

Crofters and Small Landholders Skills for the 21st Century

Land Management courses – a selection of courses that can be offered

Basic Trailer Handling. One day integrated training and assessment course for a maximum of four people. The course covers:

- Legal requirements for use of a road trailer
- The main causes of accidents
- Towing vehicle/trailer combinations and set-up
- Essential vehicle/trailer safety checks
- Correct coupling/un-coupling procedures
- Loading and nose weight checks
- Vehicle/trailer stability and security
- Handling techniques including reversing
- Assessment of individual performance and feedback

Brushcutters/Trimmers – Maintenance and Operation. One or two-day training and assessment course for a maximum of six people, covering:

- Maintenance (engine, drive system and gear head)
- Selecting the appropriate cutting head
- Re-assembly
- Maintaining and fitting the cutting head
- Correct personal protective clothing
- Adjusting the machine and harness
- Inspecting the site and identifying hazards
- Environmental considerations
- Fuelling
- Starting the machine
- Cutting a test area
- After-care and safe transportation.

Safe Use of Pesticides. One-day course, for a maximum of 12 people. Content covers:

- The requirements of current legislation
- Using pesticides appropriately and safely
- Keeping proper records
- Storing pesticides correctly
- Cleaning equipment
- Disposing of unwanted pesticides and containers
- Dealing with contamination and poisoning incidents

Field Crop Sprayer, Hand-held Applicator and Granular Applicator courses

These are one-day courses, for a maximum of six people.

Course contents include:

- The requirements in detail of current legislation
- Applying pesticides safely and efficiently
- Identifying and selecting appropriate nozzles or restrictors
- Preparing and calibrating the equipment
- Operating the equipment in compliance with current legislation and codes of practice
- Cleaning equipment
- Disposing of unwanted products and containers

- Identifying and rectifying faults
- Recognising conditions when application is inadvisable.

Rodent Control. One day course covering:

- Identify rats and mice and the typical symptoms of damage caused
- Identify the degree and source of the infestation
- State the legislative obligations and responsibilities relevant to the control of rats and mice
- Describe the life-style, habits and habitats of rats and mice
- Plan, implement and monitor an effective control programme for rats and mice
- Select and carry out the most appropriate control methods, in line with current legal guidelines and recognised good practice
- Understand the effect rodent control can have on the environment and ensure risks to non-target animals are minimised

Rabbit and Mole Control. One day course to enable participants to:

- Identify the degree and source of the infestation for rabbits and moles
- State the legislative obligations and responsibilities relevant to the control of rabbits and moles
- Describe the life-styles, habits and habitats of rabbits and moles
- Plan, implement and monitor an effective control programme for rabbits and moles
- Select and carry out the most appropriate methods for rabbit and mole control in line with current legal guidelines and recognised good practice
- Perform gassing operations safely and effectively, with due regard to humans, creatures, plants and the environment

Small Engine Maintenance. One-day course enabling participants to understand the basic principles of a small engine, identify its components and carry out daily maintenance, safe refuelling and pre-start checks.

Hand held hedge trimmers. One day course covering:

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Health and Safety Features
- Hedge types and growth habits
- Maintenance
- Fuelling and starting and pre-use checks
- Adjusting the hedge trimmer idling
- Hedge cutting on site
- Clearing site and hedge trimmer checks

Dry stone walling. A largely practical **two-day** introductory course which will engage participants in the principles of drystone dyking and in constructing a drystone dyke or feature, including:

- Health & safety
- Principles of drystone dyking
- Sorting stone
- Construction techniques

Other courses available may include:

- Fencing
- Safe operation of ATVs
- Basic tractor maintenance

Hedgelaying
Hedge planting and management
Mowers
Path construction and maintenance
Integrated Crop/Farm Management
Drainage and irrigation
Sheds/shelter structures
Soil analysis
Waste disposal and regulations
Rotovators/strimmers
H&S, risk assessment