



Welcome to the 1st edition of the ACRES Burren Aran newsletter. Each month we hope to provide you with relevant information in our articles along with news from the Burren Aran CP area.

Summer Management of High Scoring Grasslands

by Cormac Kelly

Make the scheme work for you...

“We’re not expecting, or trying, to get people’s silage fields to become species rich but if you do have some old meadows or fields with more species, it could well be worth tweaking management to get a higher score and payment. This advice is targeted at those particular fields or areas of fields.”

Grazing

How frequently and heavily a field is grazed during the summer months is a key factor that affects plant diversity and scores.

Aim to leave a mix of vegetation heights with some tussocks throughout when finishing a graze and, if you can, increase the time fields are left to rest between grazing.



COMMON SPOTTED ORCHID IN A SPECIES RICH FIELD.
Source: Cormac Kelly



A FIELD MOUSE HIDDEN IN THE SWARD OF A BURREN GRASSLAND
Source: Cormac Kelly

If you have quite species rich fields try to rest these during the main flowering season (May to July). This allows plants to flower and set seed, resulting in a more diverse and colourful sward.

“If you’re aiming for higher scores with certain fields, keep observing and adapting your grazing until you get the balance just right.”

Minimise Nutrient Inputs

Nutrient inputs are one of the main things that impact the species richness of grasslands. Consider minimising slurry or fertiliser spreading in fields (or areas of fields) with higher plant diversity as much as you can, starting with those fields which have the most potential.

Monitoring

When farming, you see your land and stock every day. Take notice of, and pride in, the biodiversity on your farm. Track how management effects it and notice how your animals (and yourself too!) may benefit from greater space for nature.

Aoibhinn beatha an scoláire – School Days are Happy Days

by Gráinne Ní Chonghaile

Bhain an foireann ACRES ar na hOileáin Árann an-taitneamh as na bunscoileanna ar an dtrí oileán a thabhairt amach ar siúlóidí oideachasúil faoin bithéagsúlacht iontach atá le feiceáil sna gnáthóga speisialta atá mórthimpeall orainn ar na hoileáin. Chuir Gráinne Ní Chonghaile béim ar an tábhacht a bhaineann leis na cleachtais feirmeoireachta le meas ar an dúlra a bhíonn ar bun ag feirmeoirí Árann chun na gnáthóga agus bithéagsúlacht ar fad a fhaightear iontu a chothú agus a chaomhnú agus conas mar a chabhraíonn an scéim ACRES leis an próiseas.

Bhí sé go h-álainn an suim agus spéis a bhí ag na gasúir sa dúlra a fheiceáil agus a chlosteáil agus iad amuigh ag sainaithint na plandaí, feileacáin, leamhain agus beacha mórthimpeall orainn agus bhaineadar pléisiúr ar leith as an bumbóg Árann a aimsiú agus iad amuigh ar na siúlóidí.



TÓRAÍOCHT PLANDAÍ - SCOLÁIRÍ BUNSCOIL INIS OÍRR

Source: Gráinne Ní Chonghaile

Beimid ag obair leis na feirmeoirí freisin chun triail speiceas éin atá mar údar mór caomhantais ar an Liosta Dearg – an Traonach, a mhealladh ar ais chuig na hoileáin trí bhaile samhradh iriúnach a chuir ar fáil ar féarthailte Árann.

Thug Amanda Browne a lán saineolas do na scoláirí faoin traonach agus beimid ag obair ar togra leanúnach leis na scoileanna chun eolas a bhailiú faoin dtraonach. Tháinig an traonach ar ais ag neadú in Inis Mór anuraidh don chéad uair le blianta fada. Táimid ar fad ag tnúth go mór go gcloisfear an traonach go luath agus ag súil go mbeidh siad ag neadú ar ais ar thailte feirme na noileán gach bliain.



TRÁTH NA GCEIST FAOIN TRAONACH - SCOLÁIRÍ BUNSCOIL INIS MÓR

Source: Gráinne Ní Chonghaile

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