

WHAT DOES SOCIAL FARMING LOOK LIKE?

The needs/wishes of the participant and the daily farm activities combine to create the structure for the day for the participant and farmer.

A typical day might be.....

- feed and care for animals
- daily maintenance of farm environment
- prepare and eat lunch together
- horticultural activities; potting, planting, weeding etc.
- cup of tea before home...



*If you want more information
and/or are interested in joining this project,
we would love to hear from you.*

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KERRY SOCIAL FARMING

The Kerry Social Farming Project, which commenced in 2013 with two farms, continues to expand in Co. Kerry, with a total of 19 host farms engaged in the project across the county in 2019. Thanks to the dedication and voluntary effort of our host farmers, Kerry Social Farming offers long term social farming placements to people with disabilities (participants) across the whole of Co. Kerry.

In 2019 our farms have provided social farming opportunities on a weekly basis to 36 participants, some of whom have been attending the same farm for 4-5 years. Our host farms are varied, offering a great range of farming activities to suit the needs and preferences of all our participants. Our host farms range from suckler, dairy, sheep farming as well as horticultural activities.

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

We are seeking support from our local farmers throughout Kerry to engage with us and offer opportunities for our participants on your farms. This will ensure the projects continued growth and success.



Minister Michael Creed, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, pictured with the Kerry Social Farming host farmers at the launch of the project's evaluation report in July 2017.



KERRY SOCIAL FARMING



OVERALL WINNERS OF
KERRY COMMUNITY AWARDS 2017
NATIONAL PRIDE OF PLACE
FINALISTS 2017



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The Kerry Social Farming Projects offers an opportunity for people with disabilities to pursue some of their personal life choices by engaging with local farm families and the farming community. The model of Kerry Social Farming is a voluntary model, whereby host farmers offer their time on a voluntary basis, typically one day a week (4-6 hours), supporting participants to engage in activities on and around the farm.

We believe that the voluntary model of social farming is more sustainable and at its heart is a social inclusion project enabling real working relationships and friendships to develop. Financial support is provided to cover the costs of any adjustments that have to be made to the farm (for health and safety and to provide activities for participants).

These costs, along with any additional insurance costs are fully covered so no farmer is 'out of pocket'. Personnel supports are also provided to host farmer and farm families by the Kerry Social Farming Facilitators, the Working Group along with service provider staff to provide ongoing support on the farm.

OUR VISION

To promote and operate social farming in Kerry as a viable option for achieving improved quality of life, greater inclusion and community networking for people with disabilities.

OUR MISSION

Through working collectively in a shared service with the social care service providers, people with disabilities, local communities, local development companies, national and local government, the business community, farm organisations & farm families to develop and provide Social Farming opportunities in Kerry.



Host Farm Walk, July 2019, for Kerry Social Farming on host farmer Dessy Cronin's farm in Ballinskelligs. Participants and farmers with their families/carers/staff came from all over Kerry for this wonderful gathering for the Kerry Social Farming Project.

The Kerry Social Farming Project (KSFP) is voluntary and community based and is steered by the KSF Working Group, whose membership comprises representatives of all project partners. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG provides the legal, financial and administrative governance of KSF.

The project was developed with funding from the Social Inclusion and Activation Programme (SICAP) funding, and has been the recipient Community and Economic Development of Rural Areas (s) funding from the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM).

The KSF Project Partners:

- South Kerry Development Partnership CLG
- North, East & West Kerry Development CLG
- 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

