



in association with



INVITATION

National Rural Development Conference

“Maximising the Use of Rural Resources”

Tuesday, 16th October 2012
Johnstown House Hotel
Enfield, Co Meath

Please register online at
www.nationalruraldevelopmentconference2012.eventbrite.com



AIM OF THE CONFERENCE

Teagasc and the National Rural Network, in association with the Irish Local Development Network, Macra na Feirme and the Western Development Commission, are hosting a one-day conference entitled *Maximising the Use of Rural Resources*. The conference will particularly focus on how the wide range of rural resources – agricultural, environmental, social and non-farming enterprise related – can best be used to contribute to the economic and social well-being of the nation in general and its rural areas in particular. The conference will address the question of what can be done to maximise the use of rural resources in the context of the Rural Development Programme post 2013.

A number of national and international speakers will address the theme followed by a panel discussion. Afternoon workshops will provide an opportunity for those attending the Conference to discuss specific topics related to the theme.

Workshop topics will address the following areas:

Encouraging Enterprise at Farm Level post 2013

Localising Community Led Development

The Importance of Locality for Food Enterprises

The Role of Creative Industries in Rural Development

Maximising Youth as a Rural Resource

It is anticipated that discussion amongst a wide range of participants representing different parts of the agricultural and rural community will generate ideas and proposals as to the policies, actions and measures that will be needed to maximise the use of our rural resources.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

Representatives of organisations and administrations involved in Agriculture and Rural Development should attend. The workshops may be of particular interest to those who wish to learn from the experiences of others and identify development opportunities for themselves, their organisations or their communities.

HOW TO BOOK

Please register online at www.nationalruraldevelopmentconference2012.eventbrite.com

Places are limited to 250 so early booking is advised.

If you have any queries please contact Helen McNulty on helen.mcnulty@teagasc.ie

WHERE TO STAY

This is a one-day conference but delegates may avail of a special conference rate of €69 for a single room including breakfast OR €89 for a double or twin room including breakfast.

Please book and pay the hotel directly quoting the reference: National Rural Development Conference 2012.

GETTING TO THE VENUE

Maps can be viewed on <http://www.johnstownhouse.com/meath.html>

Please note that there is an un-manned toll when entering and exiting from the motorway so correct change is required. Tolls are €2.80 per trip. Payment options are cash, e-toll tags, credit or prepaid cards.

PROGRAMME

09:15-09:45 **Registration and Refreshments**

SESSION 1 - WELCOME AND OPENING

09:45-10:00 **Welcome Address**

Professor **Gerry Boyle**, Director Teagasc

10:00-10:45 **Developing Small Enterprises in Rural Ireland**

Commissioner **Scott Daugherty**, Small Business Commissioner from North Carolina, USA

10:45-11:15 **Break**

SESSION 2 - PRESENTATIONS

Chairperson: Damien O'Reilly, Countrywide, RTE Radio 1

11:15-11:45 **Farm Development and Attitudes to Diversification**

Dr **David Meredith**, Teagasc

11:45-12:15 **Community Led Local Development**

EU Speaker

SESSION 3 - PANEL DISCUSSION

Chairperson: Damien O'Reilly, Countrywide, RTE Radio 1

12:15-12:20 **Introduction to Panel**

Panel Discussion and Audience Interaction

12:20-13:15 **Gerry Boyle** Teagasc, **Ciaran Fitzgerald** IBEC, **Doirín Graham** Clare Local Development Company, **Ian Brannigan** Western Development Commission, **Flor McCarthy** Irish Farmers Association, **Con Traas** Apple Farm Clonmel

13:15-14:15 **Lunch**

SESSION 4 - REPORTS FROM WORKSHOPS (Sessions will run in parallel)

Workshop 1 Encouraging Enterprise at Farm Level post 2013

Workshop 2 Localising Community Led Development

14:15-15:45 **Workshop 3** The Importance of Locality for Food Enterprises

Workshop 4 Creative & Rural: The Role of Creative Industries in Rural Development

Workshop 5 Maximising Youth as a Rural Resource

15:45-16:10 **Reports from Workshops**

16:10-16:15 **Closing** **Ciaran Lynch**, National Rural Network

16:15 **Coffee**