

Kerry Social Farming is voluntary and community based which is steered by the KSF Working Group, whose membership comprises representatives of project partners.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG provides the legal, financial and administrative governance of KSF.



Kerry Social Farming

If you would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you

Kerry Social Farming Partners

- South Kerry Development Partnership CLG
- North, East & West Kerry Development CLG
- Host farmers
- Kerry County Council
- Local Link Kerry
- Kerry Parents & Friends Association
- St. John of God Kerry Services
- Enable Ireland Kerry Branch
- HSE
- Cúnamh Iveragh
- Down Syndrome Kerry
- Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
- Kerry Education & Training Board Rehabcare
- Resilience Care
- Studio 3
- HSE Mental Health Service
- National Learning Network
- Inspired Service
- Novas

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Becoming a Host Farmer



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



KERRY



More Information

www.kerrysocialfarming.ie

www.facebook.com/kerrysocialfarming

[@kerrysocialfarm](https://www.instagram.com/kerrysocialfarm)

[youtube.com/@kerrysocialfarming3711](https://www.youtube.com/@kerrysocialfarming3711)

 www.kerrysocialfarming.ie





What is Social Farming?

Kerry Social Farming (KSF) offers an opportunity for people with physical and intellectual disabilities and those accessing mental health services to work with host farmers and their families in Kerry providing a viable option for achieving improved quality of life, greater inclusion and community networking.

What is a host farm?

A host farm remains a working farm at its core, with farming and family life continuing as normal while social farming participant are on the farm. Through the voluntary effort of farmers and their families, participants are encouraged to participate in the day to day farming activities while getting to know the farm family, neighbours and friends in the wider community.

What is a facilitator?

Kerry Social Farming facilitators provide support for each host farmer and participant as well as promoting collaboration between service providers and project partners. The facilitator is responsible for setting up social farming on each individual farm in a collaborative and supportive way for everyone involved.

How much time is involved?

In general a participant spends a full or half day each week on the host farm, working alongside the host farmer. While we operate the voluntary model we ensure that no host farmer is out of pocket through being a host farmer.

Advantages & Benefits to host farmers include:

- More motivation to take on additional tasks around the farm
- Reducing isolation with the added work companion on the farm
- Helping people with disabilities on your farm
- Becoming part of a new positive network of farmers
- Support from Kerry Social farming facilitators
- No extra paper work or administration required
- Training & Education opportunities for volunteer host farmers
- No additional cost for becoming a host farmer
- Respect & recognition within the community

Advantages & Benefits to people with disabilities (participants):

- Receiving an opportunity to experience life on a family farm
- Feeling the fresh air and working with animals
- Working and learning alongside a host farmer
- Building new friendships with host farm families and local community
- Learning new farming and life skills
- Achieving personal life choice goals by engaging with local farm families and the farming community



Kerry Social Farming History

Kerry Social Farming Project, which began with two farms in 2013, continues to expand, with up to 40 host farms now engaging with the project across the county, thanks to the dedication and voluntary effort of our host farmers. Kerry Social Farming offers long term social farming opportunities to people with disabilities (participants) in all parts of Co. Kerry.

Our host farmers are providing social farming opportunities on a weekly basis to over 60 participants, some of whom have been attending the same farm for over 5 years. Our host farms are varied, offering a great range of farming activities to suit the needs and preferences of all our participants. Host farms range from suckler, dairy, sheep and horticultural enterprises.

Through this innovative community-led initiative, we at Kerry Social Farming endeavour to promote and support the social inclusion and well-being of participants.

We are seeking support from our local farmers throughout Kerry to engage with us and offer opportunities for participants on your farms. This will ensure the project continues to grow and expand.

Kerry Social Farming's host farmers received the Radio Kerry/FEXCO Heroes of 2023 Award. This nomination recognises their tremendous contribution as volunteers, providing social farming opportunities for so many people throughout Kerry.