

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT

February 2017

## Expand Your Horizons



A national series of seminars to help you increase your farm income

Do you want to:

- explore on- or off-farm diversification ideas;
- retrain for new employment;
- seek funding via the new LEADER programme;
- consider a new rural tourism or food business;
- get updated on all the social and financial benefits available to farm families; or,
- learn a new skill?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, join Teagasc and the National Rural Network (NRN) at one of a national series of evening seminars, Expand Your Horizons 2017. The purpose of the seminars is to provide you with the most up-to-date

information on:

- diversification ideas;
- rural services; and,
- funding and training opportunities available in rural Ireland.

The seminars will feature talks and you will get the opportunity to meet one-to-one with representatives from a range of state agencies including:

- Teagasc;
- National Rural Network;
- LEADER
- Local Enterprise Office;
- Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS);
- Citizens Information;
- Fáilte Ireland;
- Education and Training Boards;
- Mental Health Ireland; and,
- Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Edited by  
**Dan Clavin,**  
Organic Farming/  
Rural Development  
Specialist

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All agencies will be on hand to provide a flavour of the opportunities and services they offer and the role they can play in improving the viability of your farm and supporting growth in rural communities.

For more information about the seminars, contact Barry Caslin at [arry.caslin@teagasc.ie](mailto:arry.caslin@teagasc.ie), or, James Claffey at [james@nationalruralnetwork.ie](mailto:james@nationalruralnetwork.ie).

## Expand Your Horizons – national schedule

All seminars run from 8.00pm-10.00pm and are free of charge.

Date	Location	Venue	Area contact
Monday, February 6	Kerry	Killarney Heights Hotel, Killarney	<a href="mailto:john.horgan@teagasc.ie">john.horgan@teagasc.ie</a>
Tuesday, February 7	Limerick	Woodlands Hotel, Adare	<a href="mailto:john.horgan@teagasc.ie">john.horgan@teagasc.ie</a>
Monday, February 13	Laois	Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise	<a href="mailto:larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie">larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie</a>
Tuesday, February 14	Kildare	Osprey Hotel, Naas	<a href="mailto:larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie">larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie</a>
Wednesday February 15	Meath	Ardboyne Hotel, Navan	<a href="mailto:larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie">larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie</a>
Thursday, February 16	Dublin	CityNorth Hotel, Gormanstown	<a href="mailto:larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie">larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie</a>
Monday, February 20	Louth	Teagasc Office, Dundalk	<a href="mailto:larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie">larry.oloughlin@teagasc.ie</a>
Wednesday, February 22	Mayo	Balla Resource Centre, Balla	<a href="mailto:peter.leonard@teagasc.ie">peter.leonard@teagasc.ie</a>
Wednesday, February 22	Roscommon	Abbey Hotel, Roscommon	<a href="mailto:tom.kellegher@teagasc.ie">tom.kellegher@teagasc.ie</a>
Thursday, February 23	Longford	Longford Arms Hotel, Longford	<a href="mailto:tom.kellegher@teagasc.ie">tom.kellegher@teagasc.ie</a>
Monday, February 27	Sligo	Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo	<a href="mailto:ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie">ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie</a>
Tuesday, February 28	Leitrim	Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon	<a href="mailto:ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie">ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie</a>
Wednesday, March 1	Donegal	Villa Rose Hotel, Ballybofey	<a href="mailto:ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie">ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie</a>
Thursday, March 2	Westmeath	Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar	<a href="mailto:con.feighery@teagasc.ie">con.feighery@teagasc.ie</a>
Monday, March 6	Tipperary	Anner Hotel, Thurles	<a href="mailto:donal.mullane@teagasc.ie">donal.mullane@teagasc.ie</a>
Tuesday, March 7	Offaly	Court Hotel, Tullamore	<a href="mailto:con.feighery@teagasc.ie">con.feighery@teagasc.ie</a>
Wednesday, March 8	Cavan	Kilmore Hotel, Cavan	<a href="mailto:con.feighery@teagasc.ie">con.feighery@teagasc.ie</a>
Thursday, March 9	Donegal	Inishowen Gateway Hotel, Buncrana	<a href="mailto:ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie">ben.wilkinson@teagasc.ie</a>
Thursday, March 9	Monaghan	Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan	<a href="mailto:con.feighery@teagasc.ie">con.feighery@teagasc.ie</a>

Monday, March 13	Wexford	Riverside Hotel, Enniscorthy	siobhan.kavanagh@teagasc.ie
Tuesday, March 14	Wicklow	Lawless Hotel, Aghrim	siobhan.kavanagh@teagasc.ie
Wednesday, March 15	Carlow	Dolmen Hotel, Carlow	siobhan.kavanagh@teagasc.ie
Wednesday, March 22	Kilkenny	Springhill Court Hotel, Kilkenny	john.moloney@teagasc.ie

## Organic farming update

Irish organic food enjoys an excellent reputation both at home and especially across Europe. In the European Union, the market for organic food has doubled in the last 10 years, with demand for organic Irish beef in particular on the rise. In Ireland, more and more people are purchasing organic food, with the market for organic food up over 30% in the last four years (Source: Bord Bia). While cattle and sheep are the most common organic farm enterprises, market opportunities exist in a range of other areas, including cereals, horticulture and direct sales.

### Facts:

- the area of land farmed organically in Ireland is 62,000ha;
- the utilisable agricultural area (UAA) in Ireland is 2%, compared to 6% in Europe;
- there are 1,800 organic farmers in Ireland (~70% are cattle farmers), including ~680 who converted in 2015;
- the organic market in Ireland is worth €142m (2016), up from €107m (2012); and,
- the EU organic market is worth €124bn (2014), a doubling in size over the last 10 years.

If you are:

- genuinely interested in organic farming methods;

- interested in the environment and animal welfare;
- keen to grasp a price premium for your produce;
- interested in scheme and grant aid opportunities;
- willing to adapt your enterprise to adhere to EU organic standards; and,
- interested in cutting costs?

...then organic farming could be for you. Join us on one of our national demonstration farm walks to meet with the sector experts and explore further if the organic option is for you.

These walks, organised by Teagasc in conjunction with the DAFM and the organic certification bodies showcase successful organic operators.

The walks will offer you a chance to:

- learn first-hand about the practicalities of organic farming;
- explore what market opportunities are available;
- share information and experiences with other farmers; and,
- find out what scheme and grant aid is available.

Attendance is free of charge and all farmers, farm family members and members of the public are welcome to attend.

## National organic farm walk schedule

For more information and **directions** to farm walks go to: [www.teagasc.ie/events](http://www.teagasc.ie/events).

### February 2017

Thursday 23 at 11.00am	Offaly	Grennan's Organic Farm, Lismoyney, Clara	Dairying
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### May 2017

Wednesday 10 at 4.00pm	Monaghan	Mark Gillanders, Ballinagall	Suckler to beef and cereals
Thursday 25 at 4.00pm	Limerick	Harry O'Grady, Finnitterstown Hse, Adare	Suckler to beef

### June 2017

Thursday 22 at 6.00pm	Cork	Stuart and Jean Kingston, Upper Forrest Farm, Farnanes	Beef, cereals and potatoes
Thursday 29 at 2.00pm	Cork	Rory Magorrian, Kildinan Farm, Ballyhooley	Horticulture, salads and direct sales

### July 2017

Wednesday 5 at 2.00pm	Galway	Kenneth Keavey, Green Earth Organics Farm, Caherlea, Corrandulla	Horticulture and direct sales, box scheme, online and farm shop
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