

NEWS

Changed rules on Associate member entry

The Institute's Council has agreed important changes regarding Associate entry to ICF.

The changes relate to sponsors of prospective members. Applicants with a qualification from an accredited course (as listed on ICF's website) will no longer need to be sponsored, while those without such qualifications will only need one ICF chartered member to sponsor them.

This change has been made to make the system fairer and based on merit, and takes effect immediately.

Please pass on this information to any colleagues thinking about applying for Associate membership.



It's a good time to study at Bangor

Bangor University has announced new developments to its ICF-accredited forestry postgraduate programmes for applicants from 2015.

Since 2013, Bangor's School of Environment, Natural Resources and Geography has been trialling teaching full-time and part-time postgraduate students together using the latest learning technologies, such as virtual lectures which can be attended either live or after the event.

The results have proved the trials

overwhelmingly successful with particular praise for the flexibility of the new approach.

Also, the MSc Forestry (distance learning) programme has been restructured and notable changes include student choice between two streams: Ecology and Management or Forests, Trees and People.

In addition, the MSc Environmental Forestry and MSc Agroforestry programmes are now offered in both full-time and part-time modes, allowing greater accessibility for applicants.

www.bangor.ac.uk/senrgy

SAVE
£0.13 unit: £325/ha
(based on 2500/ha)

Bracke P11

HAND PLANTING		MACHINE PLANTING	
Mounding	£0.24	Mound & Plant	£0.24
Hand Plant	£0.12	Cell Grown Tree	£0.28
Cell Grown Tree	£0.28	Fertilise	£0.05
Fertilise	£0.06	Total	£0.57
Total	£0.70		

vs.

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Fera to be part of joint venture

A joint venture between the Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera), Newcastle University and financial backer Capita, which began on 1 April, secures £14.5 million of new investment in the agency.

Announcing the move in February, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Elizabeth Truss (pictured) said: "The joint venture is part of Defra's ambitious science programme and is recognition of the importance of cutting-edge research."

The investment adds to the £2.7m already committed by the Local Enterprise Partnership to Defra's National Agri-Food



Innovation Campus in York, where Fera is based, and includes a joint academic institute with Newcastle University aimed at applying science to practical agri-food problems.

It allows Fera to continue to provide the invaluable scientific services that Defra and wider Government will require in the future, including those for plant health.

Countryside productivity scheme now open

Woodland owners and forestry contractors can now apply for grants under the Countryside Productivity Scheme, part of the Rural Development Programme for England. The programme is administered by the Rural Payments Agency and applicants will need to register online.

The closing date for completed electronic applications is 30 June.

Turn to page 24 for more on countryside grants.