

Agricultural Courses

By Serena Gibbons, Education Officer, Galway/Clare Region

The Green Cert is the basic agricultural qualification necessary to qualify as young trained farmer. On completion of the Green Cert course, students meet the requirements of a qualified farmer for the purposes of all revenue and Department of Agriculture (DAFM) schemes.

The benefits of the having the Green Cert are numerous, these include:

Education: The Green Cert is a FETAC Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate and the modules covered are Beef, Sheep and Grass Production, Farm Business, Pesticide Use, Farm Safety and Maintenance of Farm Buildings as well as comprehensive training in Beef, Sheep and Grass Management skills.

Stamp Duty Exemption: A qualified farmer under the age of 35 is exempt from Stamp Duty payment on the transfer of land which is presently 6%. Consanguinity Relief will apply when land is transferred between a parent and child, this reducing stamp duty from 6% to 1% irrespective of age or agricultural qualifications.

More details are available on the Revenue website in relation to calculating stamp duty <https://www.revenue.ie/en/property/stamp-duty/working-out-your-stamp-duty/consanguinity-relief.aspx>

CAT: Both Inheritance Tax and Gift Tax come under the CAT category; once the holding value exceeds €335,000 (this was increased from €320,000 in last week's budget) both of these taxes will apply at a rate of 33%. A qualified farmer can avail of Agricultural Relief if they can also pass the 80:20 asset test.

It would be advisable to discuss the above taxes with your Accountant.

DAFM Grants: A qualified farmer can avail of a 60% TAMS grant and is also eligible to apply for the Young Farmers Scheme and National Reserve.

Agricultural Course Options:

The Distance Course:

- This course is **ONLY** available to students who have a FETAC Major Level 6 or higher qualification in a **non- Agricultural** area.
- Delivered over an 18 month period, students attend college for a total of 25 days during that 18 month period. These college days take place on normal working days (Monday-Friday, 9.00am to 6.00pm) usually one day per month with a block of 5 days at the end of the course.
- Course fee is €2,990.00 payable on commencement of course
- Additional information for this course is available at www.teagasc.ie/ecollege .
- Students can **contact the centre of choice directly for enrolment information.** The Distance courses are available at the following centres

Agricultural Colleges:	Contact:
Ballyhaise	049 4338108
Pallaskenry	061 393100
Gurteen	067 21282
Kildalton	051 644400
Mountbellew	090 9679205

Teagasc Regional Centres	Contact
Ballinrobe (B. Garry)	094 9542032
Donegal	074 9194132
Moorepark (M. Riordan)	025 42326
Mullingar (N. Heffernan)	046 9061203
Navan (B. Nulty)	046 9068134
Naas	045 843647
Roscommon (C. Divilly/C. Corcoran)	090 6628556
Sligo (C. Kerins)	071 9189402
Tipperary (B. Gleeson)	0504 29236

The Part-Time Course:

- Available in Teagasc Regional Offices, eg: Mellows Campus Athenry and Teagasc Centre, Ennis
- One day **and** One evening per week for two academic years
- Available to students over the age of 23 only
- Course fee is €1,700.00

Full-Time Course at Agricultural Colleges:

- Mountbellew, Pallaskenry, Ballyhaise, Kildalton, Clonakilty
- Apply directly to college, annual entrance exam in June
- Full time (Monday to Friday) September to May
- Duration of two academic years
- Course fee is €1,700.00
- Includes 12 weeks placement on host farm

Note: Due to the nature of agricultural courses, an online course is not available. As part of the course, students are required to complete practical skills in Animal Husbandry, Machinery and Grass Production.

For Further information on Agricultural courses, please contact your local Teagasc Education Officer.

Caption for Photo:

“Green Cert Students completing the Farm Buildings Module in Athenry with Teagasc Specialist Tim Hyde”.