



# Kerry Social Farming Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> Edition July 2021

## Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine – Funding for social farming

We received some good news since our last Newsletter! Kerry Social Farming's tender for the renewal of our funding to the Department was successful. Funding has been reduced but our tender scored highly in a competitive process.

## UCC Certificate in Practice Support in Social Farming



Enrolment is now open for 2021-2022 Course which begins in September. We'll be hosting an information webinar about the course during August via Zoom. Belinda Gascoigne (Skellig CRI/ UCC) who is Course Director will answer any questions you may have and we'll also hear from farmers who have completed the course.

If you'd like to hear more about the course, or you or someone you know are interested in attending the information event, please contact Joseph McCrohan, South Kerry Development Partnership CLG at (066) 9472724 or e mail [jmccrohan@skdp.net](mailto:jmccrohan@skdp.net)

You can also get more details on UCC Adult and Continuing Education website <https://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-cpsf/>

## Social farming activity

We've had a busy few weeks with new host farms coming on board and some existing farms resuming. Thanks to Rena, Evelyn, the service providers and support staff for their hard work in making this possible. At the time of writing, we have 22 host farms and 38 participants active in social farming across the county.

## New Service Providers

Welcome to Resilience Care, HSE Mental Health and Rehabcare who have become partners in Kerry Social Farming. We'll get to know more about them and their work in our next issue. We are also delighted to re-engage with participants from Enable Ireland an established service provider partner with KSF.

## New Host Farms

### Noel Lynch, Kilcummin

Welcome Noel (host farmer) and Tara O Sullivan (participant) to social farming in recent weeks.

Noel and Tara are setting in well to social farming; Tara is enjoying getting to know the farm, the cows and the new calves arriving at the moment. Tara especially loves the cat on the farm!

Breeda O Sullivan (host farmer) is supporting Noel in his new role as host farmer on his farm, a positive impact from Breeda engaging in the Certificate in practice support in social farming course.



### Yvonne and Sigi Muller, Sneem

Yvonne & Sigi have opened up Blueberry Hill farm to Kerry Social Farming and Emma Browne (participant).

There is so much to see and learn from on the farm, Emma and her support worker Amanda McCarthy are kept busy! Emma adores the rabbits as well as helping to feed the calf and sheep.

You will find out lots more about Yvonne and Sigi's farm and what they have to offer here:

<https://www.blueberryhillfarm.ie/>

Welcome Emma, Amanda, Yvonne and Sigi!

## Jan and Karen Tetteroo, Glenflesk

Jan & Karen have waited patiently throughout the Covid-19 restrictions to commence social farming.

Mohammed Al Salah started social farming just a few weeks ago in the beautiful Annagh More. Mohammed is getting stuck into the farm work; helping out with the chickens, gathering wood and helping with the garden.

Jan Karen and Mohammed are making a great team and enjoying getting to know each other.



## Seamus & Nora Howard, Currow

Seamus, Nora & James Howard have welcomed Roger McCarthy (participant) and Noel Murphy (KPFA support worker) onto their farm in Currow. Roger is enjoying spending time with the dogs and helping Seamus with milking the cows; bringing the cows in from the field, watching all the workings of the milking parlour and helping to feed/entice the cows into their sections for milking.



## Joe Walsh, Ardfert

New host farmer Joe Walsh from Lerrig, Ardfert started in June 2021. Joe is mainly a potato grower but also has suckler cattle and a small flock of sheep. Joe was one of the host farmers that completed this year's UCC course Certificate in practice support in social farming.

James has been attending Joe's Farm her over 4 weeks now and really looks forward to his weekly trips and he attends social farming with the aid of his support workers from Rehab care.

James has really enjoyed his social farming and the many different activities varying from vegetable growing to feeding the calves and tending the sheep on the farm each week. It's very much a social outing for James and there's always a cup of tea to be had when the work is done.



## Host farms resuming

### Ger & Mary Anne O'Sullivan

The O'Sullivan's from all across Iveragh are making the news worldwide these days and here at Kerry Social Farming they're no exception! We welcome back Ger, Mary Anne and Tim. As we've seen in previous Newsletters, Earl has been busy at Tigh an Oilean in Valentia. He's now back in farming action at Laharn on the beautiful Ring of Kerry. Never ones to shy away from the media spotlight, Ger and Earl have been keeping social farming in the headlines with a feature on pages 10 and 11 in summer edition of the Skellig Coast Advertiser. See link below:

[https://simplebooklet.com/skelligcoastadvertisersummer20211?fbclid=IwAR37CKF2ntVfi1h9Kpg7mq\\_OS8\\_OP\\_EKU1NFtdUSXZEOwU\\_Sfg--MLWiqGLk](https://simplebooklet.com/skelligcoastadvertisersummer20211?fbclid=IwAR37CKF2ntVfi1h9Kpg7mq_OS8_OP_EKU1NFtdUSXZEOwU_Sfg--MLWiqGLk)

Thanks to Oonagh Walsh for a very comprehensive article on social farming.

## Mary Walsh

A familiar face returns to social farming following a short break. Welcome back to Mary at Little Black Hill Farm, Knockeendubh, Killarney. Mary is now hosting a participant, Dylan, and no doubt they are busy with a plentiful harvest of fruit and vegetables during this hectic summer season.

## Breeda O Sullivan

Breeda with her namesake Breda, have resumed social farming in Glencar. The dogs are being spoiled again by Breda when she arrives for her social farming each week.

They have quickly settled back into their usual social farming routine and both enjoying the nice weather and countryside together.

Of course it can't be all work and no play.....pictured here enjoying at trip to the Strawberry Field pancake cottage together!



## Host Farmer meetings

We had two successful host farmer meetings recently and thankfully both were in person events.

## John O Shea's, Blackwater

Thanks to John O'Shea and his family for hosting farmers in Blackwater on July 14<sup>th</sup>. New and established host farmers met up for the first time in many months.

Sheila Kelleher (UCC Masters Student) spoke about her research project and met with 2 focus groups to record their views on KSF. John guided us around his sheep farm and we enjoyed some outdoor hospitality on a lovely summer's day. Thanks also to participant James from Studio 3 and his support worker Damian O'Neill who shared part of their social farming day with us.





### Maura Sheehy's, Tralee

A big thank you to Maura and Tommy of Cottage Flowers Tralee for hosting a most successful North Kerry KSF meeting/walk on Tuesday the 20th of July. We would also like to thank all our host farmers who took time out from their busy schedules and attended this host farmer meet-up. In attendance also was Sheila Kelliher from UCC we had a visit from two of Maura's participants Siobhan and Vanessa with Cormac (SJOF).

We all enjoyed tea, coffee and scones on arrival which gave everyone a chance for chatting and introductions. Both Siobhan and Vanessa really enjoyed the morning.



A great morning out was had, the gardens were picturesque and all glistened in the beautiful sunny morning. Maura and Tommy have created a haven for biodiversity and beauty on this idyllic, sheltered hillside site just overlooking Tralee. You can see the great pride and the TLC throughout the multiple growing areas in this Cottage farm business.

We manage the flower-farm sustainably and offer a bespoke service creating arrangements that are unique yet distinctive with an eye for colour. Our flowers are scented, natural and always reflect the seasons.”

To Contact Maura's Cottage Flowers; 0870612622 [maura@maurascottageflowers.ie](mailto:maura@maurascottageflowers.ie)



## **A message from South Kerry Rural Men’s Group - DJ Moran (SKDP Rural Men’s Outreach Officer)**

I am currently working on the role of Rural Men’s Outreach Officer for South Kerry Development Partnership. This role consists of calling to local men in rural isolated areas and finding out if there is anything that can be done around the house or if there is anything that they would need help with. I also plan local outings for the men in their local areas in small numbers, walks on the beach, walkways, and parks. I cover areas from Kenmare, South Kerry, Mid- Kerry, Killarney and west to Annascaul.

In these current times with Covid-19 restrictions, it is harder now than ever for older men to get out and about as their most common meetings of marts, men’s’ sheds, community centres are restricted with numbers. We at South Kerry Development Partnership are working harder than ever to help out in these areas.

If you think you may know someone in your own local area who is living alone and would need a helping hand with something or just a visit from the rural officer for a chat, don’t hesitate to contact myself on my number below.

Contact DJ Moran 087-7473404 Email [djmoran@skdp.net](mailto:djmoran@skdp.net)

## Kerry Eco-Social Farming Biodiversity Project



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



'The European Agricultural Fund  
for Rural Development: Europe  
investing in rural areas'.

Kerry Social Farming is part of Kerry Eco-social Farming Biodiversity Project, which has recently obtained funding of €128,000 from Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine to develop a Biodiversity project on host farms. The project will be rolled out over 18 months from Autumn 2021 and it seeks to address biodiversity on farms and further promote inclusion and accessibility within rural communities.

Biodiversity actions being planned include:

- Hedgerow management.
- Actions for pollinators.
- Habitat management for birds and bats.

A Biodiversity Officer is being recruited, who will link up with host farmers who may be interested in taking part. Training in habitat management and biodiversity will be offered, for both host farmers and participants. A system of monitoring will be put in place and this will help maintain standards in biodiversity on farms. The existing KSF team will support the project ecologist and ensure that existing networks we've successfully built are used to strengthen this exciting new initiative.

The aim of this project is to encourage host farmers to increase the areas managed for Biodiversity on their farms, through habitat creation and improvement and to begin monitoring the impact of these actions in on the biodiversity present throughout the year.

We'll be sharing more information on this project and how farmers and participants to get involved over the coming weeks.

### Sheila Kelleher UCC Masters Research student

My name is Sheila Kelleher and I am a student in the MSc Co-operatives, Agri-Food and Sustainable Development course in UCC. As part of the degree, I am currently undertaking placement with SKDP and carrying out research on the sustainability of the Kerry Social Farming and how it can remain viable into the future. I was interested in getting involved with KSF as I have an undergraduate degree in Social Science and I grew up on a dairy farm near Kinsale, Co. Cork, so felt it would combine those two interests perfectly! I have really enjoyed getting to meet the host farmers over the past couple of weeks and I would like to thank them for their contribution to my study. If anyone would like to contact me in relation to the research, you are more than welcome to email me at

[sheilamariekelleher@gmail.com](mailto:sheilamariekelleher@gmail.com).



## Visit to Field of Dreams Centre, Cork

A small group from KSF visited Field of Dreams Centre at Curraheen, Cork on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> of June.



The Centre, which is operated by Down Syndrome Cork, is hosting small group visits at present and we were delighted to be among the groups invited to visit them.

Thanks to everyone at Field of Dreams for their warm welcome, the guided tour and wonderful hospitality. We look forward to hosting them in Kerry once circumstances permit

## KSF NOTICE BOARD

As always, we welcome your input into this newsletter, if you would like to write or share something please get in touch with us; Rena, [renablake@newkd.ie](mailto:renablake@newkd.ie) Evelyn, [eoconnell@skdp.net](mailto:eoconnell@skdp.net) and Julie [ibrosnan@skdp.net](mailto:ibrosnan@skdp.net)

We're on social media on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KerrySocialFarming/>

Follow us on Twitter @KerrySocialFarm and our website is [www.kerrysocialfarming.ie](http://www.kerrysocialfarming.ie)

If you've changed your contact details recently for example, your email or postal address, please let us know so we can make sure the Newsletter gets to you each month. If you know of someone else who'd like to get a copy by post or email, just let us know the details.



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