropriate agricultural land as a **farm diversification option**, and in urban situations, help regeneration.



Frameworks - East Midlands (2005)

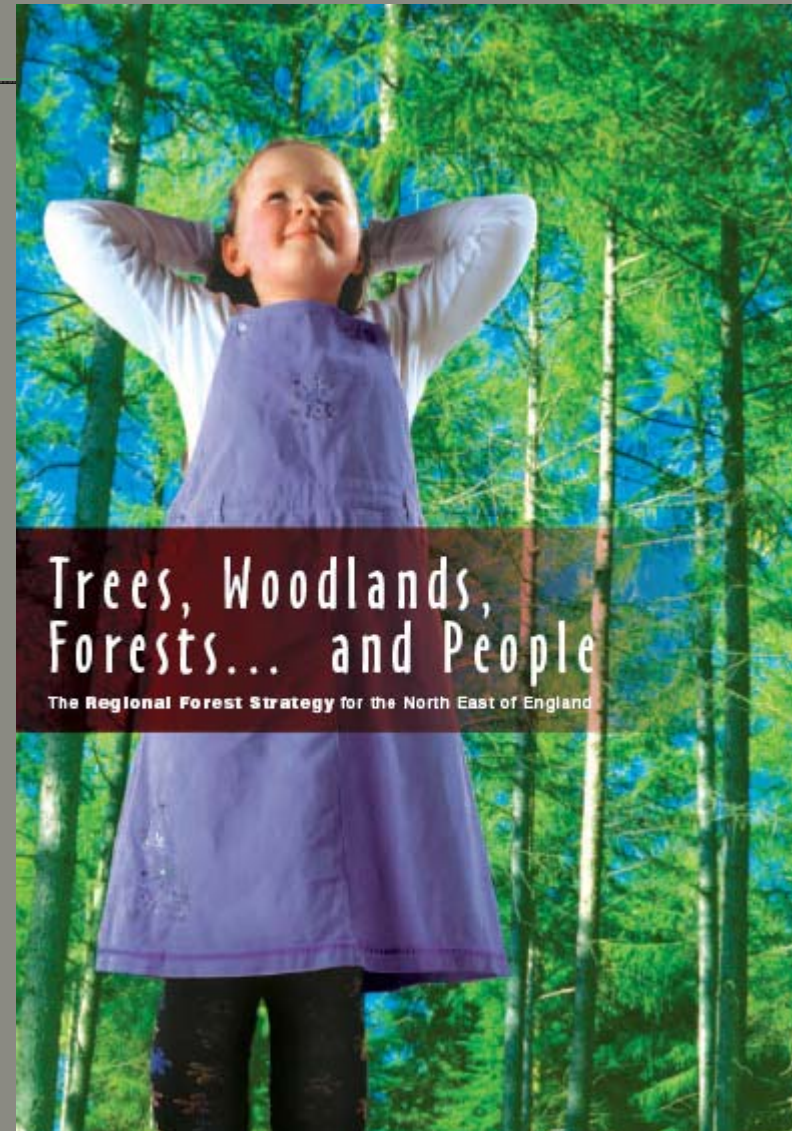
- “The strategy highlights the importance of trees and woods from major forests to **farm woodlands** and the trees in our street and parks”
- Case-study – Greenwood community forest: “its goal is to create a multi-purpose forest, with a rich mixture of woods, **farmland**, open spaces and settlements”
- “In rural areas, agricultural restructuring and changes to **farming support** are driving major changes to the land based economy and may bring new enterprise opportunities in the woodland sector.”



Space4trees
The Regional Forestry Framework
for the East Midlands

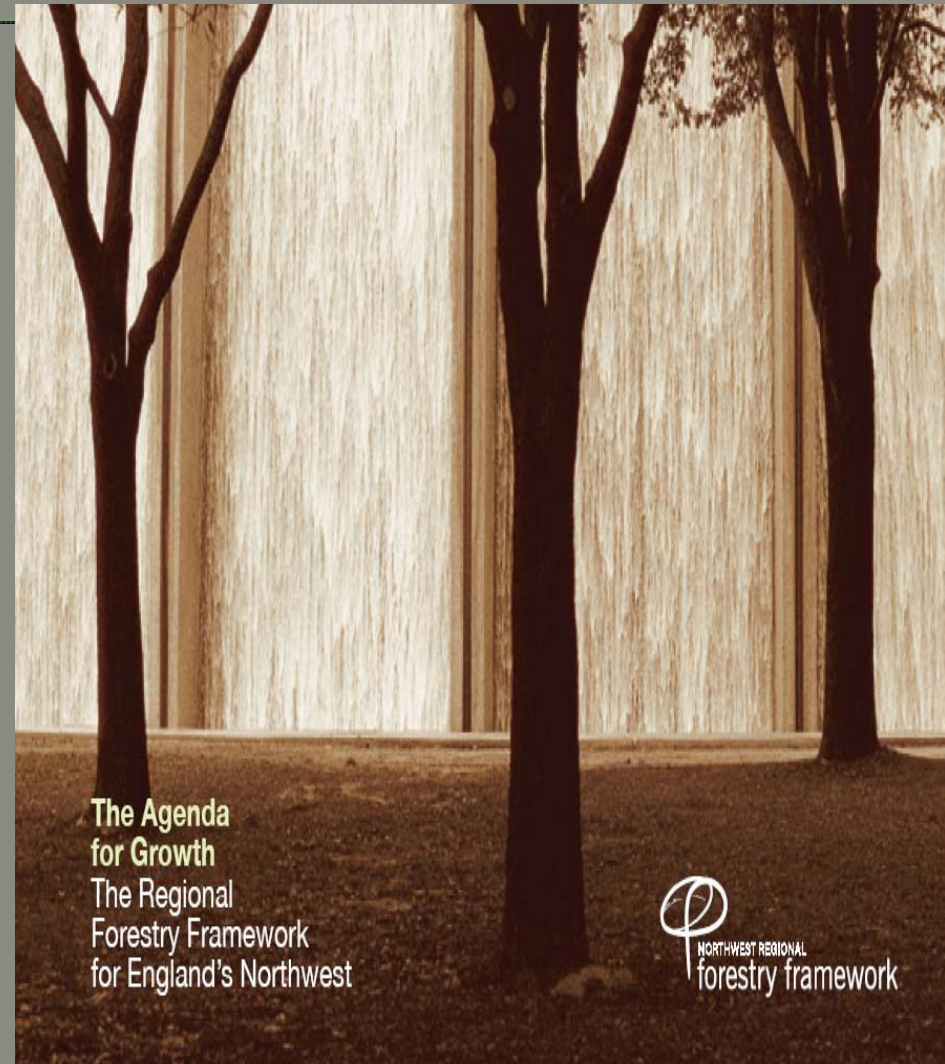
Frameworks - North East (2005)

- “In the rest of the region a mix of mainly small broadleaved **farm woodlands**, coniferous shelter belts and occasional larger coniferous woodland is the pattern”.
- Mention of use of diversification – “.. **Farm buildings** surrounded by attractive woodlands provided an opportunity to tap into the growing demand for horse livery. The subsequent success of his equestrian venture has largely been a result of the attractive setting and the challenging and interesting riding afforded by the woodland”.
- Mention of “integrated approach to renewable energy generation in the Kielder area, including **wind farms** and biomass”.
- Mention of the “**sustainable farming** and food delivery plan”.
- Mention of “reversing the long-term decline in the number of **farmland birds** by 2020, as measured annually against underlying trends.”



Frameworks - North West (2005)

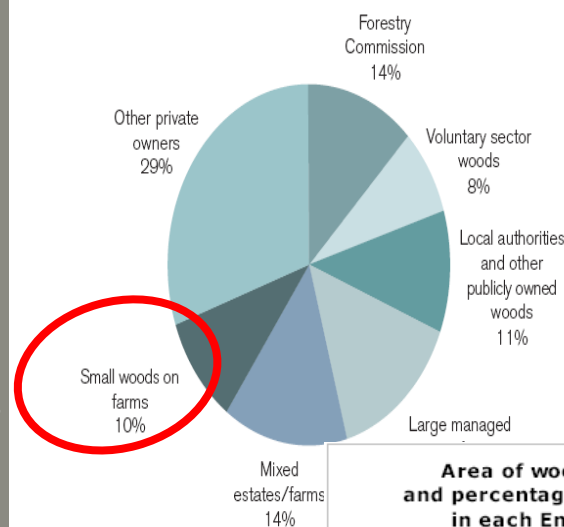
- Wood energy can be exploited from established, managed woodland or it could generate **revenue for farmers** who would be able to make productive use of land by utilising short-rotation forestry.
- The Grizedale Project is an example of a cross-cutting project, with public and private landowners working in partnership at a landscape scale and **integrating farming with forestry.**



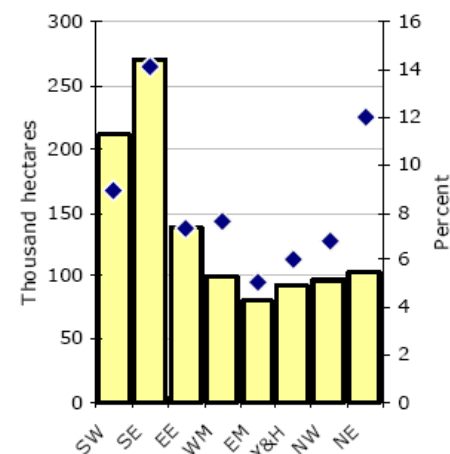
Frameworks - South East (2005)

- Trees are the fundamental components of the Framework - whether they are saplings, coppice, 'standards' or 'veterans'; conifers or broadleaves; natives or exotics; **found on farms**, in parks, by roadsides or in woodlands.
- "the remainder is in private ownership: on large estates, **on farms and in small parcels associated with houses**. It is estimated that there are over 10 000 woodland owners in the region".
- "Nationally, **farmland and woodland birds** have declined from the mid-1970s to the present
- while in others it is the surrounding land use which causes (biodiversity) problems, for example some **woods on farms** which suffer from agricultural spray drift or runoff".
- "It is likely that new forms of forestry such as short rotation coppice will contribute biomass for renewable energy. In developing this new opportunity for **farm diversification** it is important that the design and location is appropriate".
- Case study – the Blean Initiative, Kent "**it is a mosaic of villages, woodlands, farms**, local businesses, shops and pubs".
- Also reference to DEFRA targets on **farmland birds**

Figure 6 Ownership of woodlands in the region.



Area of woodland (bars) and percentage cover (points) in each English region



Frameworks - South-West (2005)

- Until recently farmers were paid production subsidies that focused effort on practices that may have left woodlands vulnerable, e.g. uncontrolled grazing, and **encouraged the view that woods had little relevance to the farm business.**
- Recent changes to the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) and agri-environment schemes, including the Single Payment Scheme, are potentially difficult for farmers with woodland. The SPS could **encourage some farmers to graze woodland inappropriately in order to include woodland as part of their eligible area for payment.**
- Our knowledge of the distribution of ancient trees is limited however. These trees need 'successors' if there are to be such trees in the future. Work is under way by the Ancient Tree Forum to map and provide **advice to farmers and landowners regarding the best ways to manage these trees** (and management can be funded under HLS).
- Fuel sourced from existing woods should be seen as a complement to the growing of energy crops e.g. willow and Miscanthus, which can provide a new use for agricultural land **where farmers and landowners can 'contract grow'** for larger heat and power plants.
- The Single Payment Scheme may inadvertently encourage farmers to graze woodland inappropriately in order to be eligible for payment – **regional partners will be working at a national level to remedy such inconsistencies.**
- The new Environmental Stewardship scheme enables farmers and land managers to gain grant aid for **establishing new small woodlands for landscape purposes.**
- Objective A - Action 3 - Extend farm woodland creation through Environmental Stewardship
- Mention of regional strategy for **sustainable food and farming** (and delivery plan)

Occurrence of 'keywords' in Forestry Delivery Plans (etc.)

| Plan | Pages | Farm | Pasture | Fuel | Parkland | Crop | Farm Woodland | Hedge | Orchard | Agrro | Silvo |
|--------------------------------|-------|------|---------|------|----------|------|------------------|-------|---------|-------|-------|
| Small Woods on Farms | 68 | 161 | 1 | - | 2 | 20 | 10 | 27 | 2 | - | - |
| Scotland Implement ation | 49 | 8 | 1 | 25 | - | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | - |
| England Delivery | 48 | 7 | 1 | 31 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| England Actions | 30 | 6 | 1 | 27 | - | 1 | 1 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Nat Forest Delivery | 38 | 25 | - | 9 | 4 | 1 | - | 4 | - | - | - |

England Delivery Plan Action Tables

- FC to work with Natural England, the Rural Climate Change Forum and Farming Futures to communicate the **greenhouse gas benefits of woodland in rural land management** (2008-10)
- Develop and agree priority areas where woodland creation will contribute most in terms of flood alleviation, air quality, water quality and watercourse condition. Contribute to **Catchment Sensitive Farming** where appropriate.
- Support initiatives aimed at improving dialogue within the sector and between the sector and other targeted groups (e.g. **RICS study of farmer attitudes** ("Tomorrows Woodland"))
- RICS annual survey of land values "**Farmland market**" could cover woodlands or could be considered to do so.
- FC to gather information on the capacity of farm woodlands to reduce the carbon balance on-farm and promote that capacity by supporting a joint project with Natural England to assess the **carbon balance of different farm types**.

Policy trends in England

- A new Trees, Woodlands and Forests Strategy (2007)
- A new delivery plan from FC and NE (Dec 2008)
- Increasing focus on the role of Green Infrastructure in planning and land use decision making
- Increasing focus on natural resource management, inc. DEFRA's Ecosystem Services approach
- Proposals for economic growth points & integrated regional plans
- Increasing realisation that climate change is an issue that has to be addressed through a wide range of activities across all sectors of the economy
- **And hopefully, recognition that:**
 - **SFP constraints were limiting new planting**
 - **RDR Article 44 is being used successfully in the EU – e.g. France.**
 - **Climate change may offer more opportunities for Agroforestry**
 - **Farm woodlands and studies of farmer attitudes still don't figure sufficiently highly in policy making.**