
**CAMPAIGN
FOR THE FARMED
ENVIRONMENT**



Media Release

For immediate release
5 December 2014

Farmers learn how to help barn owls on their farms

In the last two weeks over 140 farmers have attended five events organised by the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) to find out how they can help Barn Owls thrive on their farms.

Local experts Robin Arundale, John Olly and Philip Hamner have given farmers across the region a fascinating insight into the life of barn owls and what they can do to help them.

It was highlighted that after a couple of years of inclement weather this years weather has been really good news for barn owls. With particularly large broods raised and in many cases pairs have raising two broods compared to the usual one.

Robin Arundale from Wolds Barn Owl Group said ““This extremely successful breeding season should result in higher than usual numbers of young first winter barn owls looking to find somewhere to pair up and breed next year. This is an excellent opportunity for you to encourage a pair to nest on your farm. You will need to provide, preferably, two appropriately situated barn owl nest boxes. It is vitally important that these are located in an area of suitable habitat.”

Fraser Hugill CFE regional co-ordinator continues “the new CAP greening measures provide an opportunity to encourage barn owls onto our farms by creating suitable habitat. The fallow land and buffer strip options can be used to create or retain tussocky grass areas and margins providing an ideal habitat for field voles the main food source of the barn owl”

William Maughan farmer and CFE chairman in Durham concluded “it is so encouraging to see such an enthusiastic group of farmers wanting to learn about barn owls. It is important that when giving land over for greening measures it actually delivers something meaningful for the environment and this is where attending a CFE event can help”

You can also visit www.cfeonline.org.uk for further information.

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS:

CFE encourages farmers and land managers across England to protect and enhance the environmental value of farmland through measures that sit alongside productive agriculture.

CFE is a partnership approach supported by many organisations engaged in agriculture and the environment.

Images courtesy of Mark Crabtree for use with this article only.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

For further media information please contact Fraser Hugill at CFE Yorkshire and the North East on: 07502 425266 or yorkshirenortheast@cfeonline.org.uk

Information on CFE can be found on the national website: www.cfeonline.org.uk

Follow CFE Yorkshire and the North East on Twitter: @cfeyorksneast

1. Campaign for the Farmed Environment partners are the NFU, the Country, Land and Business Association, the Agricultural Industries Confederation, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Linking Environment and Farming, Defra, Natural England, the Environment Agency, the RSPB, AHDB and Wildlife Trusts. They have been joined by the Association of Independent Crop Consultants and the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers to create a powerful national partnership.
2. The Campaign website – www.cfeonline.org.uk - provides useful information about the campaign themes and voluntary measures. It also highlights activities at a local level including coordination details, a diary of events and case studies. For further information on the CFE in Yorkshire and the North East contact Fraser Hugill on 07502 425 266 or fraser.hugill@cfeonline.org.co.uk