

Livestock For Sale

Organic Black Galloway pedigree cattle. "Bulls, Heifers, Cows for sale" from Organic Farm (Full Symbol IOFGA Licence No. 418), Galloways of Lecarrow, Spencer Harbour, Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim. Contact Joachim Schaefer 071-9648960 or gallowaysoflecarrow@gmail.com

Two Purebred Registered Aberdeen Angus Bulls for sale. Also 2 purebred registered maiden heifers. Full Symbol. Corduff Organic Farm. Ballinagh, Co. Cavan. To arrange to view, contact Philip Moynagh 087 7998633/049 4337465.

2 Kerry Yearling heifers for sale. Wicklow area. Contact 086 8164178.

Store lambs for sale from mid June onwards. Texal X & lley quality store lambs. All lambs weaned & male lambs castrated & full symbol. Carlow area Transport arranged for large numbers. Contact 059 9724743/087 7425057

Produce For Sale

Organic Galloway Beef from Organic Farm, Galloways of Lecarrow, Spencer Harbour, Drumkeeran, Co. Leitrim. Contact Joachim Schaefer 071-9648960 or gallowaysoflecarrow@gmail.com

For Sale

20 Full Symbol Texel X Store lambs for Sale Roscommon area 35-36Kgs Contact 087 9628445.

3 jersey X friesian bullocks for sale. 15 Aberdeen Angus Heifers out of British Friesian cows 15mths old. Limerick area. Contact 087 9471632

Wanted

Lands suitable for forestry in all locations. Sizes from c.15 acres plus Cash client waiting!!Also growing plantations sought immediately – all areas. Min. 80% Sitka Spruce. Filling large order just received at present. Contact 087 2613617 / 094 96 55313

Weanling / Store heifers wanted. Mayo area. Contact 087 2808202

Services

Leitrim Organic Farmers Coop offers a low cost accounts service. For more information or a quote contact our office on 071 9640868 Also offer photocopying service. Available at reasonable rates.

To keep up to date with stock listings go to www.leitrimorganic.com

Fencing Contractor Available

Fencing Contractor available in Leitrim & Surrounding counties specialising in fencing for REPS, Commercial Forestry, Deer and Amenity fencing Free Range and Organic enterprises a speciality, Contact Michael at 087 6248589 or 07196 41324

Property For Sale

Character Ballinagare Farmhouse on C.10 Acres



Cathal O Brien Auctioneer is offering an original farmhouse residence standing on c.10 acres located at Brackloon, Mantua, Ballinagare, Co Roscommon.

The property is located in a scenic countryside setting retaining all its original charms including open hearth fireplace etc... The property stands on c.10 acres which are surrounding the residence also including bog lands This is an ideal small holding priced to sell at € 75,000 o.n.o.

CHARMING 3 BEDROOM STONE COTTAGE PRICED TO SELL!!!



This week Cathal O Brien Auctioneer is offering for sale a 3 bedroom cottage located at Knockglass, Ballinameen, Co Roscommon. Priced to Sell at €75,000 or nearest offer! This original stone built cottage is presented for sale in excellent condition throughout, having been completely renovated in recent years, the property boasts generous site area with option to purchase additional paddock. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac roadway in a peaceful countryside setting.. Viewing is a Must!! Contact Cathal O Brien Auctioneer on 087 2613617 or 094 96 55313 or e-mail: info@cathalobrien.ie or visit our website at www.cathalobrien.ie



Summer 2012

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NEW GROUP FOR ORGANIC SECTOR

A new national group called Organic Focus has been set up to act as a driving force for the development of the organic sector in Ireland.

Launched this week by Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture Shane McEntee, the group consists of representatives from the Department, Teagasc, Bord Bia and a wide range of stakeholders from organic meat, dairy, poultry, horticulture, cereal and aquaculture. Minister McEntee described the group as a "forum for the the meaningful discussion on issues that impact the sector" and its objective is to identify solutions where possible and

MEMBERS OF ORGANIC FOCUS:	
Mel O'Rourke	Chairperson
John Purcell	Beef
Birgitta Hedin-Curtin	Seafood
Peter Young	Dairy
Cait Curran	Horticulture & Education
John Paul Crowe	Poultry, Eggs, Bacon, etc
Paucic Connolly	Organic Beef Producer
John Flahavan	Cereals
Richard Galvin	Fruit
Lorcan Bourke	Board Bia
Dan Clavin	Teagasc
Kevin McGeever	Department
Joan Furlong	Department

develop strategies to progress the organic sector for everyone's benefit. He said that "there is potential for more

farmers to avail of the opportunities that clearly exist for Irish organic produce both organic produce at home and abroad".

VALUE

The group will be chaired by Mel O'Rourke, managing director of both Sylvan Ireland and Sylvan Europe.

Last year 1,721 organic operators farmed 52,390 hectares of land in Ireland. According to the Department at the end of 2011, the Irish organic market was valued €100m.



Pictured at the official opening of The Cheese Hub in Drumshanbo's Food Hub by Minister for Agriculture, Food and Marine, Simon Coveney are (l-r) John Liston, Organic Farmers Milk Producers; Paul McDermott, The Cheese Hub; Sean McGloin, The Cheese Hub; Sligo/North Leitrim TD, Tony McLoughlin; Minister Simon Coveney and Pat Mulrooney, Organic Farmers Milk Producers.



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www.permaculture.ie
www.facebook.com/permaculturegathering

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All Welcome

This will be a weekend camp of learning from one another, through practical & lifestyle workshops, skill sharing, networking, and celebration. It is an event which we create together, all are welcome & everybody has something to offer & anybody can get involved & help out. If you suggest something the likely answer will be "that's a great idea, go right ahead and do it or organize it." The only criteria is that things fit into the Permaculture Ethics; Care of the Earth, Care of the People, Fairshares.

We want to create a space where we can live together & really experience permaculture; self organization, open space, low cost, enhancing a site, bringing something special to a unique location, collaborating, learning, and being in tune with the ethics.

Check out the website www.permaculture.ie
Contact us at permaculturegathering@gmail.com
& You can also find us on facebook: [facebook/permaculturegathering](https://www.facebook.com/permaculturegathering)

Picture showing Gerry Fitzsimons demonstrating an aerator at his farm in Mullahoran, Co. Cavan at the BTAP discussion group.



Coop has BTAP Group up and running

Leitrim Organic Farmers Coop has established one of 2 of BTAP discussion groups established in the country.

The group is comprised of 18 farmers from Leitrim, Roscommon, Cavan, Monaghan, Westmeath and Longford. The BTAP programme is a 3 year programme with farm based training allowing participants to look at issues relevant to the group. Participants had to be participating in either the Bord Bia quality assurance programme or the Suckler Cow welfare scheme in order to qualify for the programme. Participants receive an annual payment of approximately €1000 to offset expenses involved with travel and facilitation. So far the group has had 2 training events as well as attending the Balmoral Agricultural Show.

Jamestown Show & Heritage Festival 2012

Friday 27 July 2012, Evening - Boat arrivals

Saturday 28 July 2012, Morning - Continuing boat arrival. Provision of bus service to Lansborough, Athlone.
Afternoon, Jamestown Show & Dog Show, Army vehicle display and street entertainment.
Evening, Jamestown Show dance with TR Dallas.

Sunday 29 July 2012, Morning - Children's swim in Aura Leisure Centre. Civil defence under water recovery demonstration.
Afternoon, Concert at Jamestown Quay with Band of the Army Western Command.
Late Afternoon, Jamestown Community Welcoming BBQ with refreshments, sponsored by National Automation.
Evening, Music in Mulveys Bar.

Monday 30 July 2012, Morning - Cookery Demonstration in Cottage Restaurant with Shamzuri Hanifa winner of The Bridgestone Guide 2012 Taste of the Shannon.
Afternoon, Prop and Shaft check by local Sub Aqua Club.
Evening, Table quiz, Mulvey's Bar.

Tuesday 31 July 2012, Afternoon - Trip to Lough Rynn Castle for lunch and tour of grounds.
Evening, Classical Concert in Jamestown Church.
Late Evening, Official lighting of Arch.

Wednesday 1 August 2012, Morning - Golf morning at Carrick-on-Shannon Golf Club.
Evening, Irish night and ceile dancing in Thatch Bar (bus supplied from Jamestown Quay).

Thursday 2 August 2012, Afternoon (Lunchtime), Trip to Arigna Mining Experience by bus.
Evening, Historical Society exhibition in Jamestown Church.

Friday 3 August 2012, Morning - Lecture and advice on fishing techniques, equipment and baits at Terry Manns fishing shop in Jamestown.
Evening, Cinema at Jamestown quay. Children and adult films.

Saturday 4 August 2012, Morning - Lectures by various contributors at Jamestown Quay in cinema all day.
Afternoon, Street entertainment. Crafts display. Air sea helicopter landing and tour.
Evening, Harvey Wallbanger party hosted by Boaters.
Night, Boat lighting competition sponsored by King and Moffat. Music De Band at the quay.

Sunday 5 August 2012, Morning - Children's swim in Aura Leisure Centre. Special Heritage church service in Jamestown church marking its 200th anniversary. Street market stalls.
Afternoon, Re-enactment battle.
Evening, Pig roast at Jamestown quay. Concert in Jamestown at Mulveys.

Monday 6 August 2012, Morning - Departure of boats from Jamestown.



Application for Associate Membership

- Associate Members have access to all Co-op services.
- Receive free quarterly Newsletter (Organic Producer)
- Can advertise Small Ads free in the newsletter or website
- Can sell organic beef, lamb & other produce to the Co-op
- Can attend general meetings and contribute to discussions
- Can participate in all Co-op activities and training sessions
- Are eligible for co-option onto the management committee.

An Associate Member does not hold a shareholding and receives no dividends.

The cost of Associate Membership in 2012 is €50.00 per year. Payment can be made annually by standing order with your bank. Please request a standing order form from the office.

Membership Application Form

I wish to become a Member of LOFC and enclose €50 please send me a standing order form

Name:

Address:

County:

Telephone:

Email:

Organic Status

Producer of

Please make cheques payable to:
**Leitrim Organic Farmers Co-op,
The Enterprise Centre,
Hill Road,
Drumshanbo,
Co. Leitrim.
071 9640868**

Shale gas - where are we now?

Decision on Hydro-Fracturing delayed

In March, Sligo County Council joined an ever increasing group of Councils to oppose Fracking and all its processes. Since then, there has also been a change in approach of this issue by Minister Pat Rabbitte. On 17 May, he announced that publishing a green or white paper now would not be of benefit, instead he would propose to obtain further and more detailed scientific advice, as is envisaged with the proposed second study to be commissioned by the EPA in the coming months. Until the results of that study are available and have been considered, he will not make any decision on any application proposing the use of hydraulic fracturing.

This announcement comes just days after a preliminary study on Hydraulic Fracturing by and the existing regulatory framework in different countries. Amongst a variety of factors, it discloses what recent reports in the media and in scientific literature have already highlighted: The potential for earthquakes, the contamination of groundwater, possibly drinking water, emissions of volatile components, such as CO² or methane into the atmosphere, and the leakage of contaminated drilling waste fluid from storage ponds.

Probably most significant in relation to proposed drilling sites in the North-West of Ireland were the geological

findings. These explain the more complex geometry of the shale gas formations in Europe, especially those of Carboniferous age. These are, compared to relatively simple sub-horizontally structured shale gas formations in North America, often folded and faulted on a variety of scales. Thus the interaction between newly formed hydraulic fractures with such, much older pre-existing fault and fracture zones, and tilted rock formations, is very poorly understood.

The full report is available online under:

www.epa.ie/download/pubs/research/sss/UniAberdeen_FrackingReport.pdf

Concerning the gas companies' plans, and contrary to their media coverage, the extraction of shale gas on a commercial scale would entail a thorough licensing and regulatory process. Those requirements include an IPPC (Integrated Pollution Prevention & Control EU Directive) licence in accordance with the provisions of the EPA Acts 1992 to 2011. Other regulators likely to have a statutory role in relation to the use of hydraulic fracturing include DCENR, the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), An Bord Pleanála, local authorities and the Health & Safety Authority. The EU Commission has lately set up an Ad Hoc Technical

Working Group to examine the regulation of fracking activities at EU level.

Farming Communities vs. Fracking

In early June, IFA Environment and Rural Affairs Chairman Harold Kingston has expressed concern regarding the failure of Leitrim County Council, Tamboran Resources and several state agencies to adequately address farmers concerns in the Lough Allen Basin, who may be affected by their proposals. Speaking after a recent meeting of senior IFA Officers from counties Cavan, Leitrim, Roscommon and Sligo Mr. Kingston said, "Farmers are genuinely concerned about the impact that fracking may have on water quality in the area and there are many questions that remain unanswered." He concluded, "Agriculture is the bedrock of commercial activity in the greater Lough Allen Basin and it is essential that the genuine concerns of the farming community in the area are addressed fully." Meanwhile, it can be said, there is widespread concern of the negative effects of fracking. And although most public meetings on this issue have been well attended, the farming lobby would need to be more proactive on the issue, given the negative experiences expressed by their fellow Australian and Canadian farmers' colleagues.

Continued on page 9:

Decision on Hydro-Fracturing delayed

Farmers worldwide

In February this year, the Canadian National Farmers Union has called for a moratorium on the use of Hydraulic-Fracturing. Their decision for a moratorium was on the grounds of observing the unfortunate experiences of too many Alberta farmers and ranchers, where Fracking has been associated with water well contamination and damage. Jan Slomp, the Canadian NFU's coordinator says many farmers have had direct experience with the destructive nature of the technology on their water wells. He goes on to say that they are at the heart of Alberta's oil & gas country, where their ability to produce good, wholesome food is at risk of being compromised by the widespread, virtually unregulated use of this dangerous process.

In Australia, the West Australian Farmers Federation has called

on the State Government to impose a moratorium on fracking amid concerns about unknown environmental impacts. WAFF said its members were becoming increasingly concerned as more gas projects were being considered for the state, and anti-fracking movements have swelled in NSW and Queensland. President Dale Park said "Currently, the legislative protection offered to farmers through the Mining Act 1978 does not exist in the acts which allows for gas and petroleum exploration activity on farmland," Mr Park said: "WAFF is seeking amendments which deliver 'the power of veto' to at least the state's Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act and Petroleum Pipelines Act. Clearly, there is a need for a wide ranging environmental impact assessment to occur prior to the approval of any future fracking projects."



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2012 Organic Demonstration Farm Walks

June - September

A nationwide series of national organic farming open days will take place this summer. Teagasc, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and organic organisations invite all interested to see organic farming in practice and to meet and speak with the producers and the sector's experts.



JUNE

Friday, 22 June
Paddy Tobin, Main St,
Johnstown, Co Kilkenny
Cereals, Field Crops

Tuesday, 26 June
Gerry Fitzsimons, Mullahoran,
Kilcoy, Co Cavan
Beef

JULY

Monday, 2 July
Mark Duffy, Bellview, Clogher,
Ballibay, Co Monaghan
Beef

Wednesday, 11 July
Thomas Kinsella, Munny,
Askamore, Co Wexford
Cereals, Sheep

Tuesday, 17 July
Gerard & Sylvia Langan,
Ballinsalhyha, Ower, Headford,
Co Galway
Horticulture, Beef, Sheep,
Direct Sales

Friday, 20 July
Kay O Sullivan, Glynn,
Mournabbey, Mallow, Co Cork
Beef, Sheep, Cereal

Wednesday, 25 July
Alan Mooney, Portoriam,
Kilcock, Co Kildare
Cereals, Beef

Tuesday, 31 July
John Mc Loughlin,
Moneymore, Trim, Co Meath
Beef, Direct Sales

AUGUST

Friday, 3 August
Pat Lalor, Ballard Farm,
Kilbeggan, Co Westmeath
Cereals, Beef, Direct Sales

Thursday, 23 August
Oliver Dixon, Ahera,
Claremorris, Co Mayo
Beef, Cereals

Tuesday, 28 August
Sean Condon, Fanningstown,
Creora, Co Limerick
Dairying

SEPTEMBER

Monday, 3 September
William Ryan, Moyebaby,
Ballinacorney, Co Wick
Horticulture, Direct Sales

Thursday, 13 September
Mayo Abbey Organic Centre,
Claremorris, Co Mayo
Horticulture

Friday, 14 September
JP & TJ Crowe, Gortassa,
Dundrum, Co Tipperary
Pigs, Turkeys, Beef, On-Farm
Processing, Direct Sales

Tuesday, 28 September
John & Sara Devoy, Garrane,
Roscarbery, Co Cork
Horticulture, Poultry-eggs,
Eco-tourism, Direct Sales

Friday, 28 September
Patrick O Connor, Mullinroe,
Clindohilly, Macroom, Co Cork
Rau

All farm walks start at 2pm

Teagasc National Organic Conference,
Tullamore Court Hotel, Co. Offaly Tuesday, 11 September

Contacts:
Daniel Clavin Athenny Mob: 087-9368596 email: dan.clavin@teagasc.ie
Elaine Leavy Grange Mob: 087-9853285 email: elaine.leavy@teagasc.ie



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National Organic Training Skillnet (NOTS) Training Programme Spring 2012

Horticulture Training

Growing in a Polytunnel:

Cloughjordan Community Farm Co Tipperary Friday July 27th; Nano Nagle Centre Mallow Saturday 28th; Thornhill Organic Farm, Skibereen Co Cork Sunday 29th; Kenmare VEC Monday 30th; Cost €30 with free places for unemployed; Trainer Klaus Laitenberger; Please bring lunch

Setting up a Box scheme

1 day course on what is involved in setting up a box scheme, Wednesday 4th July; Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Soil Management for Horticulture:

1 day course covering managing soil for organic vegetable production in Croghan Co Roscommon & Nano Nagle Centre, Mallow Co Cork. Dates in October This course will be delivered by Ian Tolhurst from Tolhurst Organic. Cost €40 with free places for unemployed; lunch not included

Extending the growing season: 1 day course on practical approaches to extend the growing through different approaches.

This course will be delivered by Ian Tolhurst from Tolhurst Organic. Cost €40 with free places for unemployed. Venue Croghan Co Roscommon & Nano Nagle Centre, Mallow Co Cork. October 2012.

Machinery For Organic Horticulture

1 day course on suitable machinery for organic horticulture. To be delivered by Ian Tolhurst from Tolhurst Organic. Cost €40 with free places for unemployed; venue Kildare in October 2012

Livestock Training

Organic Pig Production: This course instructs on the differences

between organic and conventional pig production, processing techniques and impact on land management. Also breeds & stock management as well as the practicalities of costs and potential income. in Roscommon Saturday June 30th & July 7th. Cost €100.

Organic Cereal Production; 1 day course on organic cereal production covering all aspects from sowing to harvesting. This session will be delivered by Stephen Briggs from Abacus Organic UK and will cover maximising rotation, fertility, new varieties and suitability of other crops e.g. barley. Cost €50 Venue Kilbeggan Co Westmeath, Early July.

Organic Egg Production, 1 day course on setting up and running an Organic Egg business. July 24th in Hillstreet Co Roscommon, Cost €40

Processing or Adding Value Training

Cheese, Butter and Yoghurt Making:

This practical course guides the trainees as to how they can produce both hard and soft cheese, yoghurt and butter; it also provides the ingredients for the participants to make their own and evaluates their produced items. Duration 3 days date and venue to be decided Cost €200. Lunch not included

Pig Curing/and Sausage Making Course:

This course will provide demonstration on how to cure and smoke pork. The 2nd half of the day will provide a practical understanding of sausage making, the methods used to add value to meat products, which cuts of meat and what ratio of meat can be used and what equipment options are available. trainees will make their own sausages. Dates to be decided.

Distance Learning Training

Certificate in Organics (Distance Learning): This FETAC level 5 courses offers a distance learning option to obtain a Certificate in Organic Horticulture through the completion a choice of modules. In addition to the online training there are also two practical experience days per module. Duration 1 year commencing September 2012.

MSc PG Dip in Organic Farming:

This is a part time on-line distance learning course in which there are 8 taught modules over two years and a subsequent MSc project in a topic related to organic farming. Commences in September 2012; Duration 3 years; Requires a full application process.

Other Training still at planning stage

Agro Forestry, training day establishing an Agro forestry element on the farm and what are the advantages and disadvantages such an enterprise. Cost €50 with free places for unemployed be delivered by Stephen Briggs of Abacus Organic UK.

Working with Horses in planning at present scheduled for Autumn 2012 Clare / Tipperary area.

To book or discuss a training or mentoring option, Please contact National Organic Training Skillnet (NOTS) on 0719640688 or 086 1728442 or email info@nots.ie or check out www.nots.ie for further details There are a limited number of free places for the unemployed on specific courses (certain conditions apply eg PPS number and contact telephone number must be supplied)

CARRICK ON SHANNON'S FARMERS MARKET- SURVEY RESULTS

Carrick-on-Shannon's Thursday Farmers Market is in existence over five years, with a steady progression to a well established trading event positively endorsed by the local business community. To date no analysis of this weekly event has been undertaken and the purpose of this review is to identify opportunities for the future development and sustainability of the market. The research took the form of questionnaires, market day observations, discussions with traders, customers, town retailers. The research was carried out in mid February 2012 and the opinions of 193 people formed the basis for the report. Two further concepts were posed to both customers and traders as part of this research - the opportunities for the development of an on-line ordering facility akin to a box scheme and the development of a farm shop.

A synopsis of the research is as follows:

- The customer turnout on the day was 358 adult's, Repeat business is a significant trading feature with an average of 50%-60% of these customers being regular shoppers, with a typical spend of €20.00-€35.00 across the market. •

Adverse weather conditions hamper trade due to the outdoor nature of the event; however this issue is being addressed by The Market Yard Development Group. •

The market is currently attracting a narrow customer base, the primary aspiration of 80% of vendors is to broaden and increase their customer base.

- This collective desire to improve and develop the market will have many backers because of the perceived benefits of 'market day' amongst consumers, vendors and town traders.
- 75% of local town traders surveyed noted an increase of 5% - 10% in turnover and directly credited this increase to the market.
- As a communal trading entity the development of the market must be undertaken collaboratively.
- The dominance of single or select vendors creates vulnerabilities further development would help to balance this issue.
- An on-line ordering facility for market produce is unlikely to succeed at this time, principally because it eliminates the customer-vendor contact, an intrinsic feature of the market experience.

- The farm shop concept was well received however its success may undermine the weekly market and pursuing this project may not be in the best interest of market development.

- The starting point for development of the market is excellent, as over 90% of the customers found that the choice of products, quality, value for money and overall appearance was very good, 30% of customers would

like see more suppliers in attendance.

- Social interaction and a sense of community was a popular reason why customers regularly attended the market, this is the area that has the most potential for successful development of the market.

The success of the market shows that it is not a few people doing 100% of their shopping but a lot of people doing 10% -20% of their shopping that keeps a market alive, this is a key element that should be kept in mind for further development. Additional the market would greatly benefit from formal management to development awareness of the market, an additional customer bases and a positive social experience for the enjoyments of consumers. If Carrick on Shannon's farmers market is developed it has the potential to Blossom and Grow and positively benefits the local community.

Drumshanbo Mart 2012

Organic Sales

Saturday 22nd September
Saturday 20th October
Saturday 17th November

All cattle to be pre-booked with IOFGA
Contact 090 643 3680
info@iofga.org

Manganese Deficiency

Manganese deficiency in livestock can impair reproductive performance (delayed cycling, silent heats and reduced conception rates), it can also cause skeletal deformities and contracted (shortened) tendons in new born calves along with enlarged joints and reduced birth weight. There is some evidence that excessively high calcium in the ration can cause a manganese deficiency.

Since manganese deficiencies can cause reproductive losses, it is recommended that supplemental manganese be available at recommended levels to the animal. A feed analysis will determine the levels of manganese in the diet.

There are seven trace elements required for pasture growth. The most common deficiencies in pastures are copper, zinc, manganese and molybdenum. Plants use trace elements in very small amounts in their enzyme systems for plant growth. Trace elements are essential for plant growth, but because only small amounts are required, deficiency symptoms often only occur sporadically. Below are some factors which influence Manganese deficiency in soils.

Manganese

- Availability of manganese will depend on breakdown of insoluble forms by soil organisms and soil chemical processes. This is strongly influenced by weather conditions and soil biological activity. As a result, the manganese status of pastures can change dramatically in a short time.
- Manganese availability is reduced by high pH, soil carbonates and low organic matter.
- Deficiencies are most common in late winter/early spring on sandy soils where limestone is present, but can also occur on acid sand over clay soils - especially if water logging in winter has restricted root growth and if the soil surface dries out quickly in early spring.

- Liming soils can induce a manganese deficiency, as can limestone dust drift onto paddocks adjacent to roads.

- Manganese availability greatly increases as pH drops - manganese can become toxic to plants if pH (CaCl₂) falls below 4.3.

Solutions

- Reduce excessive liming of the ground to allow trace elements levels such as manganese to return to normal.
- Provide a trace element supplement to animals. (*Refer to organic standards for compatibility*)

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Greenhouses on display at Highbank Organic Farm,
Cuffesgrange, Co. Kilkenny

Minister Coveney pays tribute to innovative Leitrim companies

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Simon Coveney has paid tribute to local entrepreneurs for "taking a risk" and creating a business and much needed employment despite the recession. Speaking during a visit to The Food Hub, Drumshanbo on Monday, Minister Coveney said the agri-food sector had a crucial role to play in the Irish economy well into the future.

"We're on a journey in the agri food sector, moving away from producing very high volumes of food for commercial export to adding more value through speciality foods such as those produced here," he said.

During his visit to The Food Hub, Minister Coveney took a tour of the businesses already in place at the facility including Lough Allen Foods; Carraig na Breac Smokehouse; Surf Seeds; JB Foods; IBI; Natural Ireland and Bo Peep Jams, before officially opening a new venture, The Cheese Hub.

The Cheese Hub is a unique company providing a storage and a maturing facilities for organic cheese producers. A niche market was identified during a training skills programme run by the National Organic Training Skillnet and took two years of careful research and planning to come to fruition, opening its doors only a few short months ago.

Run by Sean McGloin and Paul McDermott the maturing unit is one of the first facilities of its

kind in the country. At present the unit caters for organic cheddar cheese produced by Knockanore Farmhouse Cheese, Co Waterford.

The cheddar is made from organic milk sourced from 11 producers from counties Westmeath, Cork and Waterford and the idea is that the wheels of cheese, produced by Knockanore Farmhouse Cheese, are sent up to The Cheese Hub where they are not only stored and aged, but also turned and constantly monitored.

The cheddar wheels are turned daily for the first month then once a week and finally once a fortnight for up to 12 months. The matured cheddar will then be packaged and sold with a number of high-end distributors already sourced in the UK and plans to look at markets as far afield as Brazil.

At present The Cheese Hub employs two people full time and the plan is to store and mature approximately 40 tonnes of cheese this year with plans to increase capacity to 70 tonnes in 2013.

"This has been a wonderful opportunity for us and this is fantastic facility," acknowledged Proprietor, Sean McGloin. "I think that there is a real market for value added products, especially Irish organic products."

The Cheese Hub isn't the only new venture to open its doors in The Food Hub. Plans are

already well advance for the return of the world-renowned Bo Peep Jams range with production expected to start this Summer. The return of this brand is even more poignant for the people of Drumshanbo as The Food Hub is the site of the former Laird's jam factory where the jams were produced until the early 1990s.

Natural Ireland, a company promoting wholly Irish, natural, organic products in the beauty and therapy market have also found a home in The Food Hub and hope to launch their own website www.naturalireland.ie next month.

Praising all those involved in the The Food Hub, Minister Coveney said "Here we are today with so many examples of skilled people making things happen, taking a risk in a recession and creating jobs and that is what we need, more entrepreneurs.

"This (The Food Hub) is a really encouraging story and I'd like to pay tribute to everyone involved. It is a brave step for the local authority and local management to get involved in a project like this and for companies to come on board but this is a real success story. These are the people who'll help rebuild Ireland and I wish everyone the very best of luck."

Comment and Opinion

Ireland's Agriculture and Food Industry and the Shale Gas Question

Ireland's **food and drinks manufacturing industry** is a most important indigenous industry with a turnover of €24 billion. Almost 50,000 people are directly employed, with a further 60,000 employed indirectly in all regions of the country. The relative importance of this sector to Ireland is greater than almost all of the other EU countries. The IFA President stated that agri-food supports around 300,000 jobs.

Ireland has an international reputation as a clean, green, high quality, innovative producer of excellent food and drink. A critical part of the reputation arises from the emphasis on food safety. It is the cornerstone of its international reputation for food production to the highest standards of safety within sustainable farming systems, the very foundation on which the agri-food sector is built. It is estimated Ireland can feed 36 million people with the food it

produces annually. By 2020 it is estimated, this figure will have reached 50 million.

Ireland's dairy sector, with around 18,000 producers, is a strategically important part of the national economy, with exports of €2.66 billion in 2011. With grass-based milk production, Ireland is the lowest cost and the greenest producer of dairy products in the EU. The dairy processing sector is heavily linked to the Infant Milk Formula industry. Ireland's Infant Milk Formula industry currently supplies 16% of the world market and 40% of the EU market requirements. Three of the world's top five Formula producers have manufacturing facilities in Ireland, and the sector is globally growing by about 15% per annum. This is **reflective of the quality, food safety ethos and regulatory environment of Ireland's dairy industry.**

A vital necessity for Agriculture is a predictable long-term supply of clean and safe water.

It would be good to be able to say that we can rely on research to date in the United States to inform a decision in Ireland. Yet, the Solid Waste Disposal Act of 1980 prohibits the EPA from regulating drilling fluids, produced water and other waste associated with exploration, development or production of crude oil or natural gas. Still, significant proportions of these wastes, when analysed independently, have shown carcinogenic and other highly hazardous compound ingredients. It follows that any EPA research routinely omits these wastes from its study. Similarly, the gas industry in the US has been exempted from the Clean Air and Water Act, further inhibiting the collection of scientific data with which to inform policy decisions.

Impact Research Group
www.shalegasresearchireland.wordpress.com

Coop now Submitting Plans for Organic Farming Scheme

Leitrim Organic Farmers Co-op can now submit plans for the above scheme. This year's closing date is now past, but farmers who have completed their REPS 3 programmes our

new entrants should now be planning for next year. The payments under the scheme are 212/ha in conversion and 106/ha full symbol. These payments are now linked to the farmer

demonstrating an increase in production over the period of the plan. For an appointment contact the coop office.

Upcoming Organic Courses organised by



1. *Organic and Free Range Pig Production* 2 days at the farm of Andrew Chilton, Boyle Saturday 30th June & Saturday 7th July 9:30am
2. *Organic small scale Egg Production* 1 day – 24th July Pauric & Bridge Tiernan, Hillstreet, Carrick
3. *Erecting a Polytunnel* on the farm of Maureen & Tina Meehan – Ballinaglera Saturday 14th July 10am (signposted from Ballinaglera village)

The above courses are aimed at farmers and small holders who are looking to develop an additional income on their farms

A lunch will be provided on the day together with course materials

Supported by Leitrim Integrated Development Company



For more details contact the coop 071 9640868

Machinery Clearance Sale

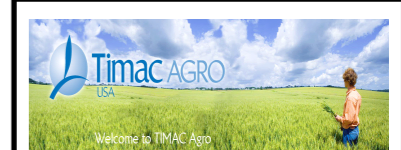
The following items are For Sale due to change in farming system

Cultivator
Chisle plough,
2 furrow plough,
3 Ferguson furrow plough- spares or repair,
Steerage hoe,
Row crop cultivator _ more "legs" available,
Bamford 2 furrow plough, used recently,
Spring tine harrows,
Mower,
Howard dung spreader,
Drum mower,
Trackmarshall tractor with samboc digger attachment,
Extra buckets for the digger.

Full range of item can be viewed @ www.leitrimorganic.com



Full range of machinery can be viewed at Strokestown Co. Roscommon.
Contact Kay at 071 9633775 or 089 4213822



PHYSIOLITH Natural soil conditioner and Litho Physalg specialist P and PK, calcified seaweed fertilisers. Full range of mineral licks available in stock. Suitable for Certified Organic farmers and growers. *Local agent for Roscommon/Leitrim area.*
Contact Pat Towey.
Mob: 087 9831614.
www.timac.com