

BOOKING FORM

Book _____ member(s) at €50 each. Total: € _____

Book _____ non member(s) at €100 each. Total: € _____

Cheque enclosed: € _____

ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME (DELEGATE 2): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

You can register by:

- A) Booking online www.irishgrassland.ie (Quickest method)
- B) Posting this form & your cheque to: Registrations, IGA Office, Cookstown, Kells Co. Meath.

The Conference fee includes attendance at the event on 18th January, copy of the conference proceedings and a two-course 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 a non-member and thinking of attending, then don't miss out on this excellent offer!

STUDENT DEAL

Students can book tickets at members rates. Please email office@irishgrassland.ie with the subject "Student ticket request", from your college email stating your lecturers name, the course title, year and college you are attending.

DISCUSSION GROUP DEAL

€50 per head for discussion groups of 10+ members who book and prepay in one transaction in full before Monday 5th December / subject to availability (strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date). Please email office@irishgrassland.ie to apply.



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Irish Grassland Association

DAIRY CONFERENCE

'Dairy Farming in a new era'



Wednesday 18th January 2023
CHARLEVILLE PARK HOTEL

Sponsored by



IGA DAIRY CONFERENCE

Wednesday 18th January 2023

Charleville Park Hotel

9.00am	Registration
10.00am	Opening Address Alan Kelly, IGA President and UCD
SESSION 1	Where to from here? <i>Chairperson Patrick Gowing IGA council member and Teagasc</i>
10.15am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noreen Lacey IFAC David Fennelly Dairy Farmer, Laois Discussion
SESSION 2	Technologies to future proof dairy farming <i>Chairperson Matt Dempsey IGA Lifetime Merit Award recipient and Irish Farmers Journal</i>
11.45am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr John Upton Teagasc Francis Nolan Dairy Farmer, Kilkenny
12.45pm	Lunch
SESSION 3	Productive Swards in a low Nitrogen era <i>Chairperson Karina Pierce IGA council member and UCD</i>
2.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Michael Dineen Teagasc Dr Michael Egan IGA council member and Teagasc Robert O'Dea Dairy Farmer, Limerick
4.00pm	Conference Close <i>Vincent Griffith, IGA Dairy Conference Chair and Aurivo</i>



CHARLEVILLE PARK
HOTEL & LEISURE CLUB



ACCOMMODATION

Single Rate B&B €85 / Double or Twin Rate B&B €95

Bookings can be made by calling reservations on 063 33700
and quote IGA Conference

Conference Overview

The annual Irish Grassland Association National Dairy Conference, sponsored by Yara, takes place on Wednesday the 18th of January 2023. The theme of this year's event focuses on the changing practices required at farm level to farm successfully in a rapidly changing world. Dairy farms have been given ambitious targets to meet both from a water quality and green house gas emissions perspective. Addressing these challenges is an excellent line-up of speakers who will share with us the latest research, insight and expertise on how dairy farms can navigate this new era.

The world that dairy farms are now operating in, is rapidly changing, to succeed our dairy farmers must rapidly adapt to new farm practices and technologies. The conference will focus on the key areas that farmers need to focus on around environment and grassland management practices. The conference will also examine the financial implications for dairy farms to meet new regulations.

Session 1 - Where to from here

This session will focus on the ambitious targets set out for the dairy industry. New regulations around the nitrates directive and climate change targets will impact farms both in terms of additional costs and day to day farming practices. David Fennelly from County Laois will present a paper on how his farming practices will change over the next five years. David will discuss key areas where he and his family will focus on to ensure their family dairy farm is well positioned to deal with these new challenges.

Noreen Lacey will present the financial costs of new environmental regulations in terms of lower stocking rates and increased infrastructure costs. Noreen will examine the scenarios facing dairy farms. In a time of increasing input costs are some farms financially better off with less cows?

Session 2 - Technologies to future proof dairy farming

Technologies will play a key role in the future of dairy farming, however with a growing number of technologies available, this session will focus on which technologies offer the highest rate of return in terms of improving farmers bank balances and their environmental sustainability.

Dr. John Upton will present a paper on energy efficiency on Irish dairy farms. Soaring electricity costs have pushed energy efficiency centre stage on dairy farms. John has more than a decade of work completed on energy consumption and efficiency on Irish dairy farms. John will discuss the findings from his work. The paper will also examine the options to reduce energy costs through on farm renewables, particularly solar power.

Francis Nolan a dairy farmer from Kilkenny will present a paper on his approach to on-farm investments. Francis has made some key investments on his farm over the last five years including improving infrastructure and embracing cutting edge technologies such as his heat detection system.

Session 3 - Productive Swards in a low Nitrogen era

Dairy farmers will use significantly less chemical nitrogen in the next 10 years. This reduction in chemical nitrogen usage must not come at the expense of productive swards. This session will examine the grassland management practices needed to succeed in a low nitrogen era.

Dr Michael Egan will present a paper on the management of grass in spring in terms of grazing management, nitrogen fertiliser and animal performance. Record nitrogen prices have given renewed focus to the best way to manage spring grass, Michael will discuss the latest results from Teagasc grazing trials.

Dr Michael Dineen's paper will examine the role of red clover in intensive dairy systems. Red clover has the potential to grow large quantities of dry matter without the need for chemical nitrogen inputs. His paper will look at managing these swards and the feeding value of forage produced from these red clover/grass swards.

Robert O'Dea a dairy farmer in Co. Limerick will present a paper on how his grassland management will change over the next 5 years. Robert was an early adopter of grass/clover swards and has significant amounts of clover present on his farm. The paper will examine the benefits of clover in swards but also the disadvantages including increased bloat risk and lower spring growth.

Speaker Biographies

Noreen Lacey

Noreen lives and farms in Kilkenny with her Family. She holds a Degree in Ag Science from UCD and a Degree in Business Studies from IPA. She is a past council member of the IGA. Noreen has a wealth of agri-business experience, having previously worked for Glanbia, ACC Bank and AIB. In 2018 Noreen joined IFAC as Head of Business Development and is now Head of Banking for their new Banking Services Division.

David Fennelly

David farms in Laois in partnership with his parents. His farm has a strong focus on reducing environmental impact and it is also a Signpost demonstration farm. He is a 2020 graduate of UCD with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in Dairy Business. David is also completing a Nuffield Scholarship in 2023 on "Diversity in Irish grazing swards and systems. Solutions to our challenges may be under foot?"

Dr John Upton

Dr John Upton is a Research Officer in Teagasc Moorepark. John has a PhD from Wageningen University and his research interests include energy consumption on dairy farms, smart metering networks, renewable energy integration and management, water consumption on dairy farms and milking machine performance and milking management.

Francis Nolan

Francis farms in Kilkenny and is a new entrant to dairying. He farms 70 ha, of which 4 ha is rented. In 2021 he milked 151 cows, and he had 30 replacement units. The overall stocking rate on the farm is 2.7 Lu/ha. The farm grew just over 12 ton of grass DM/ha in 2021. The EBI of the herd is €161 & the younger stock have an EBI of €203 - €230. The calving interval is 371 days with 81% calving in 6 weeks. The soil fertility of the farm has increased over the last 3 years with over 90% of the MP now index 3 or 4 for both P and K.

Robert O'Dea

Robert is a dairy farmer in Limerick, in partnership with his brother and nephew, Bernard and Denis. The O'Dea's are milking 259 cows on a 116 ha MP with an additional 16 ha out farm, and this has grown in recent years since the formation of the partnership. Robert joined an on farm clover study in 2020 and in that time he has reduced chemical nitrogen fertiliser from 234 kg /ha in 2020 to 137 kg /ha in 2022.

Dr Michael Egan

Michael completed a PhD in grass / white clover swards in conjunction with Teagasc and UCD in 2015, and has since been working as a Grassland Research Officer in Teagasc Moorepark, where his main area of research has been optimising grassland management with particular focus on optimising spring and autumn grazing management for intensive grassland farms, and also the role of white clover on commercial grassland farms.

Dr Michael Dineen

Michael is an animal nutrition and physiology researcher at Teagasc Moorepark. His research work focuses on increasing the productive efficiency of pasture-fed lactating dairy cows in an environmentally benign manner. He obtained a BSc in Animal Science from UCD before completing a M.Phil at Teagasc Moorepark in collaboration with Queens University Belfast. Michael completed his PhD at Cornell University USA. His doctoral work focused on describing nutrient supply and animal requirements in pasture-based systems. Michael is also an adjunct lecturer in UCC.