

Burren Regional Meeting report

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1 OVERVIEW

The HNV-Link Burren Regional Meeting took place as part of the 7th annual Burren Winterage Weekend. This year's festival encompassed a range of events including the Teagasc National Agri-environment conference; The Burren Winterage School; Farming for Nature Innovation Fair; Farming for Nature Awards; amongst others aimed at celebrating and promoting awareness of the unique farming traditions of the Burren. It also aims to highlight the broader significance of pastoral farming in shaping much of the Irish landscape (See Appendix 1-Full Programme of events). It is the one great opportunity every year for the Burren community to come together to highlight the region's fascinating farming traditions in shaping the local culture, built heritage, biodiversity and landscape. The Burren is a unique landscape with a unique story – and the Burren Winterage Weekend is a great opportunity to tell that story. This year's event also coincided with the HNV-Link cross visits to the Burren by colleagues from Dalsland (Sweden), Causses-Cevennes (France) and Eastern Hills of Cluj (Romania) learning areas.

The Burren Winterage Weekend took place just prior to and during the 2018 October Bank Holiday weekend, with the theme 'Farming for Nature'. Burrenbeo Trust (HNV-Link LA Partner) coordinates the Weekend's events with support from the Burren Programme and Burren IFA; however, the ethos of the Burren Winterage Weekend is that it is community-led. Each year, a different Burren village hosts the Winterage Weekend and this serves to draw in volunteers from the local area, who take great pride in their community being the central focus of the activities.

In 2018 Gort, Kinvara and New Quay were the host communities and activity centres for the main events of the weekend. The Burren Winterage School (See Appendix 2 winterage school programme) began in Gort on Thursday night and moved to Kinvara on Saturday. An interesting feature of the event this year was that the Burren Winterage School was preceded by the Teagasc National Agri-Environment Conference, which took place in Gort on Thursday 25th of October (See Appendix 3 for conference agenda). The theme of this year's agri-environment conference was "From Burren Beginnings to Locally Led EIPs". Over 260 agricultural advisors and government staff from around Ireland and included sessions dedicated to the Burren Programme, European Innovation Partnership projects and agri-environment policy attended it. The opening and closing presentations of the conference were by HNV-Link project staff Brendan Dunford and James Moran, while Michael Davoren (Burren IFA) welcomed delegates including HNV-Link project partners. This gave the HNV-Link project a platform to reach the broader agricultural advisory service in Ireland. Copies of the proceedings and presentations can be downloaded at <https://www.teagasc.ie/publications/2018/national-agri-environment-conference-.php>.

Gort was the venue on Thursday night for briefings by European delegations from High Nature Value farming areas in Sweden, France, Romania and Wales to the Burren Winterage School. On Friday, the Burren Winterage School began with briefings on the Burren Programme and the Hen Harrier Programme in Gort, followed by field trips to both agri-environment programmes led by programme staff and local farmers. On Friday afternoon a farm book reading took place at Gort Library, in the evening a farming for nature innovation fair was held at Gort Mart and a singing session took place at Whelan's Pub on Shanaglish on Friday night.



In Kinvara, the events on Saturday included the Burren Winterage School conference during the day, with a lunchtime demonstration of vintage farm implements and a screening of film footage of farming in Kinvara in the 1950s from the Robert Cresswell archive. In the evening, Kinvara was host to a community gathering, incorporating a children's art and nature workshop, followed by the inaugural National Farming for Nature Awards.

The New Quay/Bell Harbour community, led by local farming family the Linnanes, organised this year's cattle drive on Sunday. Additional events held in other Burren locations included a Herdsman's Walk, a farm demo walk and the Burren Food Fayre. Please see in appendices a copy of the full Burren Winterage Weekend programme (Appendix 1) and a copy of the Burren Winterage School conference programme (Appendix 2).

2 ATTENDANCE

Throughout the winterage festival it is estimated that over 2000 people (farmers, local community, European visitors, researchers, advisors, media) attended 14 events co-ordinated by the Burrenbeo Trust with a further 260 agricultural advisors, civil servants and rural development specialists attending the Teagasc agri-environment conference (Table 1).

Table 1: Attendance at Burren Winterage festival events

Day	Event	Attendance
Thursday	National Agri-environment conference	260
	BWS EU High Nature Value Farming Workshop	50
	Burren Perfumery Workshop	8
Friday	BWS Field Trips	90
	John Connell Farm Book Reading	25
	BWS Farming for Nature Innovation Fair	400
Saturday	BWS Conference	140
	Herdsman's Walk - Patrick McCormack	35
	Farm Walk - Vinnie Keane	24
	Vintage Farm Tools Display/Cresswell Archive	35
	Community Gathering	63
	Children's Art Workshop	15
	Farming for Nature Awards	110
Sunday	Community Cattle Drive	390
	Burren Food Fayre	730
	Total Attendance	2,375



3 PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

The Burren Winterage Weekend was coordinated by Burrenbeo Trust in keeping with their ethos of facilitating community groups and individual community members to run the Winterage Weekend. Burrenbeo staff and volunteers helped communities to organise the events and to pull together a combined 'brand' for the Weekend with publicity and media.

3.1 Advertising:

- 250 posters were put up in local area in Gort, Kinvara and the Burren by volunteers from Burrenbeo Trust business member organisations and Burrenbeo Trust volunteer members.
- 250 fliers were distributed in the region: these were displayed in local shops, churches, schools, businesses, libraries, community centres, etc.
- 1,000 programmes were distributed in the region and at the events over the weekend.
- A 10ft x 2ft banner was put up at various event venues over the four day period.
- 3ft x 3ft signs were put up in the Burren villages and the Cattle Drive location.

3.2 Newspaper and radio coverage

Coverage received in print media and radio was as follows:

Print	16/10/2018	Clare People	<i>Burren braces itself for winterage</i>
Print	20/10/2018	Irish Farmers Journal	<i>Burren Winterage Weekend supplement</i>
Radio	24/10/2018	Clare FM	Morning Focus
Radio	22/10/2018	Galway Bay FM	Keith Finnegan Show
Print	25/10/2015	Galway Advertiser	<i>Author of The Cow Book to read in Gort Library tomorrow</i>
Print	26/10/2018	Connacht Tribune	<i>Moving up in the World</i>
Print	26/10/2018	Connacht Tribune	<i>Around the County (Picture)</i>
Radio	27/10/2018	Kinvara Community Radio	<i>Scattered Showers with Barry & Eilish Kavanagh – Áine Bird interview</i>
Print	30/10/2018	Clare People	Photos throughout the paper
Print	03/11/2018	Irish Farmers Journal	<i>Driving on in the Burren - photo Martin Kiely</i>
Print	02/11/2018	Clare Champion	<i>Driving cattle to higher pastures in the Burren</i>

A selection of media clipping are included in Appendix 4. One of the highlights of this coverage was a 5 page spread on the Burren Winterage Weekend and Farming for Nature Awards in the national farmers journal. A farming newspaper with an average weekly readership of 235,000

Documentary film and radio recording of the cattle drive:

- Documentary on transhumance traditions in Europe - Clare County Council.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXa1VFwcuKo>
- Phoenix Films for a TG4 documentary on the Burren.



- BBC Radio 3 'slow music' programme.

Social media Facebook and Twitter posts were used during the event. On twitter hastags #Burrenwinterage and #HNV were used. As an example of the reach on social media, Twitter activity on @MoranEnv (James Moran) recorded 21,497 impressions from Burren winterage related tweets during October (Appendix 5)

4 FOCUS ON BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL

The Burren winterage school has been an annual focal point for HNV-Link dissemination and networking activities within the Burren Learning Area and nationally. Since 2016 HNV-Link has had dedicated workshops and sessions during the school. During this event, we often host international visitors keen to learn and share their experiences of sustainable agriculture and with a focus HNV areas. This year as it is the final Burren Winterage School during the project lifetime there has been a particular focus on sharing innovation with a wider audience, and building a future network within Ireland focused around the theme of farming for nature.



Burren and Slieve Aughty field trips

This years school started on Friday 26th with visits to two High Nature Value farmland areas i.e. The Burren and the Slieve Aughty mountains. HNV-Link cross visit participants were joined by farmers, advisors, researchers and government officials from around Ireland on field trips to working farms in the east Burren and in the Slieve Aughty mountains (east of Gort). The aim was to see what 'farming for nature' looks like at farm level, to meet some of the actors involved and to hear their perspectives.

This stimulated a lot of conversation and set the scene for discussions on HNV innovations and networking over the next 2 days.



Selection of crowd at Innovation fair

In the evening, the local branch of the Irish Farmers Association together with Burrenbeo trust organised an 'innovation fair' at the local livestock mart. A range of innovative technologies to support farming for nature - such as drones - were demonstrated, along with discussions on animal breeding and nutrition.

400 farmers attended the event from both the Slieve Aughty and Burren region.

The School moved to Kinvara on Saturday 27th for a day-long series of presentations including a look at some of the wider challenges facing farming for nature, including Brexit, Climate Change and evolving agricultural policies and market trends. HNV Link together with other European researchers discussed the socio-cultural perspectives on farming for nature, building support networks for nature and the role of biodiversity data recording in nature conservation. The event was divided into 4 themed sessions:

1. Farming for Nature : the broader context
2. Understanding farmers views about things
3. Farming for Nature-stories from the land (a session featuring five short films on farming for nature followed by a panel discussion with the farmers involved)
4. Networks for Nature



Brendan Dunford (BurrenBeo Trust); James Moran (GMIT); Michael Davoren (Burren IFA); Brigid Barry (Co-ordinator Farming for Nature Awards).

Copies of the presentations from the Burren Winterage school can be downloaded from <https://www.burrenwinterage.com/copy-of-burren-winterage-school-2>.



Mairead McGuinness (MEP) Michael Moloney (Bord Bia), Brendan Dunford (Burrenbeo Trust) present national farming for nature awards to finalists and overall winner

Saturday finished with the national Farming for Nature which was presented by the Vice President of the European Parliament Mairead McGuinness MEP. The debriefing session for the HNV-Link cross visits that took place before the awards was attended by Mairead McGuinness. The learning areas had the opportunity to discuss their learning areas and HNV issues with Mairead McGuinness during this session.

In conclusion there was a strong consensus from those involved in the 2018 Burren Winterage School and the Farming for Nature (FFN) Awards that the FFN concept is potentially very powerful and worth developing further. This has the potential to build into a larger network of farmers and supporters focused on farming for nature. The network could help promote and support FFN through development of resources/knowledge platform for farmers and others who want apply nature friendly farming and high nature value farming practices in their area. The Burren Winterage School will continue as an annual event sharing knowledge and as a meeting place for farmers and other actors involved in HNV farming in Ireland and internationally. The formation and funding of a range of

European Innovation Partnership (EIPs) operational groups concentrating on HNVf areas through Ireland's RDP gives and added impetus to this network. Many of the groups attended the winterage and associate events and there is and identified need to build on existing successful initiatives and share knowledge across areas.



HNV-Link LA teams at Burren Winterage and meeting Mairead McGuinness MEP

APPENDIX 1: BURREN WINTERAGE WEEKEND PROGRAMME OF EVENTS





Burren Winterage Weekend PROGRAMME 25th-28th October 2018

Incorporating the
BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL

Thursday 25th October

Pre-conference event **TEAGASC NATIONAL AGRI-ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE**

'From Burren Beginnings to Locally Led European Innovation Projects'

WHEN: 9:30am-4pm **ADM:** Free - booking required on www.teagasc.ie **WHERE:** GORT Lady Gregory Hotel

BURREN PERFUMERY SOAP-BALL WORKSHOP

Burren woodland inspirations at the Perfumery: a hands-on soap-ball workshop to thrill the senses! Learn how to blend soap with a range of natural seasonal essential oils and dried plants. **WHEN:** 11am-12:15pm **ADM:** €10 donation to the Burrenbeo Trust – booking essential at www.burrenwinterage.com **WHERE:** CARRON Burren Perfumery

BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL: WORKSHOP

High Nature Value LINK - sharing European innovations in farming for nature. **WHEN:** 7:30pm-9:30pm **ADM:** Purchase Burren Winterage School tickets on www.burrenwinterage.com **WHERE:** GORT Lady Gregory Hotel

Friday 26th October

BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL: FIELD TRIPS

Field trips to the Burren and Slieve Aughty regions. Visits to two locally-led agri-environmental schemes. Includes coach transfers and lunch in Gort (1-2pm). **WHEN:** 9am- 5pm **ADM:** Purchase Burren Winterage School tickets on www.burrenwinterage.com **WHERE:** GORT Start and finish at Lady Gregory Hotel

KINVARA FARMERS' MARKET

Local and artisanal food and craft stalls. Fresh bagels, fluffy scones, European cheeses, organic eggs, homemade jams, relishes and hot crepes... and pick up a pumpkin and a cosy hat! **WHEN:** 10am-2pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KINVARA Courthouse Road

MULTIMEDIA EXHIBITION

'Photographs and Faeries' by Regina O'Dea. KAVA (Kinvara Area Visual Arts) is delighted to present an exhibition by Regina O'Dea, a local artist and a Burren native. **WHEN:** 11am-5pm Fri-Sun **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KINVARA Courthouse

FARM BOOK EVENT

John Connell, author of 'The Cow Book', will talk about his experience as a returned emigrant on the family farm in Longford. 'A meditation on the real meaning of home and place' – The Irish Times. **WHEN:** 3-4pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** GORT Gort Library

FARMING FOR NATURE INNOVATION FAIR

A hands-on look at innovations in animal health, breeding and nutrition; demonstrations of new technologies for managing livestock on high nature value farmland. **WHEN:** 7.30-9:30pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** GORT Gort Mart

SINGING SESSION

Songs and stories in a traditional Irish pub.

WHEN: 10pm - late **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** GORT - SHANAGLISH Whelan's Pub. Location [here](#)

CEILI

Traditional Irish set dancing with the Star of Munster Ceili Band. Part of the Cooley Collins Trad Festival of traditional Irish music, song and dance - see www.cooleycollinstradfest.com **WHEN:** 9:30pm – 12:30am **ADM:** €10 **WHERE:** GORT Sullivan's Hotel



Saturday 27th October

BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL: CONFERENCE

Full day conference on the theme 'Farming for Nature'. Presentations, panel discussions, stories and films on innovations and challenges in farming for nature, socio-cultural perspectives, building support networks and meeting challenges such as climate change, globalisation and Brexit. Includes lunch in Kinvara (1-2pm) **WHEN:** 9am-5pm **ADM:** Purchase tickets on www.burrenwinterage.com **WHERE:** KINVARA Kinvara Community Centre

HERDSMAN'S WALK with farmer-poet Patrick McCormack. A fundraiser for local landscape charity the Burrenbeo Trust with tea & scones at Glanquin House (aka Fr Ted's House). **WHEN:** 9:30am-11:30am **ADM:** Advance booking required, €25 on www.burrenwinterage.com **WHERE:** Near KILNABOY Glanquin Farmhouse. Location [here](#).

SHORTHORN MART View Burren shorthorn cattle on sale. **WHEN:** 12pm start **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KILFENORA Mart

FAMILY FUN DAY Family fun on the last day of the season at the Ballyvaughan Farmers' Market. Demos and workshops from 11am-2pm: Pumpkin Carving - drop in with your pumpkin and have help designing it from 11-12! Recycling Workshop 12-12:30pm. Halloween-themed Recycling Art Workshop 12:30-2pm **WHEN:** 11am-2pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** BALLYVAUGHAN Village Hall

VINTAGE FARM MACHINERY DISPLAY Farming in the olden days – a demonstration of some of the unique tools used by farmers in the past. With John Connolly and friends. **WHEN:** 11am-2pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KINVARA Kinvara Community Centre carpark

FARM WALK Guided farm walk with local farmer Vinnie Keane. **WHEN:** 2-4pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** BOSTON Ballybornagh. Location [here](#).

COMMUNITY GATHERING & CHILDREN'S ART WORKSHOP Open evening for all the community with light refreshments. Featuring Children's Art and Nature Workshop with environmentalist Gordon D'Arcy and local children's Winterage Weekend Art Competition 2018. **WHEN:** 7-8pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KINVARA Kinvara Community Centre

FARMING FOR NATURE AWARDS The community celebration continues! Bord Bia Origin Green National Farming for Nature Awards 2018. See www.farmingfornature.ie **WHEN:** 8-10pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** KINVARA Kinvara Community Centre

Sunday 28th October **Please note that clocks go back overnight

WINTERAGE CATTLE DRIVE Accompany local farming family, the Linnanes, as they lead their cattle to winter grazing for another year, reliving an authentic local tradition. **WHEN:** 12pm-4pm **ADM:** Donation to Burrenbeo Trust (€5-10pp). **WHERE:** Starting from NEW QUAY St Patrick's Church. Location [here](#). **WARNING: NO DOGS ALLOWED. Wear suitable walking shoes and appropriate clothing for the weather.** 12pm onwards: meet at New Quay Church, for registration and refreshments: please bring your own mug. We'll hear from some local farmers and the cattle will receive a blessing from the priest before leaving at 12:45pm to walk up the Green Road towards Corker Hill. **Main walk: 4km each way, returning on the same Green Road, with spectacular views over Galway Bay.** After the cattle have reached the winter pastures, return on the Green Road to New Quay Church. **Longer walk: 12km loop walk.** The longer loop walk is a challenging walk on difficult terrain up Abbey Hill and back to the Green Road, ending at New Quay Church. For your safety only walkers wearing suitable footwear/clothing will be admitted to the longer walk – please adhere to the steward's decision.

BURREN FOOD FAYRE #TasteWithoutWaste Local producers display produce from the Burren region. Foraging walks, food stalls with local produce, cooking demos, foodie talks, upcycling and reuse workshops for adults and children, live jazz. Information at www.burren.ie **WHEN:** 11am-5pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** LISDOONVARNA Pavilion

All Weekend

BURREN PERFUMERY FREE TEA AND SCONE FOR BURRENBEO TRUST MEMBERS

Free tea/coffee/herbal tea and scone for Burrenbeo Trust members throughout the Winterage Weekend (with membership cards or can sign up on the day). **WHEN:** All weekend 10am-5pm **ADM:** Free **WHERE:** CARRON Burren Perfumery

WWW.BURRENWINTERAGE.COM – 091 638096 – info@burrenbeo.com



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APPENDIX 2: BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL CONFERENCE PROGRAMME





Burren Winterage School 2018

Conference: *Farming for Nature*

Saturday, 27th October 9am – 5pm

Kinvara Community Centre

9 - 11am Farming for Nature: the broader context

Chair: Michael Davoren, Burren farmer

Speakers:

Annabelle Williams (RISE Foundation) – *A Safe Operating Space for Livestock Farming in Europe*

Kevin Hanrahan (Teagasc) – *Brexit: Potential Implications for High Nature Value farmers*

John Sweeney (NUI Maynooth) – *Winners and Losers in Agriculture as Climate Changes.*

Liam MacHale (Irish Farmers Association, Brussels Office): *Global trade deals, evolving CAP discussions and the potential impact for HNV farmers*

11 – 11.30am Tea & Coffee Break – Merriman Hotel

11.30 - 1pm 'Understanding farmers' views about things.'

Chair: Áine Macken Walsh (Teagasc)

Speaker: Frank Vanclay, Department of Cultural Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands

Followed by a Q&A with Frank Vanclay and a panel of invited guests, chaired by Dr. Áine Macken Walsh

1– 2pm Light lunch provided at Merriman Hotel

(Demonstration of old farm tools will be taking place in and around the Community Centre, 11-2pm)

2 – 3pm Farming for Nature – Stories from the land

Chair: Brendan Dunford (Burren Programme)

Format: *Four short films on farming for nature followed by a chaired Q&A session with some 2018 Farming for Nature Award Nominees*

3.15 – 4.45pm Networks for Nature

Chair: James Moran (GMIT)

Speakers:

Fabrice Gouriveau (HNV LINK Project) – *HNV-Link: Networking for High Nature Value farming innovation*



Liam Lysaght (National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)) – *How the work of the NBDC can support farming for nature.*

Tilman Disselhoff (European Land Conservation Network- ELCN) - *Farmers and conservation organisations as partners – lessons from two continents*

4.45 - 5pm

Conference Summary and Close

Brendan Dunford, James Moran, Michael Davoren



APENDIX 3: NATIONAL AGRI-ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME





National Agri-Environment Conference 2018
The Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort, Co. Galway,
Thursday, 25th October, 2018



In Association with the Burren Winterage




22 IASIS CPE Credits

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/teagasc-agri-environment-conference-2018-tickets-45287485087>



10.00: Opening & Welcome to the Burren
Michael Davoren, Burren Farmer

Session I. 20 Years a Growing and still learning....

Chair: Pat Clarke, Teagasc Galway/Clare

10.15-10.45: The Burren Programme: '20 years a growing' - and still learning!
Dr. Brendan Dunford, The Burren Programme

10.45-11.15 Complimentary Tea/Coffee and refreshments

Session II. Can locally led be done on a National scale?

Chair: Catherine Keena, Countryside Management, Teagasc

11.15-11.45: Agri Environment Policy Challenges in CAP reform
Jack Nolan, DAFM

11.45-12.15: From Aran LIFE to Caomhnú Árann EIP
Patrick McGurn, Aran LIFE

12.15-12.45: Challenges in establishing a large EIP project
Fergal Monaghan, The Hen Harrier Project

12.45-1.00: Beef tasting session from Devenish and Dawn Meats Hen Harrier Project upland grazing trial

1.00-1.45 Lunch

Session III. EIP's

Chair: Maura Farrell, NUIG

1.45-2.30 EIP Projects – Challenges in starting a new EIP

- Water Quality: A concerted effort to meet our objectives. (Local Authorities Waters Programme). Ruairí Ó Conchúir
- SUAS EIP (Sustainable Upland Agri-Environment Scheme). Declan Byrne
- BRIDE EIP (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairy Environment). Donal Sheehan

Session IV. The Road Forward

Chair: Noel Meehan, ASSAP Teagasc

2.30-3.00 Water and Agriculture – the EU Commission view
Gerard Shortle, DG Environment, European Commission

3.15-3.30 A Policy perspective
Dr James Moran, GMIT

3.15-3.45 Panel Discussion and Conference Close



APPENDIX 4: SELECTION OF MEDIA CLIPPINGS



Friday, November 2, 2018

The Clare Champion

Farming

Email: editor@clarechampion.ie Telephone 065 6828105



Laura Kane, Roscommon and Olivia Keogh, Dublin, ready to follow the livestock during the Burren Beo Winterage Cattle Drive at New Quay on Sunday. Photographs by Arthur Ellis



Michael Davoren, Burren IFA chats with Minister of State Pat Breen and MEP Mairead McGuinness.

Driving cattle to higher pastures in the Burren

AN ancient Burren farming tradition continued last weekend. To mark the delicate relationship between farming and nature in the Burren, each year Burrenbeo Trust, together with the local community, joins the farmers on the October bank holiday weekend as they walk their cattle to the winter pastures.

With activities based around Ballyvaughan, there was a strong family element to the festival, with many drawn to North Clare on the Halloween mid-term break.

Stretching back thousands of years, winterage is a practice of transhumance agriculture (where animals are moved from one grazing ground to another seasonally). On the Burren it's the reason why local biodiversity is so unique.

The Burren Winterage event also brings with it an opportunity to recognise the broader role of farming in shaping the landscape and its nature. On Saturday, Patrick McCormack led the Herdsman's Walk, with stories and folklore about the Burren and its people. On Sunday, the community joined in the cattle drive, a long uphill walk with the farmers and the cattle to commemorate the practice of winterage.

Meanwhile, Dr Leanne Howard from Victoria, Australia, whose family hail from the area, outlined her perspective on the event.

"Coming from a country in the midst of catastrophic drought, where many farming communities are distressed and some of our leading politicians are climate change deniers, it was heartening and refreshing to see an international and diverse group of farmers, academics and those whose role it is to support farming communities come together to acknowledge and discuss the challenges—and seek solutions—for the issues facing us globally, and more locally here in the Burren."

The Burren Winterage Weekend highlighted the importance of high nature value (HNV) farming to our future. In the Burren, smaller family-run farms have the long term advantage over large investment-driven properties in addressing sustainable ways of living, food security and responding to climate change challenges and social conditions. The uncertainty of Brexit, however, is a reality that looms and with Ireland exporting 90% of its food, tariff barriers are a wide concern.

The emphasis was on farming families who hold local knowledge and adjust their practices accordingly. We know that while making a reasonable income from farming is vital, farming is far more than about economic return. It is a way of life. It is part of identity and belonging and many farming families see themselves as caretakers of the land for future generations. Traditional practices continue and are celebrated. On Sunday, the Autumn sun shone brightly, the cattle were blessed, and hundreds of people from near and far followed Linnane's cattle from St Patrick's, New Quay up the green road to Corker Hill and the winterage. The more agile amongst us then continued to Abbey Hill. A fitting way to honour tradition, support farming families, respect the land."



Pat Breen and Rene Downes, Kilmihil, with their daughters, twins Bella and Belle (6) and Elke (8).



CONNACHT TRIBUNE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2018

FARMING 81



MOVING UP IN THE WORLD

Burren Winterage Weekend will celebrate the link between local farmers and the environment

BY FRANCIS FARRAGHER

IT'S a special few days for farmers in the Gort, Kinvara and North Clare region with the holding of the Burren Winterage Weekend - an event that highlights the link between nature and the local farming community.

This is the time of year, when for generations, farmers in the Burren area, traditionally move their cattle from the lowlands to the drier higher ground for the winter months - an arrangement that works perfectly both for the farmers and the natural environment.

The limestone landscape of the upland Burren area provides a warm and dry environment for the cattle to graze and rest, while at the same time allowing the lower areas to rejuvenate for the following Spring.

Now the practice has turned into a 'long weekend', stretching from this Thursday, October 25 to Sunday, October 28, the high point of which will be the 'walking' of the cattle to the higher ground next Sunday.

Brendan Dunford, Co-founder of the Burrenbeo Trust, and the recipient of an honorary doctorate last week from NUI Galway for his work on the Burren, said that a rich variety of events had been lined up for this weekend.

"To celebrate this inspiring relationship between farming and nature in the Burren, each year the Burrenbeo Trust, together with the local community, joins the farmers on the October Bank Holiday weekend as they walk their cattle to the winter pastures.

"But the weekend of Burren Winterage also brings with it an opportunity to recognise the broader role of farming in shaping the Irish landscape and its link with nature.

"To this end, a rich variety of events to engage and inspire has been organised all through the Winterage Weekend, in different places around the Burren, to which the Burrenbeo Trust would like to invite the local and wider community," said Brendan Dunford.

On Saturday, Patrick McCormack will lead the unforgettable 'Herdsman's Walk', with fascinating stories and folklore about the Burren and its farmers while on the following day the community will join in the Winterage Cattle Drive, a long uphill walk with the farmers and the cattle to commemorate the practice of Winterage.

All through the weekend talks, workshops, field trips and a farm innovation fair have been planned as a part of the annual Burren Winterage School, where farmers from different parts of the country, as well as

different parts of Europe, will come together to share their experiences and challenges around farming for nature.

Annalisa Murphy, Coordinator for the Burrenbeo Trust, said that this year, they would be partnering in a national award ceremony for farmers who have done outstanding work on their farms for nature on Saturday in Kinvara.

"Members of the public can view short films on the six short-listed farmers and vote at www.farmingformature.ie There is also an open invitation for people to share their own stories of positive connections between farming and nature using the comment box on the website," she said.

Other events taking place during the weekend include a book reading by John Connell, author of 'The Cow Book' [See panel]; a children's art and nature workshop with environmentalist Gordon D'Arcy; recycling workshops; pumpkin carving; a vintage machinery display and the Burren Food Fayre.

While many of the events are free of charge, some of the ticketed events of the Winterage Weekend are fundraisers for the not-for-profit landscape charity, Burrenbeo Trust.

■ For more info on the Winterage Weekend programme visit: burrenwinterage.com or burrenbeo.com

READING FROM COW BOOK TO BE PART OF BURREN WEEKEND TREATS

AS part of the Burren Winterage Weekend, John Connell will read from his book, aptly titled *The Cow Book* on this Friday (Oct. 26) between 3 and 4 pm at Gort Library.

Described as an honest and compelling account of farm life, the book has become one of the most remarkable memoirs to come out of Ireland this year.

Connell, a 29-year-old returned emigrant to Longford, explained the origin of his book, "Although farming had been in my family for generations, I had never intended to follow in my father's footsteps, until one winter, unexpected circumstances led me back on the family farm where I found myself learning the ways of the farmer and the way of the cows."

In his book, Connell records the hypnotic rhythm of the farming day - cleaning the outhouses, milking the herd, tending to sickly lambs and helping the cows give birth. But alongside the routine events, there are the unforeseen moments when things go wrong - when a calf fails to thrive; when a sheep goes missing; when illness breaks out; when depression takes hold; when an argument erupts and things are said that cannot be unsaid.

The book is the story of a calving season. It is also the story of the cow itself,

from its domestication and worship as a God by the Ancient Egyptians, to the modern practice of mechanised herds, via the figure of the cowboy, the destruction of the American buffalo, the demise of the aboriginal jackaroos and the consequences of BSE.

"Above all, it is the story of my life as a farmer, and of my relationship with my birthplace of County Longford, with the community around the family farm, with the animals I tend, and with my father," said John Connell.

The Irish Times has called *The Cow Book* 'a meditation on the real meaning of home and place'. The Guardian newspaper has described John Connell's book as: 'A moving memoir (that) tracks his life on the family farm ... and charts humanity's long relationship with cattle'.

"As communities living in and around the Burren come together this October Bank Holiday to celebrate the value of farming to our landscape and heritage, we are delighted to have John Connell read from his book that will no doubt resonate with all of us, farmers and non-farmers alike," said Annalisa Murphy, Coordinator at the Burrenbeo Trust.

This Farm Book Event has free admission and is one of the many events organised for the Burren Winterage Weekend taking place over this weekend.





Bottom of Front page of Irish Farmers Journal 3rd of November (Weekly farming newspaper with a weekly readership of 235,000)



5 page focus on Burren Winterage Weekend and farming for nature in Farmers Journal prior to winterage-20th October (readership 235,000)



64 FOCUS

IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL
Saturday 20 October 2018

Farming for nature

Q&A



Peter Varley asks Dr Brendan Dunford about the background to the Farming for Nature Awards and the concept in general

1 What does Farming for Nature mean and what are the objectives of the initiative?

Farming for Nature means what it says – managing the land and livestock in a way that respects and enhances the natural world around us.

The Farming for Nature initiative seeks to acknowledge and support those farmers who farm, or wish to farm, in a way that will improve the natural health of our countryside.

2 Why is this concept being promoted so much now?

There is widespread awareness of the environmental damage that can be caused by the wrong type of farming. We hear about it all the time. There isn't as much discussion of those that are doing a great job farming for nature, about the positive stories, meaning we don't have many good role models. This negative narrative can alienate farmers from nature, making them feel apart from it rather than part of it.

Encouraging farmers to feel that they are part of the solution, not just the problem, is the first step in a long journey which will require a lot of financial and technical support, new partnerships and new visions. This award can hopefully be a start.

3 Is it just for farmers who are farming in more difficult terrain with high nature value or can any farmer get involved?

This initiative is relevant to all farmers. As a business, farming depends on nature in one form or another.

This year's shortlist includes farmers from some of the most fertile land in Ireland, as well as farmers in remote upland and island areas.

What they all have in common is an interest in nature and an appetite to ensure that their farm, and their landscape, is passed on to the next generation of farmers in the best possible condition.

4 Where did the idea come from to hold awards celebrating Farming for Nature?

The idea initially came from the Burren, where we organised an annual awards ceremony to acknowledge those farmers who had done really exceptional work under the Burren Programme. We wanted to thank these farmers publicly, but also show the broader community the amazing amount of hard work, skill and ingenuity involved in looking after the land properly.

The event, funded by Bord Bia, worked really well. The farmers were delighted and proud of the award. It gave them the impetus to carry on their great work and act as spokespeople for the importance of farming and nature.

So we approached Bord Bia and they very kindly agreed to try this at a national level in 2018.



We need to rethink what it means to be a farmer, that it's about managing the livestock but also about managing the land (and water) in a way that will deliver multiple benefits to the farmer and to society. © Kari Hughes

5 Six farmers have been nominated for these awards, how were they nominated and why?

The six farmers were among a larger group of farmers who were nominated by a panel of over 150 environmental experts from across Ireland. We used this nomination process because we didn't want this to be seen as a 'green-washing' exercise – having a network of professional nominators was therefore critical. The farmers were nominated because the experts felt that these farmers were doing great things for nature on their farm and/or in their community, and they would be great role models for others.

6 How do you see the Farming for Nature initiative growing in the future?

Farming for Nature is a mostly voluntary initiative so we can only do so much. But I would love to see an annual national award – and who knows, an international competition in future years. But as well as the awards, I'd like to see this initiative acting as a catalyst for more supportive policies under the CAP for farmers who want to farm for nature, better research and advisory supports for farming for nature, and a wider recognition by society (including the farming community) of the importance of Farming for Nature for the health of our countryside and of our communities.

7 What is the Burren Programme, when was it launched and how/why did it get off the ground?

The Burren Programme (BP) is a pioneering farmer-centered, results-

based initiative based in the Burren, Co Clare and Co Galway. The BP arose from the findings of the Burren LIFE project (2004-2010) and commenced in April 2010.

It got off the ground because it enjoyed the strong support of the Burren farming community who had been centrally involved in co-creating a blueprint for Burren farming under the LIFE project. Its success was also founded on its solid research base, its proven impact in delivering environmental impacts and the presence of an experienced team based in a local office in the heart of the Burren.

8 How many farmers are involved in the Burren Programme and what tasks do they have to carry out?

Currently 330 farmers – farming over 22,500ha of Burren farmland – participate in the BP. They receive two sets of annual payments. One is a results-based payment where they are rewarded for the management of each field on the farm, based on its environmental condition – largely determined by how well-managed (grazed) it is during the year.

The second payment is for works that farmers nominate, and carry out, themselves – including scrub removal, wall repair, water provision, access provision, fencing and gate installation.

We never tell a farmer what to do – we instead ask them what they feel needs to be done, and if we agree that this will improve the environment then we will co-fund it with them and help them to get the necessary permissions.

9 What financial support do they receive to carry out these tasks and what is the return for the tax payer?

The average payment per farm between 2010 and 2015 was €6,500 – this was in addition to any REPS/AEOS payment. For farm works, each farmer is granted an annual allowance of €100/ha, with a maximum allocation of €7,000/year.

Some farmers may choose to do no work, and they receive no payment, while others may seek to use all of their allowance. All works are co-funded by the farmer (at a rate of 25%, 50% or 75% depending on the job) and they are only paid once the job has been completed fully.

10 Why do farmers in the Burren need so much support, would they not farm these lands anyways?

We see these supports as rewarding farmers for the delivery of services that society wants, not as a form of compensation. Without this funding it is highly likely that grazing levels on the Burren winterages would continue to decline, resulting in ongoing scrub encroachment which would in turn result in a loss of rare grassland habitats and archaeology.

We can't let this happen in the Burren, the richest heritage landscape in Ireland, at least not without trying to do something about it. The future of the Burren and its communities, local and visiting, depends on it.

11 Do you think it would be a good idea to roll out more similar projects in other parts of Ireland – or is this already happening?

Absolutely, we need more locally targeted, farmer-centered approaches whereby farmers are rewarded for delivering environmental outcomes, whether these be biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water management, recreation etc.

And we need to rethink what it means to be a farmer, that it's about managing the livestock but also about managing the land (and water) in a way that will deliver multiple benefits to the farmer and to society.

Dr Brendan Dunford

From a farming background in Co Waterford, Brendan has spent the past 20 years living and working in the Burren region. He led the award-winning Burren LIFE Project (2005-2010), its successor, the pioneering Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (2010-2015) and currently manages the new Burren Programme. Along with his late wife Ann O'Connor, Brendan co-founded Burrenbee Teo and is secretary of its successor, the Burrenbee Trust, Ireland's only landscape-based charity which delivers an extensive annual programme of place-based learning initiatives.



“ We see these supports as rewarding farmers for the delivery of services that society wants, not as a form of compensation



IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL
Saturday 20 October 2018

FOCUS 55

Burren Winterage Weekend – what's on?

A number of events and activities will be held to celebrate the Burren Winterage Weekend and the national Farming for Nature Awards, writes **Peter Varley**

It will be all systems go during the Burren Winterage Weekend which will be held in Gort and Kinvara, Co Galway, between 25 and 28 October, Annalisa Murphy, Coordinator for the Burren Trust, says that the turning of autumn to winter is a very special time for farmers in the Burren. In an age-old tradition for the area, cattle from the lowlands

are herded up to the limestone uplands for grazing over winter. "This might seem counter-intuitive. But the landscape of upland limestone in the Burren provides a warm, dry place for the cattle to rest, as well as water from calcium-rich springs to drink and a great variety of plants to eat," according to Annalisa.

To celebrate this tradition the Burren Trust, together with the local community, will join the farmers on the October holiday weekend as they walk their cattle to the winter pastures. As well as the traditional farm walk, there will be lots of other activities, talks, workshops, field trips and a farm innovation fair. These events have been planned as a part of the annual Burren Winterage School, where farm-

ers from different parts of the country, as well as different parts of Europe, will come together to share their experiences and challenges around farming for nature. Groups from France, Sweden, Estonia, Croatia, Romania and the UK will be among those joining farmers from the Burren and elsewhere in Ireland at the event.

This year, for the first time, the Farming for Nature Awards will be held as part of the festival, on the evening of Saturday 27 October in Kinvara, Co Galway. This is a national award ceremony which the Burren Trust is a partner in. "Members of the public can view short films on the six shortlisted farmers and vote at www.farmingfornature.ie [see page 56 for more details]. There is also an open invitation for people to

The landscape of upland limestone in the Burren provides a warm, dry place for the cattle to rest

share their own stories of positive connections between farming and nature using the comment box on the website," Farming for Nature project co-ordinator Beigid Barry explained. Other events taking place during the weekend include a reading by John Connolly, author of *The Cow Book*; a children's art and nature workshop with environmentalist Gordon D'Arcy; recycling workshops; pumpkin carving; a vintage machinery display; and the Burren Food Fayre.

While many of the events are free of charge, some of the ticketed events of the Burren Winterage Weekend are fundraisers for the not-for-profit landscape charity, Burren Trust.

For more information, visit www.burrenwinterage.com.

Burren Winterage Weekend timetable

Pre-conference event on Thursday 25 October

9.30am to 4pm Teagasc National Agri-Environmental Conference - From Burren Beginnings to locally led EIPs.
Venue: Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort.
Entry free, but booking required - see www.teagasc.ie/news-events/national-events/events/national-agri-environment.php

Thursday, 25 October 7.30-10pm Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

6pm-7.30pm Burren Winterage School - Registration and welcome

7.30-9.30pm Session 1: HNV LINK - sharing European innovations.

Chair: James Moran (Galway Mayo Institute of Technology - GMIT).

Presentations: High Nature Value (HNV) landscapes from across Europe (Sweden, France, Romania, Croatia, the UK) present a brief insight into their region, some HNV innovations that have worked for them, and the challenges that they most urgently need to address in future. See www.hnvl.eu for more information. Followed by a chaired discussion and a drinks reception.

Friday, 26 October, 9am-5pm, starting from Lady

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Saturday 20th October at 12pm
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Thursday 25th October at 6pm
SPECIAL MONTHLY CONTINENTAL WEANLING SALE - PEDIGREE LIMOUSIN HEIFER SALE at 7.30pm
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CATTLE SALES - DRY COWS, HEIFERS, BULLDOGS
FRIDAY 10th NOVEMBER at 11am
CATTLE SALES - DRY COWS, HEIFERS, BULLDOGS
SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER at 10am
GENERAL HORSE SALE INCLUDING FOALS
Entries open Tuesday 30th Oct. - Contact office for entry forms.

Gregory Hotel, Gort

9am-10am Welcome and field trip briefing. Registration desk also open.

10am-6pm Session 2: HNV Field Trips to the Burren and Slieve Aughty regions. Visits to two 'locally led' agri-environment schemes, both of which include a results-based payments approach.

Leaders: Burren Programme - Sharon Parr www.burrenprogramme.com; Hen Harrier Project - Caroline O'Sullivan www.henharrierproject.ie. Includes coach transfers and lunch in Gort (1-2pm). All delegates will have a chance to visit both projects.

Friday, 26 October, 7.30 - 9.30pm Gort Livestock Mart

7.30pm - 9.30pm Session 3: Farming for Nature Innovation Fair.

A hands-on look at innovations in animal health, breeding and nutrition as well as discussion and demonstrations on the use of new technologies in managing livestock on HNV farmland.

Chair: Michael Davoren (Burren farmer)

Thomas: Livestock breeding and management for rough pastureland. Animal nutrition-supplementary feeding options to optimise foraging.

High-tech solutions to livestock management on HNV farmland.

10pm - late Farming and nature - songs from the land. An unforgettable night of songs at Whelan's Pub, Shanaglish, Gort.

Saturday, 27 October 9.30-5pm Kinvara Community Centre, Kinvara

9.30-11am Session 4: Farming for Nature: the broader context

Chair: (Burren farmer).

Speakers: Annebelle Williams (RISE Foundation) - A Safe Operating Space for Livestock Farming in Europe; Kevin Hanrahan (Teagasc) - Brexit: Potential Implications for high nature value farmers; John Sweeney (NUI Maynooth) - Winners and Losers in Agriculture as Climate Changes; Liam McHale (Irish Farmers Association, Brussels Office) - Global trade deals, evolving CAP discussions and the potential impact for HNV farmers.

11-11.30am Tea and coffee break.

11.30-1pm Session 5: Understanding farmers' views about things.

Chair: Aine Macken Walsh (Teagasc).

Speakers: Frank Vanclay, Department of Cultural Geography, Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen, The Netherlands.

Followed by a Q&A with Frank Vanclay and a panel of invited guests, chaired by Dr Aine Macken Walsh (Teagasc).

1-2pm Lunch provided at Merriman Hotel, Kinvara.

2-3pm Session 6: Farming for Nature - Stories from the land **Chair:** Brendan Dunford (Burren Programme).

Format: Five short films on farming for nature followed by a chaired Q&A session with some 2018 Farming for Nature Award nominees.

3.15-4.45pm Session 7: Networks for Nature

Chair: (Burren farmer)

Speakers: Fabrice Gouriou (HNV LINK Project) - Networking for high nature value farming innovation; Liam

Lyseight (National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)) - How the work of the NBDC can support farming for nature; Tilmann Disselhoff (European Land Conservation Network-ELCN) - Farmers and conservation organisations as partners - lessons from two continents.

4.45-5pm Conference summary and close.

Brendan Dunford, James Moran, Michael Davoren.

7-8pm Community event featuring Children's Art competition.

8-9.30pm Bord Bia National Farming for Nature Award 2018

Visit www.farmingfornature.ie for more information.

Compere: Ella McSweeney.

Guest Speaker: Mairead McGuinness (MEP)

9.30pm Option to enjoy and participate in entertainment in local hostilities.

Post-conference events: 11am-4pm,

Sunday 28 October

The Annual Burren Winterage cattle drive.

The Burren Food Fayre.

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Monday 29th October (Bank Holiday) - Weanling Sale at 11am.

KILRUSH: Weanling & General Sale Wednesday 26th October.

SCARIFF: Weanling & General Sale Saturday 27th October.

Thursday 28th October in Ennis - Special Section for 4 & 5 Euro Star Rating for Replacement Index Heifers (entry forms available).

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IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL
Saturday 20 October 2018

Farming for Nature Awards – meet the farmer finalists

The public are being asked to vote on six shortlisted farmers for the 2018 National Farming for Nature Award



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Members of the public, and in particular the farming community, are being asked to vote for one of six shortlisted farmers as their top choice for the 2018 National Farming for Nature Award. The prestigious award is part of a wider independent initiative (www.farmingfornature.ie) which hopes to source, share and celebrate the stories of those farmers across Ireland who are doing great things for nature on their land and in their community. The purpose of the award is to shine a light on some of the many positive stories of how farmers interact with nature and perhaps inspire other farmers to follow suit by taking on simple measures to help nature on their farm.

From an initial long list of farmers, nominated by over 150 environmental professionals, a shortlist of six farmers has been compiled by a panel of judges. A five-minute film has been made about each shortlisted farmer and now the public are being asked to view the films and vote for their favourite one, with the winner to be announced at a special event on Saturday 27 October in Kinvara, Co Galway.

Following on from last week's profiles of three of the finalists, this week we profile the remaining three:

About the award

The national Farming for Nature Award is an independent initiative which is sponsored by An Bord Bia and supported by a wide range of farming and conservation interests including the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, the National Rural Network, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the Irish Farmers Association, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Teagasc, the Irish Farmer's Journal and the Heritage Council.

It developed from the 'farming for conservation' awards scheme in the Burren which celebrated those farmers who had done the most for nature and heritage on their land.

The deadline for votes is midnight Thursday 25 October 2018.

Go to www.farmingfornature.ie to view the videos of these inspiring farmers or contact info@farmingfornature.ie for more information.



IRISH FARMERS JOURNAL
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FOCUS 57

Sean O'Farrell

Sean manages a 60-acre certified organic at Clonacannon Farm on the western slopes of the Devil's Bit Mountains, near Moneygall in north Tipperary. Sean has been farming since he took over from his father 15 years ago and now keeps a 20-cow suckler herd, as well as pigs, poultry and goats.

A university graduate with a master's degree in biodiversity and conservation, Sean is a heritage enthusiast, continuously planting native trees, putting in ponds for wildlife and pollinator strips for his bees and birds. He does this to encourage biodiversity but also for his personal fulfilment and satisfaction "for when he has aged 30 or 40



years from now". He says that this is part of "my five-year plan, my 50-year plan" and feels that farmers should think long-term like the native

Americans, "seven generations from now". Sean feels he is on a journey of learning and he is particularly passionate about the importance of soil and making sure it is properly nurtured to ensure good crop health.

"The microbes and the fungi – so minute yet so powerful, they drive the whole system."

Sean runs numerous education programmes for primary and secondary schools, hosts events for Biodiversity and Heritage Week and opens the farm as an eco-tourist visitor site.

Kim McCall

Kim and his wife Mireille manage a 214-acre mixed livestock farm in Calvers-town, Kildare. They keep a herd of 75 pedigree suckler cows and their followers, a flock of circa 80 sheep, as well as a few pigs in the summertime. The farm boasts a wide range of habitats such as wetlands, woodlands, wet and dry grasslands, old buildings and walls. For the McCalls, these features make a walk around the farm "a very pleasurable experience, even when things might not be going too well otherwise".

Kim acknowledges that farming sustainably isn't easy, particularly trying to remain profitable, but feels that if you manage the land within its capacity, it's very



doable – "farming for nature, not against it," as he says. No artificial fertilisers are purchased, no pesticides are used and hedgerows and grasslands are rarely topped.

"Tidiness is a state of mind," according to Kim. The preferred approach being a careful and balanced management which has resulted in an ideal situation for nature – birds, butterflies, bees – to thrive. The McCall's work in this regard has been recognised by several national awards and several appearances on TV. The McCall's work closely with the National Biodiversity Data Centre, providing valuable data. Kim offers the following advice on farming for nature: "Stand back and look – observation is the basis for intelligence."



Pat Dunne

Pat is a sixth-generation hill sheep farmer in Glenmalur Valley, Co Wicklow. He farms with his two sons, together keeping 1,100 ewes on 1,250ac of commonage. The farm is 90% mountain grazing, mostly dry

heath and upland grassland which is all designated SAC and NHA. The area is rich in wildlife, including grouse.

Pat takes his role as the current 'keeper' of the family's long tradition of work on the uplands seriously and is anxious to hand over the Wicklow hills in the best possible condition to the next generation of upland farmers. He feels that over the last 40 years there has been a slow but progressive decline in hill sheep farming, with the quality of the

grazing declining along with the associated biodiversity, as bracken and Molinia start to take over. Pat was determined to work out a solution to this issue and was instrumental in establishing the new Sustainable Upland Agri-Environmental Scheme (SUAS) so that farmers can work together to the better of the uplands. The project will explore key management issues including vegetation management through targeted grazing, feeding and burning. Pat

feels that it is important to keep these places "as living landscapes, not just wilderness".

Though he recognises the challenges, Pat loves farming and doesn't "know a better way of life".

He was one of the first Wicklow farmers to establish an Agreed Access Route on his lands. He is very involved in the local community, also in the Wicklow Uplands Council and at a national level on the IFA's Hill Committee.



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APPENDIX 5: TWITTER ACTIVITY REPORT JAMES MORAN (@MORANENV)

Tweet text	time	impressions
Mayo farm wins the first National Farming for Nature Award https://t.co/FbFfoZAT1w	2018-10-29 21:06 +0000	1483
Article on @farmfornature award 2018 winner has quotes from @MaireadMcGMEP speech with insights on #FutureofCAP https://t.co/m5CsywTjHN	2018-10-29 15:38 +0000	783
@PhilHoganEU @IFAMedia @joehealyfarmer @EUAgri @COPACOGCECA @eurireland A deserving winner. Such drive and ambition for a better future. #inspirational farm leader	2018-10-29 00:19 +0000	207
Great way to round off a wonderful few days in #Burren. Highlights support of wider community for @farmfornature #HNV https://t.co/aQsLoqzAs1	2018-10-28 16:12 +0000	1601
Kim and the rest of the @farmfornature nominees are truly inspirational innovative farmers representing range of farming systems. Share your story with us #farmingfornature18 “There’s a real need to be proactive in farming with nature” McCall https://t.co/JizU9ILP6K #agriland	2018-10-28 09:51 +0000	1479
@felixd0r @farmfornature @AchillMtnLamb @Bordbia @ellamcsweeney @MaireadMcGMEP @BurrenbeoTrust Agree. This is just one of the challenges faced by nature and farmers in these areas. We need to all work together to implement solutions #FutureofCAP #partners	2018-10-28 08:19 +0000	181
Field trip overview #Burrenprogramme #RBAPS #HNV #sustainable #community #Nature #partnership #innovation @BurrenbeoTrust @HenHarrierProj https://t.co/lbUQJgnb5P	2018-10-27 07:08 +0000	836
Caroline Sullivan introduces the @HenHarrierProj prior to field trips @HNVLink https://t.co/sKgeMM54Po	2018-10-26 08:51 +0000	173
Sharon Parr introduces #Burren programme prior to field trips @HNVLink cross visits #HNV #RBAPS https://t.co/VxRRFg3Tau	2018-10-26 08:34 +0000	414
Donal Sheehan @bride_project outlines Biodiversity management areas on intensive dairy farms. Incentivises improvement through results based payments #RBAPS https://t.co/sdATsGiNGf	2018-10-25 13:41 +0000	862
Basic principles of Hen Harrier programme #HNV #EIP https://t.co/7yWSSJAK00	2018-10-25 11:37 +0000	631
Up next Fergal Monaghan the largest #EIP in Europe #RBAPS #HNV https://t.co/vzzUTAUmht	2018-10-25 11:25 +0000	829
Next up Patrick McGurn @AranLIFE #HNV https://t.co/fAc7aWxvl4	2018-10-25 10:52 +0000	491



Excellent presentation from @agriculture_ie Jack Nolan outlining scale of challenges and need to work together to find solutions #knowledge #sharing https://t.co/t0d1InvYD2	2018-10-25 10:51+0000	820
Key principles of Burren programme #HNV @HNVLink #RBAPS https://t.co/eLLzORDyYj	2018-10-25 09:46+0000	1226
Brendan Dunford and Michael Davoren opening session of @teagasc agri-environment conference. "environmental farming has a major role to play in future of farming in Ireland" #HNV @HNVLink https://t.co/6MNGEnzggn	2018-10-25 09:20+0000	3346
Register online at https://t.co/wWYSC8e9As	2018-10-23 22:02+0000	149
Still some space left at this year's Burren Winterage school. Everything from international innovation network @HNVLink to locally led solutions, #Brexit #climatechange #global #trade @farmfornature and more https://t.co/1GFKcSr8q8	2018-10-23 22:01+0000	953
Farming on the Burren: I wouldn't be at anything else https://t.co/gYonJNW3PN #agriland	2018-10-23 21:52+0000	303
Ailbhe Gerrard, mixed farmer, Tipperary #farmingfornature18 https://t.co/2YHAjLaupe via @Audioboom	2018-10-22 20:05+0000	242
Something different for #wildflowerhour @BSBIbotany vote for one of the finalist providing the space for nature on their farm. https://t.co/YzigQZnPHI	2018-10-21 19:57+0000	1872
Nice piece on @RTECountryWide this morning about @farmfornature awards. Highlights what awards are all about: positive stories about farming and nature to inspire others. Show your support by voting at https://t.co/gMI6n89qpA	2018-10-20 08:09+0000	1652
Great piece @AgrilandIreland with Brendan Dunford @HNVLink Burren learning area. Highlights great work with farmers on the Burren https://t.co/sRWScpaUlk	2018-10-19 10:29+0000	964
Totals		21497

