

# Introduction

This year sees the 24th edition of the Irish Forestry and Timber Yearbook. Its sustainability, popularity and relevance has been maintained through the hard work of the production team and most of all it continues to be updated to give timber growers the most up to date information on the industry. It is an invaluable guide to services, statistics and general information for any forest owner.

In the 35 years since ITGA was formed we have been pursuing the interests of the growing number of forest owners throughout the country. The reality that many of our members now have significant volumes of timber for sale from their woodlands has prompted us to develop our master timber sales agreement which is being reviewed prior to making it available for members. The purpose of the agreement between growers, contractors and purchasers is to give them greater confidence in the sales process and to give greater control and protection to the grower. With a solid year behind us in terms of demand for timber (see our timber price database) we are confident that a growing number of owners will be encouraged to enter the timber market. We are committed to having the necessary information available to our members in the coming year to help them protect and realise their investment.

We continue to represent growers' interests at national level and have raised, and continue to pursue, the current taxation provisions relating to forestry.

The taxation restrictions introduced in the 2006 Finance Act do not recognise the unique nature of a growing forest which only realises its life's revenue at the end of its growing cycle (commonly in the region of 40 years and sometimes significantly longer) and as a result discriminates against timber growers. This is a serious issue for members and presents a threat to advancing the objectives of developing the industry.

Last year saw some of the best ever attendance at our field days, which has been helped by focusing on areas where more information and innovation is required. We have highlighted the development of producer groups, biomass recovery, thinning systems and launched the new Irish PEFC



Brendan Lacey  
Chairman  
Irish Timber Growers  
Association

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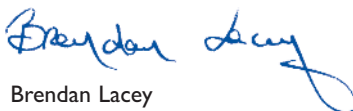
standard for forest management certification. The success of the days was also greatly assisted by the enthusiasm of our hosts who year after year have been eager to share their experience and knowledge with other members of the association. The field days are a great way for members to learn and improve their management in a practical way.

We would like to encourage more members to share their experiences and also to encourage other growers to join the association to benefit from our information and representation services and, through greater numbers, enhance the strength and experience of all.

Looking forward, we are well underway to planning our regular field events, newsletter publications and various new initiatives for 2013. We will ensure that members are kept informed of important and relevant issues, such as the recent discovery of ash dieback in Ireland and ongoing issues related to forest management and funding. We have a strong involvement in several COFORD initiatives in the areas of developing a national strategic research agenda, forest management planning, timber mobility and supply and looking at issues relating to land availability for afforestation.

Another important development to look forward to is the 2013 Irish Forestry, Woodland and Bioenergy Show which takes place in Stradbally Hall on 10th and 11th May. We will, once again, be hosting the ITGA Yearbook Conference Centre at the heart of the show with plenty to attract the committed timber grower and the general public.

I would like to thank the production and editorial team for once again producing a yearbook of such high quality and content. I would also like to thank the committee, sponsors, advertisers and supporters of ITGA who help to keep the association functioning in the interest of members and also to thank Donal Whelan and Mechteld Schuller for keeping the day to day services of the association in operation. Please remember we always have more information available on our website [www.itga.ie](http://www.itga.ie)



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