

BEEF 2019

Pre-booking is essential as places are limited and tickets will be issued on a first come basis.

Members are welcome to bring 2 non member friends at members rates if they wish.
(You need to ring the office or make a postal booking to avail of this new offer).

Book _____ member(s) at €35 each.

Total: € _____

Book _____ friend/s at €35 each.

Total: € _____

Book _____ non member(s) at €70 each.

Total: € _____

Cheque enclosed: € _____

ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME (DELEGATE 2): _____

NAME (DELEGATE 3): _____

DISCUSSION GROUP DEAL (for groups of 5+ members) :

€35 per head for discussion groups of 5+ members who book and prepay in full before 6th June 2019, (strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date). Please email: office@irishgrassland.ie to apply.

- A) Booking online www.irishgrassland.ie
- B) Posting this form and your cheque to: Registrations, IGA Office, Cookstown, Kells Co. Meath.
- C) Phone 087 9626483

Conference fee includes attendance, copy of the conference proceeding, refreshments and dinner. Please note that as part of the IGA initiative to attract new members, the conference fee for non-members also includes one year's FREE membership to the IGA for all new direct debit memberships.

So, if you are thinking of attending then book today and don't miss out on these excellent offers!

Photographs will be taken at all events and occasionally published.

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Irish Grassland Association

BEEF CONFERENCE AND FARM WALK

20th JUNE 2019
ABBEYLEIX, CO. LAOIS



Sponsored by



Programme for the day

Venue: Abbeyleix Manor Hotel Kells

Date: 20th June 10am - 4:15pm

10am Registration, Tea and Coffee

10.30am Morning Session

Welcome & opening of Beef Conference

Ciaran Lynch President of the Irish Grassland Association

Session 1:

Chairperson: Christy Watson, Teagasc and Irish Grassland Association Council Member

Aidan Murray Teagasc Beef Specialist

Can suckler farming be profitable?

John Geraghty Agri Consultant

Soil Health

Matt Dempsey Irish Farmers Journal

The Irish beef Industry, Past, Present and Future

Session 2: Panel Discussion

Chairperson: Stan Lalor Grassland Agro and Irish Grassland Association Council Member



Robin Talbot
Beef Farmer



Eddie Connell
Beef Farmer



Thomas O'Connor
Beef Farmer

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Depart from hotel for Farm Walk

2.00pm Afternoon Session

2.00pm Farm walk on the farm of Ken Graham

Topics to be covered

- Farm overview
- Stock performance & breeding
- Grassland management
- Economic performance

4.15pm Close of event

Conference Speakers



Aidan Murray, Teagasc

Aidan began working with Teagasc in 1995 as a Dairy adviser in Clonmel and then as a Drystock adviser in Carndonagh before moving to Grange Research centre in 1997 to take up a role as a Beef Specialist tasked with developing Beef Discussion groups. In 2008 he took up the role of Programme

Manager setting up and developing the Teagasc/Farmers Journal Better Farm Programme. Since 2014 he has been responsible for providing beef advisers with technical training and Discussion Group development. With a suckler herd of his own in Donegal he has a keen interest in grassland, breeding and animal health and he currently sits on the BVD Implementation Group with AHI and on the Technical advisory group for Quality Assurance with Bord Bia.



John Geraghty, Agri Consultant

John Geraghty has twenty five years research, development and consulting experience in soil management, crop production systems and rural enterprise. He holds both Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Agricultural Science from the National University of Ireland, specializing in crop production and rural development respectively.

He is based in Tipperary and works as a private consultant on projects concerned with sustainable agriculture and rural development issues in Ireland, Europe and Overseas. A member of the Irish Tillage Consultants Association (ITCA) he is also National Representative to the European Conservation Agriculture Federation (ECAAF) and the World Association for Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC).



Matt Dempsey, Irish Farmers Journal and IGA Lifetime Merit Award recipient

Matt Dempsey is a previous editor of the Irish Farmers Journal and current chairman of the Agricultural Trust. Matt also farms a substantial beef and tillage operation in Co. Kildare. During his time as editor of the Irish Farmers Journal Matt overseen

the paper becoming the largest selling weekly agricultural publication in the British Isles. Having being at the helm of Irish Agriculture for the past 50 years, Matt has an enormous wealth of knowledge built up in agriculture from politics to economics to technical efficiency. Matt was awarded an honorary doctor of science from UCD in 2010 for his services to Irish Agriculture. Matt will present a paper on the Irish Beef Industry, Past, present and the future

Farmer Profile: Ken Graham



Ken Graham is a suckler farmer farming just outside Mountrath, Co. Laois, His farm system comprises of 55 Suckler cows with all male progeny finished as bulls under 16 months and heifers at 21 months. The 55 Suckler cows and two breeding bulls are grazed together as one group in one hectare paddocks, the 27 fattening heifers are grazed together in one group. Grassland management is excellent with the 40 ha farm laid out in 34 paddocks, with the provision for subdivision of paddocks when necessary. Good grassland management is to the fore on the Graham farm with just shy of 10 tonnes of grass dry matter/ha grown and utilised on the farm with the recent exception of 2018. The all grass farm carries a stocking rate of 2.31 lu/ha producing a beef output of 834 kgs of live weight per ha.

Breeding performance in this spring calving herd is truly exceptional with a calving interval of 361 days achieved alongside a calving season of 9 weeks, resulting in 1.05 calves produced per cow per year. All heifers calve down at 24 months of age. The combination of excellent herd fertility combined with superb grassland management results in a gross margin per ha in 2018 of €634 a significant drop compared to 2017 when a gross margin/ha of €981 was achieved, the drop in profitability accounted for by additional feed cost incurred due to the drought in 2018.