

# ***Irish Agroforestry Forum*** *promoting trees on farms on the island of Ireland*

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Trees on the Land

# Irish Agroforestry Forum

## Aims

- Promote the potential and benefits of agroforestry
- Demonstrate best agroforestry practice through education and training
- Encourage innovative on-farm trials, transfer knowledge derived from existing trials and highlight potential areas for future research
- Act as a coordinated voice for those practicing and promoting agroforestry
- Develop proposals to introduce trees onto farms on the island of Ireland

# First Steps

- Produced a strategy document
- Created a website and membership organisation
- Networking to Inform Policy on scheme development
- Advocate where appropriate
- Agroforestry Education and Promotion Programme funded by Department of Agriculture, food and Marine, Woodland Support Fund



# Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine Woodland Support Scheme

Agroforestry education and support project funded 2021/2022, approximately €70,000, this support helped:

- Recruit a Project Officer
- Got the Forum up and running
- Developing organisation now established
- Set up a company limited by guarantee, legal



# IAF Membership (€30 annually)

**There are current 16 Advisory Board Members, 29 Members, and 134 on the Mailing List**

**The Membership Package includes:**

- Access to IAF expert knowledge via JiscMail discussion group and “Ask the Expert” email
- Discounted rates for farm visits and annual conferences
- Contribute to policy change
- Monthly newsletter
- Membership of European Agroforestry Federation
- Access to Biofarm Archive
- Member Google Meets





# Website

A new user-friendly website has been developed and launched to promote agroforestry, [www.irishagroforestry.ie](http://www.irishagroforestry.ie). It was launched on the 23rd of March and promoted on social media, mailing lists and national publications. The website is an educational resource as well as a networking facilitator for everyone interested in agroforestry.



# Farm Walks

**2 Farm walks were held in the Autumn: Headford, Galway and Rock Farm, Slane**

**Farm walks currently planned for summer**

- 21st June Tullow, Carlow Jack Brown's
- 29th June Ballinspittle, Cork Micheál O'Donovan's
- 17th July, Farm in West Clare
- August Field Trip to see farms in Northern Ireland



# Videos and Podcasts

## **4 Videos Produced:**

Loughgall, Ballycastle, Broughshane and Cushendall

## **Silvopasture Webinar Planned 11th July:**

Speakers Jim McAdam, Lindsay Whistance, Clive Bright and 2 farmer members. Questions via chat.

**Series of audio visual/podcasts (farm walks plus discussion planned)**



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# Forward Plan

## Engage with stakeholders

- Continuing to support and develop our farmer membership
- Engaging/Linking with key industry contacts to share and disseminate information and promote agroforestry
- Linkages with other NGOs CELT, GrowIn, Farm Woodland Forum, Teagasc. Collaboration and help to roll out the project due to shared agenda



# Future IAF projects-innovation

- Innovation in Agroforestry - farm specific designs, trees to help environment, animal welfare, right tree-right place- right enterprise - **Farming is a business**
- Carbon storage figures needed, farmers aware possible value
- Ready Reckoner-how many animals and when to graze



# Broadening Reach

- Joined up working, **Farmers are key** - Farmers should help design how trees can work on their farms
- Broadening Reach - **Organic Farmers all the way to Intensive Farmers**
- Ireland needs to develop a **sustainable farming model, trees on farms** will help that and the vision should be that food production will continue but in a sustainable fashion
- **Farmers as custodians/guardians**
- Environment and Farmers linking hand in hand





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