

[PLEASE CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE NRN'S COVID-19 RESPONSE.](#)



Welcome to the May 2020 issue of the National Rural Network's monthly newsletter focusing on issues related to the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020.

You can scroll down through the full newsletter or click on one of the six themes below to jump to that section. Each short news story contains a link to the full article.

IN THIS ISSUE

[Biodiversity](#)

[Climate Change](#)

[LEADER](#)

[EIP-AGRI](#)

[Farm Viability & Competitiveness](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

BIODIVERSITY

Farm Safe – Nature Farm Competition Winners

The National Rural Network in association with AgriKids recently held a colouring competition called 'Farm Safe – Nature Farm'. The aim of the initiative was to help raise awareness of how farmers protect the environment and keep wildlife safe.

[Read more...](#)

Farm Safe – Nature Farm Competition

Congratulations

Shannon McCrossan, Co. Donegal.
Cillian O'Leary, Co. Kerry.
Sheena Crampton, Co Offaly.



Farmers setting Wild Bird Cover for GLAS



There are almost 50,000 participants in the Green Low-carbon Agri-environmental Scheme (GLAS) funded by the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Some GLAS participants selected Wild Bird Cover (WBC) as a measure for their farms. Farmers have until May 31st 2020 to re-sow their wild bird cover areas for this year.

[Read more...](#)

World Bee Day Marked on 20th May

Pollinators such as bees allow many plants, including food crops, to reproduce. Not only do pollinators contribute directly to food security, they are key to preserving biodiversity which is a corner stone to the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Nations have dedicated the 20th of May annually to World Bee Day.

[Read more...](#)



NPWS & Teagasc Publish 'Farming for Nature: The Role of Results-Based Payments'



'Farming for Nature: the Role of Results-Based Payments' is a book that collates several Irish experiences of developing and applying results-based approaches for the conservation of farmland biodiversity.

[Read more...](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Signpost Series: Pointing the Way to a Low Emissions Agriculture – RECAP April Webinars

The National Rural Network in association with Teagasc ConnectED, Dairy Sustainability Ireland and Food and Drinks Ireland Skillnet are currently hosting a series of online webinars which are aimed towards those with an interest in climate change and greenhouse gas emissions, the impact these have on agriculture and the science based solutions and policies in place to help mitigate the impact.

Over the course of April four webinars have taken place and a summary of each is provided on the NRN website.

[Read more...](#)



The Signpost Series

'Pointing the way to a low emissions agriculture'

Greenhouse Gas Training Webinar Series



EPA 2019 GHG Emissions for Companies in the EU Emissions Trading System



In April, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published details of Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions in 2019 for companies in the EU emissions trading system. The notable points included in the data show that greenhouse gas emissions from Irish power generations and industrial companies fell by 8.7% in 2019.

[Read more...](#)

LEADER

Inspiring ENRD LEADER Programme Videos

Three inspiring new videos produced by the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) that showcase how the LEADER Programme fosters connections, innovation and empowerment within rural communities throughout the European Union have been added to the NRN website.



[Read more...](#)

LEADER Programme Continuing to Operate during COVID19



The LEADER Programme is continuing to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the different actors involved in delivering the programme have found new means of working to ensure that LEADER is still being delivered.

[Read more...](#)

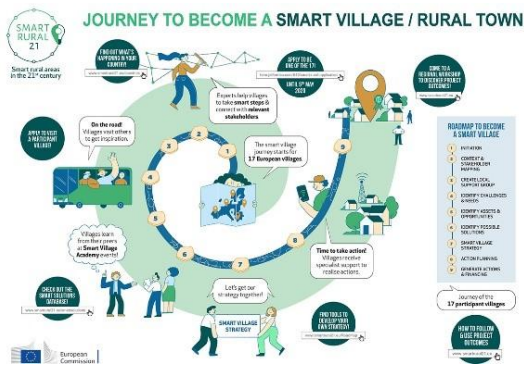
LEADER Funding used to Establish Pet Crematorium in Cavan

A past winner of Crufts, which is one of the largest international dog shows that takes place in the UK every year, has availed of LEADER funding to establish a pet crematorium in Belturbet, Co. Cavan.

[Read more...](#)



New Smart Rural Project Infographic



The new Smart Rural Project, coordinated by the E40 Group and supported by the European Commission (DG AGRI), have created an informative infographic detailing the process involved in becoming a smart village/rural town.

[Read more...](#)

EIP-AGRI

BRIDE Project Booklet Features NRN Infographic

The BRIDE (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment) Project has featured the Irish NRN's EIP-AGRI Operational Group Infographic within their excellent new 'Farm Habitat Management Guidelines' publication (p.2).

[Read more...](#)



Small Biogas Demonstration Programme (SBDP) Press Release



The EIP-AGRI Service Point has produced a new press release on Ireland's Small Biogas Demonstration Programme (SBDP) EIP-AGRI Operational Group.

[Read more...](#)

New MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP-AGRI Project Newsletter

The MacGillycuddy Reeks EIP-AGRI Operational Group have recently published their Spring 2020 Newsletter. It includes information about the project's location, activities, supports for landowners on the Reeks, education awareness and training and their new Schools Awareness Programme.

[Read more...](#)



Latest Biorefinery Glas EIP-AGRI Project Newsletter



The 4th edition of the Biorefinery Glas EIP-AGRI Operational Group's newsletter has recently been published. It contains updates on the project as well as information on other green biorefinery initiatives across Europe.

[Read more...](#)

April 2020 EIP-AGRI Service Point Newsletter

The April 2020 edition of the European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) Service Point monthly newsletter (Edition 80) on agriculture and innovation is now available online.

[Read more...](#)



FARM VIABILITY & COMPETITIVENESS

New Farm Viability Blog on the NRN Website



The latest Farm Viability guest blog on the NRN website, kindly submitted by Dr Shane Conway, Researcher in the Discipline of Geography's Rural Studies Unit at NUI Galway, provides us with an insight into the importance of land mobility (i.e. transfer of land from one farmer to another, or from one generation to the next) in achieving generational renewal in agriculture.

[Read more...](#)

Farming for Nature Award Nominees Announced

Nominees for this year's National Farming for Nature Awards have been released. This inspiring initiative is now in its third year and aims to source and share stories of farmers across Ireland who are adjudged to be managing their land and livestock in a way that really benefits nature in their area.

[Read more...](#)



2020 Smart Farming Online Spring Seminar



Smart Farming, the resource efficiency programme, run by the Irish Farmers' Association in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, hosted its spring seminar online on Tuesday, 28th April 2020.

[Read more...](#)

Mental Health Ireland, Teagasc & the IFA Providing Support to Farmers during COVID-19

Mental Health Ireland partnered with Teagasc and the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) to deliver information and resources to help farmers and farm families address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more...](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

NOTICE: Details of many events are changing rapidly due to COVID-19, and most are now taking place as online meetings / webinars. We cannot guarantee that any future in-person events will be taking place, and encourage you to check directly with organisers regularly for updates.

Save the Date! ENRD Seminar on Climate Action and the Rural Inspiration Awards 2020

WEBINAR: Rural Development, Nature and Tourism: Impact of COVID-19 & New

Ceremony, Brussels, Belgium. 25 June 2020.

More information to follow.

<https://tinyurl.com/trn4p6c>

Save the Date! Beef 2020 – Building a Sustainable Beef Sector. Teagasc Grange, Co. Meath C15 PW93 7 July 2020.

The focus of BEEF2020 will be on the application of technologies that will help beef farmers increase the profitability and environmental sustainability of their farming family business.

<https://tinyurl.com/r83t6sp>

International Symposium on Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems. Stillorgan, County Dublin. 3-6 November 2020.

The International Symposium on Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems is themed as Contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDGs) through the Development of Climate-Resilient Agri-Environmental Systems.

<https://tinyurl.com/tbrah4s>

Approaches. European Network of Living Labs, 30 June 2020.

ENoLL aims to prepare our cities and communities now for the new societal changes that will take place in Europe and the world. The Webinar Series gathers the Community of Living Labs and stakeholders around actual proposed solutions.

<https://tinyurl.com/y9zdhsn>

Energy in Agriculture 2020. Roscrea, Co. Tipperary. 15 July 2020.

This event gives farmers the opportunity to explore the latest renewable energy opportunities to use clean technology, drive efficiency and manage business costs in Irish agriculture.

<https://tinyurl.com/vvulocp>

THE NRN TEAM

The National Rural Network (NRN) Consortium Coordination Group is Seamus Boland, Maria Pettit, James Claffey, Tony Ward, Deirdre Garvey, Aoife Smith, Freda Salley, Johnny Sheehan, Gert Ackermann, Paul Meade, Dr Maura Farrell, Philip Farrelly, Dr Shane Conway, Dr Teresa Hooks and Dr Emily Bourke. For more information, visit www.nationalruralnetwork.ie.

MEMBERS OF THE NRN CONSORTIUM



Irish Rural Link
Nasc Tuaithe na hÉireann



Stronger Charities.
Stronger Communities.



OÉ Gaillimh
NUI Galway



Philip Farrelly & Co.

SUPPORTED BY



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Ireland's EU Structural and
Investment Funds Programmes
2014 - 2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government
and the European Union



The European Agricultural
Fund for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas

If you wish to unsubscribe from the NRN newsletter, email info@nationalruralnetwork.ie or contact Tony Ward at The Wheel on 01 454 8727.

Copyright © *2020* NRN, All rights reserved.

You are receiving this email because you signed up to receive monthly updates from the National Rural Network.

Our mailing address is:

NRN

Moate Business Park

Clara Road
Moate, Co Westmeath N37 W9R0
Ireland

[Add us to your address book](#)

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).