



## Farming For Nature Summer Newsletter

Welcome to our Summer Farming for Nature newsletter!

Since our last edition, we've been busy launching our 2024 ambassador nominees. As part of the assessment process for the awards, our Network & Outreach Officer Sarah Coonan and Founder Brendan Dunford have been visiting the farms of all 21 nominees, seeing firsthand the amazing work they are doing for nature.

We're thrilled to announce our ever popular farm walk schedule. 19 walks and counting (more to be announced!) on our ambassador farms. To facilitate knowledge transfer at these walks, places are limited so book today!

Our Horses Mouth farmer to farmer mentorship programme is open for applications! Places are limited and close on May 31.

Read on for this and more news!

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### Meet our 2024 Ambassador Nominees



This year's Farming for Nature Ambassador nominees come from 16 counties. Most farming types and systems are well represented and include dairy, beef, pig, poultry, tillage as well as mixed systems. Of the 21 nominees, eight are organic, three are in conversion to organic and 10 are conventional farms, with farm sizes varying from 10 to 240 hectares. Among the nominees are several married couples, brothers and a father and daughter duo. There is a wide variety of habitats on the farms including mountain heath, machair, woodlands, ponds and salt marshes.

To reward these farmers for the work they do for nature, all Farming for Nature Ambassador nominees receive a gift of Irish Seed Savers heritage trees from Burrenbeo Trust.

From this group of 21 nominees, 12 farmers will be chosen as the 2024 Farming for Nature Ambassadors, bringing the total number of ambassadors to well over 100.

[Meet the 2024 Nominees](#)



# Bookings Open for Ambassador Farm Walks

## Ambassador farm walk series - May to September 2024

19th May @ 2pm, Boyd Bryce, Sheep Farmer, Co. Donegal

**Providing Ample Cover for Wildlife while Running a Flock of 400 Sheep**

[Book Here](#)

31st May @ 12pm, Mariann Klay, Equine Farmer, Co. Kildare

**Prioritising Biodiversity as a Key Part of a Successful Stud Farm**

[Book Here](#)

1st June @ 11am, Bruce Thompson, Dairy Farmer, Co. Laois

**Improving Soil Fertility and Reducing the Parasite Burden Using Dung Beetles on an Intensive Dairy Farm**

[Book Here](#)

7th June @ 11am, Anthony Mooney, Beef Farmer, Co. Kildare

**The Many Ways to Help Nature on a Productive Beef Farm**

[Book Here](#)

8th June @ 11 am, Tom Stack, Dairy Farmer, Co. Limerick

**Input-Free and Output-High – Reaping the Rewards of Korean Natural Farming in Dairying**

[Book Here](#)

14th June @11am, Gearóid Maher, Dairy Farmer, Co. Limerick

**Profitability and Farming for Nature and Water on a Conventional Dairy Farm**

[Book Here](#)

15th June @ 2pm, David Kerr, Dairy Farmer, Co. Laois

**Technically Efficient Dairy Farming with Room for Nature**

[Book Here](#)

23rd June @ 2pm, Lisa Gifford, Goat Farmer, Co. Leitrim

**Turning a Hay Barn into a Creamery – Producing Award Winning Raw Milk Goats Cheese**

[Book Here](#)

29th June @ 11am, Gerard Walshe, Beef Farmer, Co. Galway

**Managing Cattle for Wildfire Prevention and Protecting Diverse Habitats**

[Book here](#)

30th June @ 2pm, James Ham, Beef Farmer, Co. Westmeath

**Rejuvenating Old Hedgerows and Encouraging Biodiversity with Continuous Cover Forestry on a Suckler Enterprise**

[Book Here](#)

6th July @ 2pm, Andrew Chilton, Alpaca Farmer, Co. Roscommon

**Alpaca Farming and Biodiversity - Thinking Diversity of Species as well as Income Streams**

[Book Here](#)

13th July @ 11am, Cathal Mooney, Mixed Farmer, Co. Donegal

**Ecologically, Socially and Financially Stable – A Holistic, Regenerative Approach to Farming**

[Book Here](#)

20th July @ 11am, Suzanna Crampton, Sheep Farmer, Co. Kilkenny

**The Value of Dung Beetles in Sheep Production**

[Book Here](#)

27th July @ 2pm, Fergal Smith, Mixed Farmer, Co. Clare

**Integrating Korean Natural Farming into a Mixed System**

[Book Here](#)

10th August @ 11am, Liam & Justina Gavin (Drumanilra Farm), Mixed Farmers, Co. Roscommon

**Produced in Roscommon, Sold in Roscommon – Organic Mixed Farming and Supplying your own Restaurant Chain**

[Book Here](#)

11th August @ 11am, Blátnaid Gallagher, Sheep Farmer, Co. Galway

**Promoting Healthy Soil and Supporting Biodiversity to Produce an Abundance of Grass and Biofibre on a Sheep Farm**

[Book Here](#)

17th August @ 11am, Patrick Frankel, Mixed Farmer, Co. Cork

**Ecological Diversity on a 145-Acre Market Garden, Orchard and Beef Farm**

[Book Here](#)

24th August @ 2pm, Thomas & Claire O' Connor, Co. Kerry

**From Wheatgrass to Organic Pork – Abundance from Marginal Land when Farming for Nature**

[Book Here](#)

21st September @ 11am, James Gilmartin, Co. Leitrim

**Farming for the Head, Heart and the Pocket – Regenerative Systems for Sustainable Farming**

[Book Here](#)

These farm walks are an opportunity for Farming for Nature Ambassadors to showcase their contribution to nature and good farming practices on their land. They are a great opportunity to meet likeminded farmers and to gain an insight into the creative and inspiring ways that farmers can incorporate, protect and enhance nature on their land. The walks cost €10 to attend. This is a not-for-profit initiative and all monies received will be circulated back into the farming community.

[All Farm Walks - Book Here](#)

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## **50 Places Available on The 'Horse's Mouth' Mentorship Programme**

Our Farmer to Farmer Mentorship Programme 'The Horse's Mouth' is open for Applications .This advisory service is available to 50 farms across Ireland to receive on-the-ground practical advice from fellow farmers on how to improve biodiversity on their land.

Applications are open until May 31.

The Horse Mouth Programme is supported by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

[The Horse's Mouth Mentorship programme](#)

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## Ask the Farmer Q&A Series Continues

Join us on the second Tuesday of every month when we chat to our more recent Ambassadors and you can ask your pressing questions. Next up

7th May 2024 8pm "*Biodiversity is a Key Part of a Successful Stud Farm*" with Kildare Equine Farmer **Mariann Klay**.



'Biodiversity is a Key Part of a Successful Stud Farm'

LIVE Q&A

#ASKTHEFARMERQA

AS PART OF THE FARMING FOR NATURE  
ASK THE FARMER SERIES

With Mariann Klay  
Equine Farmer,  
Co Kildare

Tuesday, May 7 at 8pm

Register in link below

This series is supported by NPWS and DAFM





[Register here](#)

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## ***Video - Planting a Whitethorn Hedge"***

This short video outlines the steps that farmers can take to plant healthy whitethorns on their farm. These tips were extracted from a course led by Jim Cronin in February. Click below to watch

[Planting a Whitethorn Hedge video](#)

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## **Nature's Calendar this Summer - observations & actions**

Looking for information on what wildlife to look out for and what practical actions you can take on your farm to help nature this Winter, see our nature's calendar below.

[Nature's Calendar - SUMMER](#)

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**Farmers - Listen Up! Our Latest Podcasts**

Our latest podcast '**Fungi and Farming**' with Thomas O' Connor is available to listen. Thomas O'Connor farms 25 acres in the Gleann na nGealt valley near Camp, Co. Kerry, and sells his fresh organic produce in a farm shop, Manna Organic Store, in nearby Tralee. He talks about how fungi is the basis of everything he produces on his land. Listen [here](#).

Recently we also published another podcast with dairy farmer Bruce Thompson, who tells us all about **Dung Beetles** on his farm. Bruce Thompson is an intensive dairy farmer from Laois. He has a particular interest in reducing animal remedies through prevention, and is a strong advocate for the urgent need to protect our dung beetle populations. Listen [here](#).

One from the archives! **Donal Sheehan, Dairy Farmer, Co. Cork**  
Can intensive farmers make a profit and farm for nature at the same time?  
Conventional dairy farmer, Donal Sheehan, explains how he has changed the way he farms to encourage more wildlife. Donal is a third generation farmer from the Bride Valley in east Cork, Ireland. Listen [here](#).

Please share with your fellow farmers, work colleagues and institutions - it helps us get the word out there.

[Farming For Nature Podcasts](#)

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## Forum

This is space for farmers and others to ask questions and share information around farming for nature. Whilst it is primarily for farmers we welcome users that are able to contribute from related fields.

Most recent queries include:

*Multi species swards for horses*

*Horticulture on peatlands project*

*Direct Selling in Rural Areas in Ireland*

*Advice on Planning for a Pond*

[Forum](#)

## **Groundtips - Advice from Farmers for Farmers**

Groundtips provides practical advice and tips from farmers in their own words on how they have enhanced nature on their land. Each newsletter we like to share one of these opinion pieces with you. This month we are covering ***Min Till and Low Disturbance Crop Establishment*** with tips from ambassadors Thomas Fouhy and Andrew Bergin on why fungi is such an important component of your farm. Click below to find out more.

[Min Till & Low Disturbance Crop Establishment](#)



## Events Calendar

We post all our events in our calendar on our website. We are also happy to post events our ambassadors are involved in and any other relevant courses or events.

Upcoming events on the calendar include:

**Future Farm Walk, part of Festival of Farmland Biodiversity Festival, Shay**

Ryan's Farm, Co Wexford, May 15

**Agroforestry Farm Walk on Moyhill Farm , Co. Clare, May 16**

**Agroforestry Open Weekend, May 17 - 20. Co Down and Co Antrim**

**NOTS: Green Manures & Cover Crops Masterclass with Jim Cronin – 20 May**

**NOTS: Weed Control, Pests & Diseases with Jim Cronin, June 12**

**NOTS – Korean Natural Farming Training with Chris Trump, June 24 - 28**

**BASE Ireland – Soil Dependence Day, July 4**

**NOTS – Organic Salad Growing Masterclass with Jim Cronin & Rory**

**Magorrian, Aug 7**

**Summer Seed Saving with Madeline McKeever, Aug 20**

Visit our Events Calendar [here](#)

Please email us on [info@farmingfornature.ie](mailto:info@farmingfornature.ie) if you want an event posted.

[Events Calendar](#)

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## About Farming For Nature

Farming for Nature is an independent initiative set up to inspire and encourage farmers that farm or wish to farm more for nature. We would love to hear any ideas, suggestions or feedback you have. Visit [www.farmingfornature.ie](http://www.farmingfornature.ie) or email us on [info@farmingfornature.ie](mailto:info@farmingfornature.ie).

Farming for Nature is hosted by the charity Burrenbeo Trust and funded by the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

[www.farmingfornature.ie](http://www.farmingfornature.ie)



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Farming for Nature

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