

SHEEP 2017

25% DISCOUNT BOOKING FORM

*For all prepaid bookings received by Wednesday 3rd May 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 3rd May (strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date). Please email: secretary@irishgrassland.com to apply.

You can register and avail of 25% prepaid discounted rates detailed above by **WEDNESDAY 3rd MAY** by:

- A) Booking online 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!

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BOOK EARLY

For Discounted Tickets



Irish Grassland Association

SHEEP CONFERENCE AND FARM WALK

Westmeath 11th May 2017



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Programme for the day

Venue: Bloomfield house hotel Mullingar
Date: 11th May, 9.30-5pm
9.30am Registration, Tea and Coffee

MORNING SESSION

10.20am Welcome and opening of the 2017 Sheep Conference
Bernard Ging President Irish Grassland Association

10.30am **Session 1: Sheep production making the most of available resources**

Chairman: *Brian Nicholson Irish Grassland Association council member and sheep farmer*

Grassland: unlocking its potential for sheep production

Dr Phil Creighton, Teagasc Athenry

Embracing technology to increase production and improve efficiency on my farm

Isaac Crilly, Castlederg Co. Tyrone

Discussion

11.30am **Session 2: Sheep Markets: potential risks, challenges and opportunities**

Chairman: *Darren Carty, Irish Grassland Association Council Member & Irish Farmers Journal*

Effect of change on the sheep sector: industry viewpoint and panel discussion including

Declan Fennell, Bord Bia

Kevin Hanrahan, Teagasc

Joe Ryan, Meat Industry Ireland

Panel discussion

12.30pm **Hot Lunch**

AFTERNOON SESSION

1.30pm Buses Depart from hotel for Farm Walk

2.00pm Farm walk on farm of John Bell, Castletown Geoghegan, Co. Westmeath

Chairman: *Ciaran Lynch Irish Grassland Association council member and Teagasc*

Topics to be covered

- Farm overview
- Flock performance
- Grassland management
- Economic performance

4.30pm Depart farm by Bus

5.00pm Arrive back at Bloomfield House Hotel Mullingar

Speaker Profiles

Session 1:

Dr. Phil Creighton

Phil is a grassland and systems researcher based in Animal & Grassland Research and Innovation Centre, Teagasc, Mellows Campus, Athenry, Co. Galway and former council member of the Irish Grassland Association. Phil's work focuses on many aspects improving grass utilisation and ultimately output through improved grassland management strategies. A keen emphasis of his on-going work has been to deliver strategies that are practical applicability and profitable at farm level. The focus of his paper will be to discuss some of the key findings coming from the work undertaken in the Research Demonstration flock in Athenry during the course of the last four seasons.



Isacc Crilly

Isacc is a sheep farmer based in Castlederg Co. Tyrone. A well known farmer to many in the sheep industry both north and south, he is a former finalist in the UK sheep farmer of the year and a long time focus farm partner with AgriSearch NI. Isacc operates what has been described as a lamb production powerhouse. He runs a 450 strong ewe flock including replacements on 28 ha of grassland. With a very high stocking on the farm Isacc had aimed at maximising output from his holding. He has adopted breeding strategies using performance figures to deliver a more durable ewe capable of a high output whilst maintaining carcass quality. Another key aspect to the Tyrone farmers system is approach to improving labour efficiency on the farm.



Session 2:

Declan Fennell

Declan is Sector Manager for Sheep and Special Marketing Initiatives in Bord Bia. He was also part of the EU sheep reflection group which aims to safeguard and maintain the EU sheep sector. Declan will give an insight into Irish sheepmeat market prospects while also considering EU markets and sheepmeat imports from New Zealand.



Dr Kevin Hanrahan

Kevin is a principal research officer in Teagasc's Agricultural Economics and Farm Surveys Department. Kevin's research is mainly focused on the development and use of partial equilibrium models of Irish and EU agriculture (the FAPRI-Ireland and AGMEMOD models). These modelling systems have been used to analyse issues arising in agricultural, environmental and agricultural trade policy. Kevin's paper the potential impact of Brexit on the Irish Sheep Industry and wider agricultural economy.



Joe Ryan

Joe is Director with Meat Industry Ireland (MI), the sector organisation within IBEC which represents the Irish meat processing sector. Joe will outline MI's sheep development plan, released in June 2016, with a number of ambitious targets including rebuilding the ewe flock to 3m head and producing an extra one million lambs annually and growing exports by 20,000t and €150m in value while also generating an additional 500 jobs in processing and services.



Farm Walk Preview

Transforming from a high-input to grass-based system

The sheep committee is excited to have a farmer of the calibre of John Bell for the farm visit. Attendees won't be disappointed with an array of take home messages and tips on tips for those wishing to improve their grassland management. John operates a 46 ha sheep only farm in Castletown Geoghegan, Co. Westmeath, running 480 ewes with 130 replacement ewe lambs. The farm has focused on improving animal performance. The ewe flock is consistently delivering over 1.7 lambs reared per ewe joined, the ewe lambs are also mated to increase overall flock output.

John has placed a huge emphasis over the past number of years on improving grassland management of this farm and thereby reducing overall costs. To achieve this he has focused on improving his grazing infrastructure whilst utilising some cost effective measures to achieve this. This has had an overall positive impact on how he currently operates his system.

The farm has worked closely with Teagasc business and technology adviser David Webster for many years. David is heavily involved in organising the farm walk and given his vast experience will bring an added dimension to discussions at the farm walk.

