

Registration

Pre-booking is essential as places are limited.

Book x Op 1 €40 each / Day 1 only Total: €_____

Book x Op 2 €60 each / Day 2 only Total: €_____

Book x Op 3 €90 each / Day 1 and 2 Total: €_____

Cheque enclosed: €

ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME (DELEGATE 2): _____

NAME (DELEGATE 3): _____

TO REGISTER

- Make a booking online www.irishgrassland.ie
- Post this booking form and your cheque to:
IGA, Cookstown, Kells, Co. Meath
- Call the office on 087 9626483

DISCUSSION GROUP DEAL

Members rates apply for discussion groups of 10+ members who book and prepay in one payment in full before Monday 12th June. Contact the office by emailing office@irishgrassland.ie or calling 087 9626483 to make your booking. *(Strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date).*

IGA Dairy Extravaganza

Booking Options

OPTION 1: DAY 1

€40 per member

Farm A and Steak BBQ Night

OPTION 2: DAY 2

€60 per member

Farm B and Farm C

OPTION 3: DAY 1 & 2

€90 per member

Farm A, Farm B and Farm C
and Steak BBQ Night



Irish Grassland Association

DAIRY EXTRAVAGANZA

DAY 1

17th July

Kells, Co. Meath

“Working smarter not harder”



Proudly supported by



DAY 1 (17th July)

DAIRY EXTRAVAGANZA

4.00pm **Farm Walk**
Meet at Mark Cassidys Farm
Kells, Co Meath A82YP57.

6.30pm **Steak BBQ Night**
Meet at The Headfort Arms
Hotel, Kells, Co. Meath.

STEAK BARBECUE

€40 PP

Booking essential

www.irishgrassland.ie

087 9626483


HEADFORT
ARMS HOTEL

BED AND BREAKFAST

Single €89pp Twin €65pps
Triple €53pps Quad €47pps

Call 046 9240063 and quote IGA



Mark Cassidy

Mark Cassidy is farming in Kells, Co. Meath. The Cassidy farm has calved 390 cows in 2023. The farm is a spring calving crossbred herd which produced 509Kgs of milk solids per cow in 2022. The farm is 153Ha, with a milking platform of 115Ha. The EBI of the herd is €207 and has a 6-week calving rate of 83%. Heifer calves are contract reared and have been done so by the same farmer for the past 6 years.

Mark returned home to full time farming in the mid 1990's. At that stage the farm was milking 40 cows and supplying a liquid milk contract. The farm has grown considerably in recent years, and it has done so maximising the use of grazed grass in the diet. Mark started measuring grass in the mid 2000's, and the farm while affected by drought last year, grew 12.8t DM/ha.

The farm can be best described as a labour efficient farm. Good structure, defined roles and a recognition of the importance of work-life-balance are key to the farm. It was Mark's time abroad, before he returned to full time farming in Ireland that shaped his farming philosophy and how he would set up his farm for the future. Having worked on farms in the Netherlands and in New Zealand he got to witness first-hand the benefits of a structured work week and the importance of work life balance for staff, who would return refreshed after their weekends away from the farm.

Mark has two full time staff on the farm David and Sarah, who have both been with him for the past two years. There is additional support at calving for c. 10 weeks and relief milking is provided by students.

A staff meeting takes place every Tuesday on the farm where priority items for the week ahead and items of note are discussed. Sarah and David have defined roles on the farm with each undertaking one milking per day. The farm has standard operating procedures (SOP's) in place for all farm activities which are contained with the farm manual. The farm manual is to support all staff on the farm, to outline how tasks should be completed on the farm and to ensure there is no ambiguity.

Mark is always looking into ways of incorporating technology to streamline the system on his farm. Anything that will enable him or the team working on the farm to carry out their tasks remotely or with the use of automation is an area of interest to him. Mark sees the advances in technology as a way to continue to improve his farm and make it a nicer, easier and smarter place to work.



Knowledge grows

Yara Quality Fertilisers



Feed your grass with Yara's product range of fertilisers:

- Additional sulphur increases grass yield by 10-15%!
- Complex Compound Fertiliser - every granule contains every nutrient
- No nutrient segregation - achieves an even spread

 @Yara_Ireland

 www.yara.ie

 Yara Ireland

 agronomy.ireland@yara.com