

Forestry – a growing business.



When we look at trees being planted and growing we may not think of it as a business, but it certainly is. The price of timber is rising as it is pushed up by increasing demand from the processing and Biomass industries. Forestry is proving itself to be a good business and is providing an attractive alternative to traditional farming.

SWS Forestry is one of the leading private forestry companies in Ireland and has helped hundreds of farmers turn their land to forestry. SWS Forestry have a base in Clonakilty and a network of local foresters nationwide.

So how does it work? Helen Mahon of SWS Forestry gives us an insight of what to do if you are interested in turning your land over to forestry "The first step would be to get in touch with us, and one of our local foresters will assess your land and

give you advice. Once you have made the decision to turn your land to forestry we will handle all of the paperwork. We offer a full service from planting to harvesting and each of our customers has the support of their local forester. The great thing about forestry is that once you have decided to plant everything can be done on your behalf, unlike farming which in comparison is very labour intensive."

The premiums for landowners, farmers and investors to become engaged in forestry are substantial. There are no establishment costs to the farmer for turning land to forestry because these costs are covered by government grants. Once the land is planted the farmer receives a premium which is paid for up to twenty years and is designed to compensate for loss of agricultural income. There are a number of schemes available including the Afforestation Scheme, FEPS or Native woodland Scheme.

SWS Forestry offers a full development package for forestry, which includes assessment, consultation with landowner, grant application, and establishment and maintenance of plantation until year 4, or until it is satisfactorily established.

October sees the start of the planting season, so if you are interested in finding out if forestry can work for you now is the time to contact your local SWS forester for a free consultation.

**Your local forester is
Michael Connelly,
Tel 086 2583773**

**For more general
information on forestry
contact the SWS head
office on 023 8863288 or
visit our website on
www.swsforestry.ie**