

A Positive Future for Upland Farming?

An Irish Uplands Forum (IUF) partnership workshop

Thurs 28th October 2021, 10am - 4pm

**Ellis Hall, Connemara West Centre,
Letterfrack, Co Galway, H91 CD45**

A workshop to discuss what should replace EIP projects, locally and nationally. What should a future national uplands agri-environmental programme look like? How can it support a sustainable future for upland farming families?

Aims

- To bring together farmers, ecologists and established and emerging upland community groups to agree principles underpinning upland agri environmental programmes and recommend best practise.
- To present findings of recently commissioned research by IUF on the use of record cards, the relationship between EIPs and commonage structures and the management of areas with bare peat.
- To provide opportunities to learn about the operation of Forum's EIP by visiting an upland farm.
- To present a recent study on community and rural development issues related to agri-environmental projects.

Programme Registration

If interested in attending send an expression of interest to Dr Mary Tubridy, Research Officer, Irish Uplands Forum by 20th October at mtubridyassociates@gmail.com.

See details of programme overpage.



Irish Uplands Forum
www.irishuplandsforum.org
Promoting Sustainable Economic and
Ecological Development in the Uplands

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



This workshop is sponsored by the Heritage Council

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Programme

The aim of the workshop is to bring together farmers, interested individuals, representatives of agencies (statutory /non statutory), to discuss and agree on what should replace Upland EIP's

- 10.00 Refreshments and registration
- 10.30 Welcome from Connemara West and Irish Uplands Forum
Session 1 Projects commissioned by Irish Uplands Forum 2021
Chairperson, Dr Deirdre Lewis, Irish Uplands Forum
- 10.35 Tom Gorman, Department of Geography, NUI Galway and Blackstairs EIP
Commonages : the upland EIP experience
- 10.45 Questions and Answers
- 10.50 Dr Catherine Farrell, Trinity College, Dublin (INCASE Project)
Management of areas with bare peat
- 11.10 Questions and Answers
- 11.15 Tom Gorman : The use of Record Cards to monitor biodiversity
- 11.25 Questions and Answers

Short Break to Stretch Legs

- 11.30 Dr Brendan O'Keeffe, Geographer, Independent Researcher and IUF board member
Harnessing community knowledge and promoting good governance in agri-environment approaches
- 12.00 Questions and Answers
- 12.20 **Sandwich Lunch**. Travel to upland farm to discuss FORUM's EIP with farmer and EIP manager.
- 14.30 **Session 2** Lessons from EIP's which should be incorporated in new agr-environment measures for the uplands?
Chairman Micheal McDonnell, Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association
- 14.30 Dr Mary Tubridy, Irish Uplands Forum
Past signposts for upland upland agri-environmental programmes
- 14.45 Small group discussions on what worked?, did not work? principles and practices for next upland agri-environment programme
- 15.45 Feedback from all groups facilitated by Dr Shane Conway, National Rural Network to agree principles, approaches and operation of the new agri-environment programme.
- 16.00 **Finish**



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