

DISCOUNTED DAIRY CONFERENCE BOOKINGS

For all bookings made before 31st October 2023

Book _____ member(s) at €65 €50 each. Total: € _____

Book _____ non member(s) at €130 €115 each. Total: € _____

Cheque enclosed: € _____

ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

Name (Delegate 1): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Name (Delegate 2): _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

YOU CAN REGISTER BY:

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

CONFERENCE FEE INCLUDES:

- Attendance at event 10th January
- Copy of conference proceedings
- Refreshments at 9am sharp
- Hot dinner, dessert with tea/coffee
- One year's FREE* IGA membership
*for all new direct debit memberships

STUDENT DEAL

€90pp (RRP €130). Please email office@irishgrassland.ie to apply. (From your college email domain, with the name of your lecturer, course, and college).

DISCUSSION GROUP DEAL

€90pp (RRP €130). Please email office@irishgrassland.ie to apply. For groups of 10+ members who pay in one bank transaction before 4th December.

IGA SOCIAL NIGHT / GALA DINNER

7.30pm sharp Tuesday 9th January 2024
(Book with hotel)

Laurence Sexton, Past IGA Council Member & Dairy Farmer will be chatting to our after-dinner Guest Speaker

Patrick Wall, Professor Public Health UCD

Dr Patrick Wall is Professor of Public Health in UCD and is a member of UCD's Institute for Food and Health. His research areas include food safety, nutrition and managing lifestyle related disease through behavioural change. Paddy's academic career began in the UCD vet school where he qualified as a vet followed by a degree in Human Medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland. He holds an MSc in Infectious Diseases from University of London and an MBA from the Michael Smurfit School of Business UCD and a Diploma in Corporate Governance from the UCD Centre of Corporate Governance.



Paddy has had an impressive career; he was head of the Foodborne Diseases Division of the UK CDC before he was made the first Chief Executive of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland in 1998. He is a founder member of the management board and former chairperson of the European Food Safety Authority. He advised the Chinese government on food safety issues for the 2008 Beijing Olympics and still sits on a committee in the Chinese equivalent of the European Food Safety Authority. Paddy still holds several national and international advisory positions and is a director of Agri-Aware and is chairperson of Independent Milk Laboratories.



Gala Dinner €45pp or Table 10pax €390
B&B Room only rate €99
Call 063 33700

All Gala Dinner Tickets can be purchased directly from the hotel on 063 33700. The hotel can display a corporate / discussion group logo on the centre of each group table booked.



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Irish Grassland Association

DAIRY CONFERENCE & SOCIAL NIGHT

Focusing on our strengths



9th & 10th January 2024
CHARLEVILLE PARK HOTEL

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IGA DAIRY CONFERENCE

Wednesday 10th January 2024
(Book with IGA)

9.00 am	Registration with refreshments on arrival
9:45 am	Opening Address by Bryan Hynes <i>IGA President & Dairy Farmer</i>
SESSION 1	Theme: Managing Challenging Milk Prices <i>Chairperson Patrick Gowing</i> <i>IGA Council Member & Teagasc</i>
10.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GD Young, Dairy Farmer, WestmeathTadhg Buckley, Irish Farmers Association <i>Discussion</i>
SESSION 2	Theme: Getting it right this Spring: Health and Milk Quality <i>Chairperson Niamh Bambrick</i> <i>ASA President & Mullinahone Co-Op</i>
11.00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ger Cusack, Veterinary PractitionerDon Crowley, Teagasc Milk Quality SpecialistLaura Hannon, Dairy Farmer, Meath <i>Discussion</i>
12.30pm	Hot dinner, dessert, tea and coffee
SESSION 3	Theme: Managing a system to suit your business <i>Chairperson Michael Egan</i> <i>IGA Council Member & Teagasc</i>
2.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">David Dolan, Dairy Farmer, MayoOwen Ashton, Dairy Farmer, CorkMark Collins, Dairy Farmer, Tipperary <i>Discussion</i>
3.45pm	Conference Close <i>Chairperson: Vincent Griffith</i> <i>IGA Council Member & Dairy Farmer</i>

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

GD Young: GD is farming with his wife Caroline and their three children in Westmeath, milking 400 cows. GD grew up in Scotland and began his farming career in the mid 90's when he returned home to work on the family farm milking 120 cows. In the late 90's the opportunity came to buy his uncle out who was milking 100 cows, and this allowed them to amalgamate the two herds to improve labour efficiency. Cow output steadily increased to 9,500 litres per cow on a high input system. Poor returns and difficulty in finding labour led them to quit dairying and convert to sheep and sucklers in 2011. They set up their own brand 'Argyll Angus' to help market their own beef by targeting the local tourist market. In 2015 they purchased their current farm after selling their farms in Scotland to start up a new dairy enterprise in Ireland.



Owen Ashton: Owen is farming in a cow leasing/contract milking deal with Kevin and Margaret Twomey in Castlelyons, Co. Cork. He graduated with a BSc Agriculture from Aberystwyth University in 2013, after which he gained valuable experience working on large scale dairy farms in New Zealand, Wales, and Ireland. Not from a dairy farming background, he has always had a passion for dairy farming, and this partnership with the Twomey's has allowed him to realise his goal. Owen purchased his first stock in 2015 and has since grown his herd whilst working alongside Kevin to 160 cows plus followers. They are currently milking 185 high EBI cross bred cow on a 57 ha milking platform with winter feed coming from an outside block. In 2022, they sold 467 kg MS/cow, at 4.62% fat and 3.79% protein. Owen has a strong focus on producing high quality milk from a grass based production system, with a good work life balance.



Ger Cusack: Ger graduated from UCD Veterinary College in 1982. A practicing vet at Comeragh Veterinary, a mixed, mainly dairy cattle practice, based in Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford. He also has a Certificate in Dairy Herd Health from 2015. He is a member of Animal Health Ireland's newly formed 'Hoof Health Check Technical Working Group'. He is a Member of the Veterinary Council of Ireland and is founder chairman of XLVets Ireland, a company providing networking support to independent veterinary practices throughout Ireland. He has worked with Muireann Conneely of Teagasc, to produce the "Reducing Lameness in Irish Dairy Herds" booklet in 2022. Ger is also a director of Greenway Agritraining, a company dedicated to the delivery of practical, hands-on training to farmers and others in the farming sector, focusing on hoof care and the prevention of lameness in dairy herds.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

David Dolan: David farms alongside his parents Louis and Bernie near Claremorris, Co. Mayo. The 50 ha farm carries 110 crossbred cows. The farm has undergone significant change over the last 6 years going from a split calving high output system with multiple out blocks, to a spring calving medium output system on a single block. In 2022, the calving interval was 370 days, and the six-week calving rate was 86%, producing 520 kg of milk solids per cow supplying Aurivo Co-op. David is focusing on reducing the environmental impact of the farm and making more room for biodiversity. 20% of the farm is now in high clover swards with plans to introduce multi-species swards in 2024. David has just completed his Nuffield Scholarship, titled 'Net Zero Emissions Farming: Challenges and Opportunities for farmers and co-ops'.



Mark Collins: Mark is farming in Tipperary in partnership with his parents, Pdraig and Ena. He graduated from UCD in 2020 with a Degree in Agricultural Science in Dairy Business. The partnership is milking 450 crossbred cows on 170 ha with a 10 ha out block and all youngstock are contracted reared. Mark has a strong focus on a simple efficient system that produces quality milk solids from resilient pasture in a sustainable manner, and this year he implemented a 10 in 7 milking rota. He aims to grow more multi-species and grass-clover swards to reduce chemical fertiliser use and improve soil health and breed high EBI crossbred cows that are efficient at converting grass to milk solids. Alongside Mark and his parents, there are 2 other full-time staff members and occasional part-time help. There is a strong emphasis on keeping a positive working environment, to achieve the farm's goals and the personal development of staff.



Laura Hannon: Laura Hannon is 28 years old and dairy farming in partnership with her parents in Co. Meath. Laura qualified as a general nurse in 2017 and worked in Beaumont hospital until May 2019, when she returned home to farm. She completed the Green Cert in 2019 by distance learning and then enrolled on a part-time Degree in Agriculture, which she graduated from in 2023. The family partnership is currently milking 320 cows. In 2020, they ceased contract rearing and now rear approximately 80 calves and 80 heifers on a leased out-farm. Animal health is a priority area for Laura, and together with her father they work closely with their vets to create a herd health plan that is relevant and practical for their farm. Working with their vets has helped them to significantly decrease the farm's antibiotic and anthelmintic use. Laura recently won the 'Animal Health Dairy Farmer of the Year' award.



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Don Crowley: Don is the Milk Quality Specialist Advisor in Teagasc. He completed his Degree in Agricultural Science in 1994 from UCD. Prior to joining Teagasc, Don worked for more than ten years with Riverview Veterinary group in Bandon Co. Cork where he held roles as an Agri-Advisor and practice Manager. He began his current Milk Quality Specialist role in 2006 with Teagasc, based in Clonakilty, as part of the Teagasc/Dairygold joint programme. His role is now expanded, where he provides key advisory support to milk suppliers and advisors in the joint programmes that Teagasc run with Dairygold, Kerry & Carbery Co-ops. A native of Co. Cork, Don and his wife Michelle run a successful dairy farm in Ballineen and supply milk to Lisavaird Co-op.



Tadhg Buckley: From a farming background, Tadhg is currently Director of Policy/Chief Economist with the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), Ireland's largest farming organisation. Prior to joining the IFA, Tadhg worked in the finance industry as Head of Agriculture with AIB Bank. He holds a Degree in Agricultural Science from UCD as well as an MBA from University of Limerick. Tadhg is also a Nuffield Scholar - his study examined the role of dairy futures markets & other price risk management mechanisms in the EU Dairy Industry. He is also a member of the Agricultural Science Association and a Qualified Financial Advisor. Tadhg continues to be actively involved in dairy farming on his home farm in North Cork.



Conference Overview

The conference tackles three themes that are relevant on every dairy farm in 2024. Managing farm finances will take centre stage in the first session when Tadhg Riordan will examine where the costs are and importantly identifying opportunities to lowering costs, while dairy farmer GD Young will share his insights and experience on how he is managing his business with tighter margins. In the areas of herd health and milk quality, we have well known vet Ger Cusack outlining how herd health should be approached and Teagasc milk quality advisor Don Crowley will detail how milk quality can be improved on farms. Dairy farmer Laura Hannon will talk us through how she approaches herd health, from planning to execution. In the last session, three dairy farmers will discuss what their business objectives are and how these have shaped their farming system. David Dolan has started a journey to lowering his environmental impact using clover and multi-species, while we'll hear from Mark Collins about his approach to managing human resources. Owen Ashton will share with us his unconventional pathway into share milking and realising his goal.