

SHEEP 2022

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 €30 each.

Total: € _____

Book _____ friend/s at €30 each.

Total: € _____

Book _____ non member(s) at €60 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) :

€30 per head for discussion groups of 5+ members who book and prepay in full before 6th May 2022, (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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SHEEP CONFERENCE
AND FARM WALK

19th May 2022
ATHLONE,
CO. ROSCOMMON



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Programme for the day

Venue: Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone
Date: 19th May 10am - 4:30pm
10am Registration, Tea and Coffee

10.30am Morning Session

Welcome & opening of sheep conference
Christy Watson, President of the Irish Grassland Association and Teagasc

10.40am Session 1:

Chairperson: Alan Bohan, Irish Grassland Association Council Member and Teagasc

- Mastitis in ewes,
Ryan Duffy, *Technical services vet, HIPRA*
- Benefits and management of white clover swards for sheep;
Dr. Philip Creighton, *Sheep Enterprise Leader and Grassland Scientist, Teagasc*
- Roger Bell, *Sheep and Beef farmer, Co. Antrim.*

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Afternoon Session

- 1.30pm** Depart from hotel for farm walk
- 2.00pm** Farm walk on the farm of Peadar and Aoife Coyle

Topics to be covered

- Farm overview
- Grassland management & flock performance
- Soil fertility
- Fertiliser use & clover establishment

- 4.30pm** Close of event

Speaker Profiles: Session 1

Ryan Duffy, MVB CertDHH MRCVS, HIPRA



Ryan qualified as a veterinary surgeon from UCD in 2016. Since then, he has completed a number of years in practice in the Republic of Ireland, the UK, and New Zealand. He has completed a farm animal clinical studies internship in the UCD referral veterinary hospital and a postgraduate certificate in dairy herd health. He is currently undertaking a masters in ruminant nutrition in Harper Adams. Ryan has a particular interest in preventative medicine with an emphasis on herd/flock health, with particular focus on calf health and milk quality.

Dr. Philip Creighton, Grassland Scientist Teagasc



Philip graduated from UCD with a degree in Agriculture Science and went on to complete a PhD with Teagasc Moorepark and UCD investigating the impact of varying levels of perennial ryegrass content on sward production potential. Additionally, he also investigated methods of reseeding grassland pastures. He is currently a Research Officer based in Teagasc Athenry leading the Sheep Grassland Systems research programme. He established the Sheep Research Demonstration unit at Athenry and he was recently appointed Sheep enterprise leader with responsibility for managing the overall sheep research programme in Teagasc.

Roger Bell Sheep and Beef Farmer



Roger and his wife Hilary are sheep and beef farmers based in Kells, Co. Antrim. They are currently farming 550 Texel x Mule ewes in a mid-season lambing flock. Roger and Hilary are strong advocates for technology adoption and as a result are one of the DAERA technology demonstrations farms in Northern Ireland. In addition, Roger and Hilary are members of the Herbal lay EIP project for farmers trailing multispecies swards on their farms.

Farmer Profile: Peadar and Aoife Coyle

Father and Daughter team, Peadar and Aoife Coyle, farm 230 acres near Curraghboy in South Roscommon. The farm consists of 80 acres of owned land in one block and the remaining 150 acres is comprised of rented ground. The Coyle's have a number of enterprises on the farm including a flock of 575 mid-season lambing ewes, a 40 cow suckler to weaning system, and a dairy calf to beef system finishing 50 bullocks annually. Over the past number of years the sheep enterprise has had a scanning rate of 1.9 and weaning rate of 1.7 lambs per ewe joined to the ram with all lambs finished on farm. Peadar and Aoife make up the bulk of the labour force with other family members lending a hand during the busy periods of the year.

Maintaining optimal grazing infrastructure is a key element to the Coyle's farm with excellent facilities enabling good grassland management and reducing the labour requirement. The 80 acre home farm is divided into 17 permanent paddocks. Grass isn't measured on the farm but instead it is managed by eye and experience with heavy paddocks removed as baled silage, although this is rare due to the high stocking rate.

The Coyle's are strong advocates for mixed grazing with the cattle and sheep grazing together achieving better grass utilisation and animal performance compared to grazing separately. The home block is heavily stocked at 2.6 LU/ha with the 80 acres supporting 4 grazing groups consisting of 40 suckler cows and their calves along with approximately 300 ewes with twin lambs. The remainder of the ewes and dairy beef animals are all grazed on the out farms.

All lambs are finished on farm with grass making up the majority of the diet. Lambs are weaned at 14 weeks of age at an average of 32kg. All lambs are weighed fortnightly which allows for frequent drafting across the summer months until October when all remaining lambs are housed and offered ad lib concentrates until drafting for slaughter.

All potential replacement ewe lambs are ear notched at birth and the best performing 150 ewe lambs are retained. In August the 150 replacement ewe lambs are moved off farm to a contract rearer who looks after them until they return the following August as hoggets ready for the ram.

Peadar is a firm believer in soil fertility and has made a huge effort over the years to ensure it is optimised. This is evident with approximately 80% of paddocks in index 3 or 4 for P & K. The home farm is soil sampled every 3 years and lime is spread accordingly to maintain a soil pH of 6.3 or above. The Coyle's are keen to optimise their Nitrogen use efficiency through more targeted applications and the inclusion of clover in grazing swards in the future.