

National REPS Conference 2008

Farming for a Better Environment

Thursday, 6th November
Tullamore Court Hotel,
Co. Offaly



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

National REPS Conference 2008

Farming for a Better Environment

The Rural Environment Protection Scheme is now in its 15th year and is responsible for assisting over half of Irish farmers protect our rural landscape. Whilst the scheme has undergone many adjustments in recent years the fundamental objective of enhancing our rural environment has not changed.

This years National REPS Conference will focus on one of the key global challenges facing Irish agriculture – Climate Change. We have assembled a panel of leading scientists who will provide delegates with an insight into how Ireland can make a positive contribution to this debate.

The latest on European Rural Development Policy will be explored and we will have expert opinion on how this will influence REPS into the future.

The 2008 REPS Conference will also provide delegates with an opportunity to hear Irelands leading agri-environmental experts examine key technical issues that are central to the success of REPS.

For anyone with an involvement in REPS and in environmental protection, this conference is an important date in the agri-environmental calendar.

I look forward to meeting you in Tullamore on Thursday 6 November.

Mark Gibson
Environment Specialist



Programme

9.15 am Assembly, Registration and Coffee

9.45 am **Opening Address**

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food
Brendan Smith TD

Session 1 **Chair:** Professor Gerry Boyle Director, Teagasc

10.00 am **European Climate Change Policy –
Impacts on Irish Agriculture**

Professor John Sweeney,
Professor of Geography, NUI Maynooth

**Gaseous Emissions in Agriculture:
Challenges & Opportunities**

Dr. Gary Lanigan, Climate Change Researcher,
Teagasc

Discussion

Session 2 **Chair:** Seán Regan

Teagasc Environment Programme Manager

11.00am **European Rural Development Policy
– Implications for Agri-Environmental
Schemes**

Professor Alan Matthews,
Professor of European Agricultural Policy,
Trinity College

**Current thinking on Agri-Environment
Schemes**

Michael O'Donovan, Principal Officer,
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food

**The new Agri-Environment Scheme in
Northern Ireland**

Alan Galbraith, Countryside Management
Branch, DARD

Discussion

1.00pm Lunch

Session 3 Chair: Breian Carroll
President, Agricultural Consultants
Association

2.00pm Biodiversity Options – Best Practice
Catherine Keena, Countryside Management
Specialist, Teagasc

Organic Farming Update
Patrick Barry, Organic Specialist, Teagasc

Discussion

Session 4 Chair: Dr. Noel Culleton
Head of Centre, Johnstown Castle
Environment Research Centre

**3.00pm Maximizing the value of slurry to control
fertilizer costs**
Stan Lalor, Research Officer, Johnstown Castle
Environment Research Centre

Reducing Nitrogen costs using clover
Andy Boland, Environment Specialist, Teagasc

Discussion

4.00pm Close of Conference



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Booking Form

Please reserve place(s) at the Conference

Name(s)

Address

Telephone

Email

Fee enclosed (€)

Conference Fee: €100 per person
(including proceedings, refreshments and lunch)

**Closing date for receipt of booking forms is Friday, 31
October 2008.**

Please return booking form with payment to:

Tilly O'Donnell
Teagasc, Kildalton College, Piltown, Co. Kilkenny

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