



KERRY SOCIAL FARMING

WORKING TOGETHER!

Welcome to our very first Kerry Social Farming newsletter 😊

We want to begin by recognising that we are all in very difficult times and we sincerely hope that you and your families are doing well and are feeling happy and healthy.

Of course we hope that we will all be back to our usual routines soon but we must also prepare for not seeing each other for a while and we thought this newsletter could be a nice way for us to keep in touch with each other and with what is going on in social farming.

We want to acknowledge the passing of two people who have contributed to Kerry Social Farming.

It is with sadness that we note the untimely passing late last year of John Francis Moynihan, Rathmore. John Francis attended Kerry Parents and Friends Centre, Old Monastery, Killarney and went social farming on Mary Walsh's farm at Knockeendubh, Killarney, from March 2018 until September 2019. He attended many social farming events and farm visits. John Francis was laid to rest on December 27th 2019. We extend our sympathies to his mother, his sisters Marcella and Sandra, his niece and nephew, extended family and his many friends at the Old Monastery. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis.



In 2012 as SKDP were looking at options to develop a Social Farming project, Paddy Casey identified a number of farm's in Iveragh that might be suitable as a base for the project. At that time the thinking was to develop a community model of social farmers where people with disabilities and community volunteers could spend time together working on the farm. RSS participants would also be involved in the development of the farm. Paddy Casey, Dessy Cronin and Joseph McCrohan visited these farms to view their potential. Following the farm visits, talking to the owners and others, it was agreed that while

this model had advantages the cost of setting it would be expensive and maybe this would be for another day.

When the current model of social farming was developed Paddy Casey played an important role in helping host farmers complete their safety statements and working with RSS participants in getting work completed on the host farm so that they were ready for Social Farming. Paddy Casey saw the benefit of social farming from the participant's point of view and for the farmer's point of view. He understood the need to help the most vulnerable in society and he understood what farming had to offer. Paddy never refused to help the Social Farming team and often did work on the project and with the people involved because he could see it working for all involved. Rest in Peace Paddy.



Social Farming at Maura's Cottage Flowers

The workshop is very quiet every Tuesday now that the social farming team are not visiting, the chairs are empty, the kettle isn't even plugged in but we'll bounce back into action, an empty tunnel waiting to be planted up and a new courtyard area is underway for outdoor activities on their return.- Maura



"I go to Social Farming at 'Maura's Cottage Flowers' with my friends Vanessa and Siobhan. I look forward to it and I learn loads about flowers and plants. Our key worker Cormac is great, he takes us there every Tuesday. We can't go there now because we have to stay at home due to the Coronavirus. I enjoy Maura's photos on Instagram to keep me up to date. I take my own pictures of flowers and will help my mom with planting at home. But we miss Maura and Tommy, they teach us new skills and are a great help to us. We hope to be back there again soon." - Ciara



Social Farming at 'The Barna Way'



Hi everyone. Just wanted to check in. We hope everyone is well and safe. We are really missing our social farmers and our Thursday visits. We were just looking over some photos from the past year and the wonderful work and great craic we have together.

Antoinette, Bronagh and John bring so much fun and laughter every week. Kerry (our dog) is missing her hugs and our chickens are laying in funny places again so we need our egg detectives back.

In the last few weeks we got a new/old tractor called Molly and we have a new wild flower meadow and potato patch. Lots of work to be done.



We hope you will be able to come back soon and we promise to have tea and scones ready.

Rena and Lisa



FARCURA

South Kerry Development Partnership is part of FARCURA research project 'Fostering Inclusion through Social Farming'. This research involves partners from Ireland, Slovenia, Germany, Portugal and Belgium and is being co-ordinated by Limerick Institute of Technology (LIT).

A national social farming report is underway for each country. As part of this process, Kerry Social Farming was tasked to carry out four Case Studies, covering various models of social farming which are currently operating in Ireland.

Eamon Horgan's farm was selected to represent Kerry Social Farming. At the beginning of March Julie Brosnan (KSF Administrator) carried out a farm visit and detailed interviews with Eamon Horgan and social farming participant Mags O'Donoghue. This formed the basis of one Case Study. Thanks to Eamon and Mags for all their help and hospitality. The four Case Studies have now been submitted to LIT for inclusion in their national report.



For more information, you can see the FARCURA website <https://farcura.eu/>.

If self-isolation and social distancing needs to continue for a while longer, we will do more newsletters. If you have suggestions of what to include or would like to write a piece on a social farming related topic, we would welcome this.

Please send Rena (renablake@newkd.ie), Evelyn (eoconnell@skdp.net) or Julie (jbrosnan@skdp.net) an email.

We wish you all the best and look forward to soon.

We will sign off with what has become the new norm.....Stay Safe everyone ☺

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