

## BEEF 2017

### 25% DISCOUNT BOOKING FORM

\*For all prepaid bookings received by Wednesday 14th June 2017

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

Book \_\_\_\_\_ member(s) at €40 €30 each. Total: € \_\_\_\_\_

Book \_\_\_\_\_ non member(s) at €80 €60 each. Total: € \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed: € \_\_\_\_\_

### ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (DELEGATE 2): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### DISCUSSION GROUP DEAL (for groups of 10+ members) :

€30 per head for discussion groups of 10+ members who book and prepay in full before Wednesday 14th June (strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date). Please email: [secretary@irishgrassland.com](mailto:secretary@irishgrassland.com) to apply.

You can register and avail of 25% prepaid discounted rates detailed above by **WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE** by:

- A) Booking online [www.irishgrassland.com](http://www.irishgrassland.com)
- B) Posting this form and your cheque to: Registrations, IGA Office, Cookstown, Kells Co. Meath.

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!***

## We would like to thank our sponsors



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## BOOK EARLY

For Discounted Tickets



# Irish Grassland Association

## BEEF CONFERENCE AND FARM WALK

### Meath 21st June 2017



Sponsored by



## Programme

Headfort Arms Hotel, Kells, Co. Meath.

- 10.00am:** Tea/Coffee on arrival
- 10.20am** Welcome and opening of the 2017 Beef Conference  
Bernard Ging President Irish Grassland Association

### Session 1

**Chair: Cathal McCormack, IGA Council member / Alltech**

- 10.20am:** Improving beef farm efficiency – the €500/cow efficiency challenge  
*Ciaran Lenehan, Irish Farmers Journal*
- 10.40am:** Brexit – What we know now - industry impacts  
*Joe Burke, Bord Bia*
- 11.00am:** Questions on Session 1

### Session 2

**Chair: Pat Donnellan, IGA Council Member / ICBF**

- 11.20am:** The Terminal Index – driving profits in a finishing system  
*Christy Watson, IGA Council member / Teagasc*
- 11.40am:** Grass – an untapped resource on beef farms  
*Mike Egan, Teagasc*
- 12.00pm:** Questions on Session 2

### Session 3

**Chair: Justin McCarthy, Irish Farmers Journal**

- 12.15pm:** Forum Discussion:  
Where to from here for Irish beef farmers?  
An expert panel will debate the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead for Irish beef farmers.
- Robin Talbot, beef farmer, Co. Laois
  - Christy Comerford, beef farmer, Co. Kilkenny
  - Phelim O Neill, Markets and EU Specialist, Irish Farmers Journal
  - Paul Nolan, Dawn Meats
  - Sam Chesney, beef farmer, Co. Down and Chair of Beef and Sheep Committee, Ulster Farmers Union

- 1.00pm:** LUNCH
- 2.00pm:** Depart hotel on buses to farm

### Farm Walk

**Chair: Adam Woods, IGA Council member / Irish Farmers Journal**

- 2.20pm:** Arrive at Farm
- 4.30pm:** Depart farm

## Tom Halpin



Tom Halpin farms 160 acres just outside Kells, Co. Meath. Over the past 6 years the farm has undergone rapid expansion with cow numbers growing from 60 to 100 during this time. The farm has been completing profit monitors for the past 8 years and Tom was a previous participant in the BETTER farm beef programme. The farm has changed from set stocking to a paddock system and grass is measured weekly and recorded on Pasturebase. The farm has changed to finishing all progeny in recent years and conference delegates will see top class cows and progeny from Limousin, Simmental and Charolais bulls. Tom is helped on the farm by his family and his son Matthew who is currently studying agricultural science in UCD.



 **The Headfort Arms Hotel**  
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HOST THE  
IRISH GRASSLAND ASSOCIATION BEEF CONFERENCE

**OVERNIGHT RATES BED & BREAKFAST**  
€65 Single Occupancy / €50 per person Sharing

TO BOOK: Tel: 046 924 0063 • [www.headfortarms.ie](http://www.headfortarms.ie)

## Conference Speakers



**Ciaran Lenehan** is a beef specialist with the Irish Farmers Journal. He completed a B.Agr. Sc in UCD in 2014 and went on to study for a M.Agr.Sc in Teagasc, Grange, Co. Meath. Ciaran also farms in Co. Meath in partnership with his father on a suckling to finishing farm.



**Joe Burke** is Beef and Livestock Sector Manager with Bord Bia, which is responsible for market development, promotion and market information for Ireland's agri-food industry. He is also closely involved with the family's beef farm in Limerick finishing 200 cattle annually.



**Christy Watson** is a Teagasc business and technology advisor based in Naas, Co. Kildare. Christy deals with drystock clients in Kildare and co-ordinates a number of successful discussion groups. In 2014 Christy was awarded the Teagasc gold medal for his outstanding service to the industry



**Dr. Michael Egan** is a Teagasc researcher based in Moorepark, Co. Cork and comes from a drystock farm in Co. Roscommon. He completed a PhD in Teagasc, Moorepark in 2015 and his main area of research interest is grassland management and the incorporation of clover into grassland swards on commercial farms.



**Robin Talbot** is the fourth generation of his family to live and farm in Coole, Ballacolla, Co. Laois. He is a commercial beef and suckler farmer calving over 200 suckler cows annually, producing quality cattle for the Irish and European markets. He uses both Limousin and Belgian Blue stock bulls as terminal sires on his suckler cows.



**Sam Chesney** is a beef and sheep farmer based in Co. Down. He is a previous winner of the Farmers Weekly beef farmer of the year competition and runs a 150 cow suckler to beef operation on the Ards peninsula. He is the current chair of the beef and sheep committee in the Ulster Farmers Union.