

## BEEF 2018

**Pre-booking is essential** as places are limited and tickets will be issued on a first come basis.

Members are welcome to bring 1 non member friend at members rates if they wish.  
(You need to ring the office or make a postal booking to avail of this new offer).

Book \_\_\_\_\_ member(s) at €35 each.

Total: € \_\_\_\_\_

Book   1   friend at €35.

Total: € \_\_\_\_\_

Book \_\_\_\_\_ non member(s) at €70 each.

Total: € \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed: € \_\_\_\_\_

### ATTENDING DELEGATE CONTACT DETAILS

NAME (DELEGATE 1): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (DELEGATE 2): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

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

€35 per head for discussion groups of 10+ members who book and prepay in full before Wednesday 9th May (strictly no late applications accepted after this special offer date). Please email: secretary@irishgrassland.com to apply.

- A) Booking online [www.irishgrassland.com](http://www.irishgrassland.com)
- B) Posting this form and your cheque to: Registrations, IGA Office, Cookstown, Kells Co. Meath.
- C) Phone 087 9626483

Conference fee includes attendance, copy of the conference proceeding, bus transfers to and from farm, refreshments and dinner. Please note that as part of the IGA initiative to attract new members, the conference fee for non-members also includes one year's FREE membership to the IGA for all new direct debit memberships.

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



We would like to thank our sponsors

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Animal Health

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# Irish Grassland Association

## BEEF CONFERENCE AND FARM WALK

24TH MAY 2018

ATHY, CO. KILDARE



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## Programme

### Clonard Court Hotel Athy Co Kildare

- 10.00am:** Registrations with Tea/Coffee on arrival  
**10.30am:** Welcome and opening of Conference  
Jan Jensma President of the Irish Grassland Association

### Session 1:

**Chair: Dr Andrew Cromie, Irish Cattle Breeding Federation.**

- 10.35 am:** Maximising Grass Growth on my farm  
*Ger Dineen, Beef Farmer.*
- 11.00 am:** Breeding the best with the best will always give you the best – right?  
*Dr Donagh Berry, Geneticist Teagasc Moorepark.*
- 11.25 am:** Connecting with the final consumer is essential for sustainability  
*Dr Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health UCD.*
- 11.50 am:** Question and answers session

### Session 2:

**Chair: Justin McCarthy, Editor Irish Farmers Journal.**

- 12.00 pm:** Forum Discussion:  
All three speakers will come back onto the stage for a discussion and questions on their presentations. This will allow conference delegates an additional opportunity to put questions to our panel and take part in a discussion about the topics raised in their presentations.
- Ger Dineen, Beef Farmer.
  - Dr Donagh Berry, Geneticist Teagasc Moorepark.
  - Dr Patrick Wall, Professor of Public Health UCD.

- 1.00 pm:** Lunch: dinner will be provided for all delegates  
**1.45pm:** Bus transfer to host farm

**PRIVATE PROPERTY: NO CARS WILL BE PERMITTED ON FARM**

**2.00pm: Arrive at host farm:**

**Chair: Christy Watson, Irish Grassland Association Council Member.**

- Financial and physical performance of the farm
- Grazing in excess of 70 cattle in one single group
- The suckler herd performance (90 cows and calves plus 4 bulls in one group)
- Animal health

## The O'Connor Farm



The O'Connor family farm near the Village of Moone in South Kildare. The farm is run as a partnership by Monica, Tom and their son Thomas, this is a truly mixed farm with four enterprises on the farm comprising Beef, Sheep, Tillage and Pigs.

In 2015 Thomas was the winner of the FBD Young Beef Farmer of the year competition. The beef enterprise will be focused on during the farm visit, comprising 90 Suckler cows with all male progeny finished as bulls under 16 months and heifers at 21 months. Each year 200 additional cattle are purchased for finishing comprising both young bulls and heifers. The unique feature of this farm is the way the O'Connor's paddock graze the cattle in large groups during the grazing season. The 90 suckler cows and four breeding bulls are grazed together as one group in two hectare paddocks, up to 77 young bulls have been grazed in one group for the grazing season, and up to 100 heifers are grazed together in one group. Grassland management is excellent with all the farm laid out in 2 ha paddocks, with the provision for subdivision of all paddocks. The three pillars supporting excellent output are to be seen on this farm namely, Breeding, Grassland Management, Livestock Management.

The O'Connors are achieving an annual stocking rate of 3.3 livestock units per ha and a beef output of 1,498 live weight per hectare, grass utilised in 2017 was 11.5 tonnes of dry matter per hectare.

## Conference Speakers

### Ger Dineen, Beef Farmer.



Ger Dineen is farming in Kilnamartyra, Macroom, Co Cork. Gerard is a suckler farmer finishing all bulls to beef. In 2017 he had 60 cows and 15 in-calf heifers. He farms full time on 31ha, 10ha of this is an out farm. Farm output is high at 999kg liveweight per hectare. Ger was Beef Enterprise award winner Grassland farmer 2017.

### Dr. Donagh Berry, Statistical Geneticist at Teagasc, Moorepark.



Following his Ag Science degree at UCD, he undertook a PhD in dairy cattle genetics in Wageningen University, the Netherlands.

He is responsible for the research on national genomic evaluations in dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep in Ireland.

### Dr. Patrick Wall, Professor Public Health UCD.



Dr Patrick Wall is Professor of Public Health in University College Dublin's School of Public Health. He is a vet and medical doctor and runs a one health program in UCD and on the UCD branch campus in Malaysia. His teaching and research interests include food borne diseases, lifestyle related diseases and health damaging consumer behaviour.

