



IRISH TIMBER GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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Irish Timber Growers Association highlights role of forests in achieving Ireland's Climate Change targets

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Minister of State for Forestry at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Andrew Doyle TD, today launched the **2020 ITGA Forestry and Timber Yearbook**. In welcoming the Yearbook publication, it's 31st edition, the Minister stated, *'the Yearbook continues to reflect the importance of the sector, its economic and environmental significance, provides the sector with important reference material and is an ideal compendium of information for growers and the industry'*.

The Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA) Chairman, Brendan Lacey, thanked the Minister and said, *'As a sector, forestry is ideally placed to form a core part of agriculture in Ireland, enhancing its sustainability through offsetting agricultural emissions, sequestering carbon and increasing biodiversity.'*

Donal Whelan outlined that the **2020 Forestry and Timber Yearbook** is one of the most important sources of information for the sector and also highlights the sector's profile nationally. The Yearbook contains 208 pages of valuable information for timber growers, forestry professionals, the timber industry and the general public. He said that the Yearbook highlights the many attributes of forestry including its economic, environmental and social importance through the articles and statistical information in the publication. The mainstay of the Yearbook is the industry statistics and directory of services.

The ITGA Chairman concluded by saying that, *'the importance of addressing climate change has been reflected in the recent all-of-Government Climate Action Plan 2019 to tackle Climate Breakdown, which clearly sets out the ambition for Ireland and includes the critical role for forests in sequestering carbon. It is important that the sector has access to relevant information as in the Yearbook on which to base important decisions.'* Brendan Lacey also thanked Coillte and Forest Service, the main Yearbook sponsors, and the various companies, organisations and individuals who continue to support the publication.

Yearbooks can be ordered online at www.forestryyearbook.ie or by contacting ITGA at 17 Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin; email info@itga.ie

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