

Farmer Network 'Update' May 2019

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FARMER NETWORK NEWSLETTER May 2019 Update



Dear Farmers

Hoping you all had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed the sensational weather.

We just wanted to update you on a couple of upcoming events/initiatives.

1. The first of our Summer Meetings is now organised for 20 May - be sure to 'save the date' (*see below*)
2. An exciting initiative too relates to 'Host a Hive' (*see below*)

Please remember, in all cases, to contact Nicky to secure a place at an event and/or express an interest - nicola@elmassociates.co.uk or mobile 07794 082860

'Grants & New Funding Opportunities' Monday 20 May, 7-9pm, Larkton House Farm



The new £30m 'Countryside Productivity Small Grants Programme' for

2019 is just about to open.

The first in the series of our summer meetings, therefore, provides the perfect opportunity to get moving on the application processes and will be held at **Larkton House Farm on Monday 20 May, 7-9pm** (*our thanks to Peter Done in hosting this*).

We are extremely fortunate to have **Dave Perry, Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer**, in attendance at our meeting and he will be updating and sharing information with us on this popular initiative. This is a great opportunity to discuss with Dave what items might be eligible for your farm projects.

As you will know, the Small Grants Programme has previously been very useful for investments in small-scale machinery and items that improve farming and horticultural efficiency such as calving detectors, nitrogen meters, fruit ripeness detectors and a broad range of other technologies.

And, a reminder, **The Countryside Stewardship Water Quality Grants** are also still open for applications, and we will be able to see some of the improvements that Peter Done has undertaken with these grants.

Light refreshments provided.

Host a Hive



Calling our Sandstone Ridge Farmers ...

We have a very exciting opportunity for our Sandstone Ridge Farmers to work with a local beekeeper to create a network of beehives on the Sandstone Ridge that will lead to a **'Sandstone Ridge Honey'**!

That local beekeeper is Karl Colyer, a Cheshire bee farmer, who has been keeping bees since 2005, and who is a longstanding member of the Bee Improvement and Bee Breeders Association.

Karl has set up a not-for-profit initiative called **'Bees In Our Community'**, which is aimed at increasing the number of beekeepers and honeybee colonies in the community [CLICK HERE](#)

We are working with Karl to create a locally branded **'Sandstone Ridge**

..

Honey', which can be sold through local businesses and markets.

In return for hosting some hives, the farm host will receive not only pollination services but some of the lovely honey direct from their own farm.

Karl makes his own hives using recycled material, and works with host farmers to ensure that the hives are located and managed to the benefit of both the host and the beekeeper.

Locations close to crops, hedgerows, meadows, woodlands and ponds are ideal for the bee colonies, and we are fortunate to have all of those habitats in abundance on the Sandstone Ridge.

If you are interested in hosting some beehives, please get in touch so that we can refer and arrange.

Karl will be attending one of our summer walks this summer, so there is also a chance to see one of his demonstration hives and find out more about what is involved (watch this space)

Contact Nicky to register your interest nicola@elmassociates.co.uk or mobile 07794 082860

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