

PRE-PAID DISCOUNTED BOOKING FORM

Book _____ member(s) at €40 €30 each Total: € _____
Book _____ non member(s) at €80 €60 each Total: € _____
Cheque enclosed: Total: € _____

ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAME (DELEGATE 2): _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DISCUSSION GROUP DEAL (for groups of 10+ members):

€40 per head for discussion groups of 10+ members who book and prepay in one payment in full before 8th July (strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date).

YOU CAN REGISTER AND AVAIL OF THE ABOVE DISCOUNTED RATES IF YOU REGISTER AND PAY BEFORE FRIDAY 8th JULY.

To avail of this offer:

- Make a prepaid booking online www.irishgrassland.com
- Post this prepaid booking form and your cheque to: Discounted DAIRY Registration, IGA, Cookstown, Kells, Co. Meath

SUMMER TOUR FEE INCLUDES:

- Attendance at Dairy Summer Tour
- Copy of the proceedings
- Refreshments on arrival and lunch
- Bus transfers between farms
- Please note that as part of its initiative to attract new members the conference attendance fee for non-members also includes one year's FREE membership to the Irish Grassland Association worth an amazing €60! (This offer is available for all new d/d memberships only)

So, if you are thinking of attending then book today and don't miss out on these excellent offers!

 Irish Grassland Association IGA  @IrishGrassland

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Irish Grassland Association

Tickets
From Only
€30
see discount panel

Dairy Summer Tour

19th July 2016
Kerry & Cork

*Milk production on more
challenging soils*



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Programme for the day

8.30 am	Registration at the Green Glens Arena, Millstreet. Breakfast rolls and tea/coffee for everyone who arrives before 8.45am
9.15 am	Depart by bus to first farm
9.45 am	Arrive at first farm Opening address by Karen Dukelow, Irish Grassland Association President
12.00 pm	Depart by bus to Green Glens Arena
12.30 pm	Lunch at Green Glens Arena
1.15 pm	Depart by bus to second farm
1.45 pm	Arrive at second farm
3.50 pm	Close of Dairy Summer Tour
4.00 pm	Depart by bus to Green Glens Arena



Conor Creedon,
Gortnagown,
Rathmore, Co. Kerry.

Conor Creedon, Gortnagown, Rathmore, Co. Kerry. Conor and Elisha farm 43 ha of land which comprises a milking platform of 26 ha. Elevation and gradient are the main challenges faced by the Creedons on this farm. Rising to 300m above sea level, a thin layer of top soil (10-30cms) overlies a gravelly free-draining sub soil. Overall stocking rate is 2.7 LU/ha with the milking

platform stocked at 3.73 cows/ha by the 97-strong dairy herd. Managing a predominantly crossbred herd, the cows produced 413 kg per cow (4.54% fat; 3.73% protein) in 2015 with 1,540 kg milk solids per hectare produced per hectare on the milking platform. Calving interval this spring was 370 days with 96% of the herd calved in the first 6-weeks and a median calving date of February 26th.

Achieving a long lactation of 288 days was achieved through exceptionally compact calving and milking $\frac{3}{4}$ of the herd through to the end of November. Only first calvers and thin cows are dried off the end of October. Like the O’Riordan farm, slatted cubicle housing facilitates indoor milking.

Improving soil fertility and grassland production is a major focus on the Creedon farm. Most of the grazing platform is at low index 3 for P and K and average soil pH is 5.9. While 1.95 metres of rain fell during 2015, over 16 T DM/ha of grass was grown on the milking platform.

Speaking about the low milk price prevailing this year Conor said, ‘We’ve done our cash flow budget for this season. It’s tight and while farm production costs are low, when all costs are included we’ll be close to the line but should be fine. I’ll avoid spending money on cap ex this year, price around carefully before buying but won’t take a P&K holiday. We did that before and won’t do it again’.



Sean O’Riordan,
Knockenaugh,
Kiskeam, Co. Cork.

Sean O’Riordan, Knockenaugh, Kiskeam, Co. Cork. Sean and Liz farm 80 ha of grassland with a milking platform of 40 ha. The 100-strong cow herd is stocked at 2.5 cows/ha on a high clay content relatively impermeable top soil overlying stonier subsoil and shale bedrock. The farm has a mixture of steep and gently sloping fields. In 2015, grass production on the milking

platform was 10.5 T DM/ha with over 2 metres of rainfall recorded. Milk solids production per cow last year was 422 kg per cow (4.21% fat; 3.65% protein) with 1,000 kg milk solids produced per hectare on the milking platform. Calving interval this spring was 365 days with 77% of the herd calved in the first 6-weeks and a median calving date of February 29th.

While the mature cows in the herd are predominantly Friesian, Sean is retaining mostly first cross Friesian X Jerseys as replacements for the herd. He sees them as the more appropriate choice for more difficult soils. The current herd EBI is €178 with the in-calf heifers averaging €238.

A poorly drained paddock close to the milking parlour was shallow drained with 1.1m deep gravel filled drains laid 15 metres apart into an open drain. To improve the drainage through the top soil, a subsoiler was then used to crack the top soil. This allows rain percolate through the soil profile to the drains. This improved pasture grew an extra 2 tonnes dry matter/ha than an adjacent reseeded but undrained paddock in 2015.

The grazing season on the farm typically extends from early March until the end of November. Last autumn cows were grazed by day until November 10th. Turnout this spring was delayed until March 10th because of the wet late start to the grazing season. Cows were housed again for a week between then and early April which meant that the first rotation wasn’t completed until 20th April.