

September 2015

Macra na Feirme Young Farmer Information Booklet



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Free Consultation Contact 1800 334422

Message from the President

This invaluable resource gives you an insight into the significant work that Macra does on your behalf and for young farmers on a continual basis. It also outlines the wide range of activities, events and competitions provided by Macra. For young farmers there are huge opportunities out there at the moment. The new CAP is in place with mandatory young farmer measures for the first time, our Land Mobility service is growing and the Government has published its road map for food production in the country - Foodwise 2025. However, challenges still remain with commodity prices in some sectors under pressure and access to agricultural education and issues which we are lobbying hard for.



Macra na Feirme as the voice of young farmers will continue to lobby the government on the issues which affect you. Through our involvement with CEJA, the European young farmers body we can also work on these issues at an EU level to help young farmers. A huge amount of farm accidents take place every year which have devastating consequences for those involved and their families. If you identify hazards on your farm take action today to make your work place a safer place as one death in our industry is a death too many.

Seán Finan

National President 2015-2017: 087 414 6480

Agricultural Affairs Committee

Today in Ireland there are more farmers over the age of 80 than under 35. You, as a young farmer, are the future of Irish farming but are a minority. There are over seven billion people in the world and this is expected to increase to over nine billion by 2020. The FAO forecast that global food demand is expected to jump by 70% in the next 35 years. European research uncovered that young farmers are 40% more efficient than older farmers. This means that you are perfectly placed to seize this opportunity.



With no new land being made, these increases must be met through improved and more modern methods of farming.

I strongly believe there is a bright future for technically efficient, positive and hardworking farmers with an open mind. As Ireland's sole young farmer organisation, Macra na Feirme are permanently fighting for young farmers and ensuring they get a fair slice of the cake. My advice as a fellow young farmer is to join a discussion group, implement modern farming practices and be an active member of Macra.

Bryan Hynes

Agricultural Affairs Committee Chairperson: 086 171 4430

Competitions and Travel Opportunities

FBD Young Farmer of the Year

The aim of this competition is to recognise and reward the best young farmers in the country. Entrants are judged according to a number of criteria including farm business initiative and innovation, levels of farm efficiency and enterprise quality, farm safety and environmental protection awareness, as well as agricultural knowledge and community involvement.



Irish Farmers Journal Stephen Cullinan Scholarship

The scholarship enables young farmers to visit New Zealand and work for six months to gain experience of alternative methods of dairy farming. The scholarship winners receive a return travel ticket to New Zealand and a guarantee of six months work. Applicants must be aged between 18 and 30 years and committed to pursuing a career in the dairy industry. Details of the scholarship are available in the Irish Farmer's Journal in April.



Bord Bia Beef and Sheep Stockjudging competition

This competition helps young farmers become skilled at assessing livestock, thus preparing them for the actual job of buying and selling farm animals. Stockjudging broadens the young farmers' knowledge of new developments in stockbreeding, husbandry and disease control. There is a senior class in sheep and an under 23 and senior in beef.



Griffin Engineering Welding Competition

This competition is designed to help members to learn the skills of welding. The competition includes an academic test and a series of practical welding tests. The prize for the winner includes a welder.



FRS Scholarship

An annual scholarship, sponsored by the Farm Relief Services is awarded by Macra to a top student of the Leadership Module.



Ornu Dairy Stockjudging

This competition helps young farmers become skilled at assessing livestock and it encourages decision making. There are both U23 and senior classes and the competition has an academic test and judging elements.



FBD Farm Skills Competition

A team competition to help young farmers develop the skills required in modern farming and to create greater awareness of farm safety. The competition includes tractor team work, farming knowledge-written team quiz and stock proof fencing/gate hanging.

Travel opportunities

Travel opportunities range from a club taking the first initiative in organising a local trip for its members, to a club or region organising an international exchange. These include cultural exchanges, young farmer exchanges and a prizewinners trip.



Irish Farmers Journal Know Your Agriculture Quiz

This competition consists of teams of four and encourages members to explore and improve their agricultural knowledge. The following categories are covered: dairying, drystock, grassland and tillage, farm management, agricultural policy, machinery and safety, rural development and general knowledge.

NEW CAP – MACRA FIGHT

For the first time in the history of the Common Agricultural Policy there is a chapter dedicated to young farmers that consists of a mandatory top-up on direct payments in the first years of farming. Macra, through CEJA had proposed the idea of a support measure for young farmers to assist them in establishing their farm business and to address the age profile in the sector. These are some of the specific measures Macra helped secured in the new CAP 2015-2020.

CAP Post 2014

25% Young Farmer Single Farm Payment Top-up

For the first time in the history of the Common Agricultural Policy, there is a chapter dedicated to young farmers that consists of a mandatory top-up on direct payments in the first years of farming. Macra, through the Conseil Européen des Jeunes Agriculteurs (CEJA) had proposed the idea of a support measure for young farmers to assist them in establishing their farm business and to address the age profile in the sector. This resulted in a mandatory 25% top-up on Basic Payment for new entrant young farmers for their first five years of installation. An applicant must be under 40 years for their first application to the scheme. The top-up is a fixed payment (approx €64 per entitlement) based on the national average value of entitlements and is paid per entitlement held up to a maximum of 50ha per year.

Basic Payment National Reserve

As part of CAP reform 2015, a new SFP National Reserve was created. For the first time, certain qualified, young farmers and new entrants with low or no entitlements are a priority within the National Reserve. Certain objective criteria including young farmer status, agricultural education and off farm income, and maximum area limits apply. Availability of funds for allocation from the National Reserve is dependent on mechanisms to replenish the reserve. Macra will lobby for sufficient funds to be available in the National Reserve.

Young Farmer Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS)

TAMS II provides an enhanced grant rate of 60% in respect of investments by certain qualified, young farmers. These include: farm nutrient storage; animal housing; dairy equipment; low-emission spreading equipment; animal welfare and farm safety; energy water meters and medicine dispensers for the pig and poultry sector. In addition, grant aid support for dairy buildings is available specifically for qualifying young farmers. The overall ceiling for investment is €80,000 per holding, however, low emission spreading equipment is not subject to this ceiling and has a separate €40,000 ceiling. The 60% grant rate is open to young farmers who commenced farming within the past five years, other young, trained farmers will be prioritised under the 40% grant rate.

ING FOR YOUNG FARMERS

Collaborative farming Grant

The establishment of new farm partnerships that are recorded on the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine farm partnerships register could be eligible for a 50% grant of a €5000 ceiling. This grant is aimed to encourage collaborative farming by offsetting legal, accounting and administrative expenditure involved in setting up a partnership. Similarly, once the register for share farming is established these arrangements should benefit under the scheme.



Knowledge Transfer Groups

This new scheme under the Rural Development Program 2014-2020 builds on the discussion group model and is designed to ensure the farmer and advisor engage in discussion on key aspects of a farmers' business such as profitability, environmental sustainability, breeding and herd health. Knowledge Transfer Groups will be introduced across the Beef, Sheep, Dairy, Poultry, Tillage and Equine sectors. Participating farmers will attend five Knowledge Exchange meetings each year for three years and complete a Farm Improvement Plan and in return will receive €750 annually for each of the three years they successfully complete the program. This is an opportunity for young farmers to get involved in technical discussion groups, for more information contact 01 4268904.

Macra negotiating in Europe

As a member of CEJA (European Council of Young Farmers) Macra is continuously pushing for better encouragement and support for young farmers. Regular meetings with other European young farmers, the EU Commission and MEP's occur. Macra past president Alan Jagoe is the current President of CEJA.

EU Civil Dialogue Groups

Macra through CEJA are represented on a number of the new EU Commission Civil Dialogue Groups. Civil Dialogue groups assist the EU Commission and help regular dialogue on all matters relating to the common agricultural policy, including rural development, and its implementation. CEJA's young farmers were successful in securing 35 expert seats across 28 member states of which Macra secured six seats filled by young farmers.

**IFAC – Macra's partner for
Young Farmer Development Groups in Ireland and Europe.**

Macra at work and play





INCENTIVES SECURED BY MACRA FOR YOUNG, TRAINED FARMERS

The following incentives are subject to change in the October 2015 Budget, for further updates contact Derrie Dillon on 01 426 8904 or ddillon@macra.ie

Exemption from Stamp Duty on farm transfers to young, trained farmers

Young, trained farmers are currently exempt from stamp duty on receipt of a land transfer. This is a very important measure for young farmers and is currently secured until December 31, 2015. Macra will lobby for the extension of this relief in their 2016 pre budget submission.

100% Stock Relief for young, trained farmers for their first four years in farming

The stock relief measure available to young, trained farmers is of significant benefit as it enables them to offset any increase in the value of stock against their tax liability on book profits. This measure effectively aids young farmers to build up stock numbers during their first four years in farming. This relief is secured until December 31, 2015. Macra will lobby for the extension of this relief.

Stock Relief for Partnerships

A 50% stock relief provision for registered dairy farm partnerships and 100% stock relief for certain qualified young farmers was recently introduced. This relief is available till December 31, 2015. Macra will lobby for the extension of this relief.

Land leasing

Macra secured tax exemptions for individuals aged 40 years or over who are leasing out their land on a long-term basis to €18,000 for leases of between five and six years, €22,500 for leases of seven years but less than 10 years and €30,000 for leases of between 10 but less than 15 years. Increasing the relief encourages older farmers to long-term lease their land and Basic Payment entitlements and increases the supply of land available to young trained farmers. There is also a tax exemption of €40,000 for 15 years or more leases.

Land restructuring capital gains relief

Macra lobbied for a land restructuring relief to allow farmers restructure their farm holdings without being liable for capital taxes. The introduction of this relief on capital gains tax is particularly beneficial to young farmers who are in a position to restructure a fragmented farm. This relief is available till December 31, 2016.

Young Farmer Development Groups

Get involved in YFDG

Are you a young farmer? If so, then you should be involved in your county Young Farmer Development Group. Every county has a Young Farmer Development Group who meet in their county and discuss matters of interest to young farmers. They also organise farm walks and competitions

for young farmers. As a young farmer, you should get involved in your county YFDG group. County contact details are available on www.macra.ie. Each group plans a series of meetings and farm walks relevant to young farmers. You will get to meet industry experts and a variety of farmers. This is an ideal way to broaden your knowledge and become a more effective and efficient farmer.

For further details contact ddillon@macra.ie



**IFAC Accountants
are Macra na
Feirme's partner
for Young Farmer
Discussion
Groups in Ireland
and Europe.**





Macra in Agricultural Colleges

Macra supports Teagasc in the delivery of the leadership module as part of the Certificate in Agriculture through participation in a college Macra club and various activities giving practical expression to leadership.

Training and Development

Macra provides training opportunities for specific club and county officer roles including young farmer chair and secretary positions. Macra in conjunction with ICOS offer training for young farmers who are interested in taking up positions on committees and boards of their co-operatives.



Land Mobility Service

This service facilitates collaborative arrangements between farmers. These collaborative arrangements include partnerships, share farming, contract rearing, and long term leases. The service is supported by FBD Trust and other industry stakeholders. If you are a young farmer interested in finding out more about collaborative farming opportunities contact Austin Finn on 086 2541425 or at www.landmobility.ie

Dawn Meats L2D educational tours

Dawn Meats have teamed up with Macra to run 'Live to Dead' (L2D) educational tours of their meat factories. The tours involve grading live cattle in the lairage, information on the Irish Meat Industry, viewing of beef primal cuts and examination of carcasses of pre-scored cattle and commentary. YFDG's are encouraged to register their interest with Macra.

IFAC Accountants Planning, Finance and Progression Program

The 'Business Planning, Finance and Progression Program' for YFDG's is targeted at young farmers who are near or at the point of taking over the farm. This intensive two day program with one overnight is delivered by both experienced IFAC accountants and other speakers and is supported by Macra.

Young farmer Skillnet training program

The Macra na Feirme Young Farmer Skillnet is a new pilot initiative to provide continuing informal training to young farmers. YFDG's are encouraged to identify the training needs of their young farmers and contact Derrie Dillon on 01 4268904 if they have a group of young farmers ready to participate in training. The demand and type of training is driven by young farmers.

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Free Consultation Contact

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Your Macra Club

As a member of Macra you are firstly a member of your local club. You will make new friends and will do new things. The club has a chairperson, secretary, treasurer and PRO, all of whom are elected by the club members each year. The members decide on the programme of activities for the club. All members are encouraged to take part in some activities. This will include social activities and personal development through participation in competitions, travel, sport and agriculture, members from other clubs in your county and throughout Ireland.



If you want to join Macra, contact one of our Training and Development Officers:

Brigid Quigley	086 0822038	Offaly, North Tipperary, Limerick, Westmeath
Sinead Melaniff	087 188 0152	Louth, Monaghan, Cavan, Meath
Hazel Wilkinson	085 8328549	Sligo, Mayo, Leitrim, Donegal
Siobhan Sexton	087 3463828	Galway, Roscommon, Clare, Longford
Jerry Murphy	087 9315783	Kerry, Cork regions: Carbery, Seandun, Muskerry, Avondhu
Jacqueline Walsh	087 7735659	Wexford, Wicklow, Carlow, Dublin, Kildare
Mick Wall	086 8359891	Kilkenny, Waterford, Imokilly (Cork), South Tipperary, Laois

Macra members get great discounts from:

- Discount of 10% on FBD personal accident insurance.
- €50 FBD Insurance voucher.
- The discount student fare on Bus Eireann services.
- Exclusive Macra offers with Three - which one's for you? Free smartphone, unlimited calls & texts to all Irish mobile & landlines and excellent data plan or amazing sim only plan?! Call 01 202 1667 to find out more!
- Discount of 15% on FBD car insurance for young drivers (17-35 years of age).
- €300 off first year services from IFAC Accountants.
- Discounts from a number of retailers including the Irish Red Cross, DID Electrical and Sprint Design Inc.
- VHI group discount scheme.
- Local discounts for Macra members in your county!

Macra na Feirme's Agricultural Affairs Committee Members 2015/2016

Member: Name	Region	Phone	Email
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PATRICK MC CARTHY (Vice Chair)	CARBERY	086 1776096	patrick551@live.com
SEAN FINAN (National President)	ROSCOMMON	087 4146480	seanpfinan@gmail.com
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