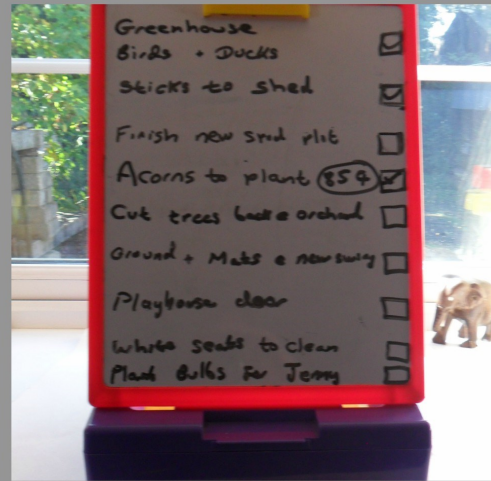


SOCIAL FARMING IN THE SOUTH EAST REGION



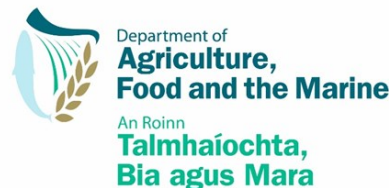
Date: Wednesday 5th April 2017

Time: 7pm – 9pm

Venue: Lord Bagenal Inn, Leighlinbridge, Co Carlow

Booking: Email john.evoy@wlp.ie or call 058 58024 or 087 2311061

Speakers on the evening from UK and Netherlands



Social Farming is the practice of offering family farms as a form of social service. The farm is not a specialised treatment farm; rather the farm remains a typical working farm where people in need of support can benefit from participation in the farm's activities in a nonclinical environment. It also creates the opportunity to reconnect farmers with their local communities through the opening up of their farms as part of the social support system of the community.

Social farming (or care farming) as a concept is well developed in some European Countries. The EU Economic and Social Committee (Dec. 2012) defined it as an innovative approach that brings together two concepts: multipurpose farming (horticulture) and social services/health care at local level. It makes a contribution in the ambit of agricultural production to the well-being and the social integration of people with particular needs.

Following on the success of the Social Farming Across Borders project, Leitrim Development Company has been awarded two contracts by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to support and develop Social Farming in Ireland over 2017. During 2017 they will undertake two distinct pieces of work.

The first is to develop and establish a countrywide Social Farming Network involving all interested stakeholders from farmers, advocates, service providers, families, and other agencies and organisations and to provide a Social Farming Support Office to facilitate this Network and its development across Ireland.

The second element of this work is a collaboration with University College Dublin (UCD), to establish and examine best practice social farming projects and provide evidence based learning through sampling placements, on the outcomes for participants engaging with Social Farming.

On the evening the Social Farming Support Office aims to

- Bring together all those interested in the development of Social Farming in the South East.
- Present an update on developments to date and plans for 2017.
- Presentations on the night from Wouter Joop Care farming Netherlands and Rachel Bragg Care Farming UK on Social Farming development in their respective countries,
- Facilitate a Q & A session.

There is extensive information on our website - <http://www.socialfarmingacrossborders.org>