

Smart Farming

Improving farm returns.
Enhancing the environment.

Sheehan's host Farm Talk in sunny Cuffesgrange

In August, Smart Farming participant Eamon Sheehan hosted the annual Farm Talk on his family farm near Cuffesgrange in Co. Kilkenny. Over 300 farmers came to listen, learn and challenge the excellent field demonstration presenters from Germinal, Teagasc, ASSAP programme, BRIDE biodiversity project and the Local Authority Waters Programme.

This followed an uplifting opening address by Climate Action Minister Richard Bruton, T.D. who spoke of agriculture's unique role when it comes to climate action. He spoke of how the sector has the ability to both reduce emissions and create a store for carbon.

IFA President Joe Healy set out farmers' positive climate actions, which he sees as providing a strong platform for further action. However, he cautioned that this can only be



Left to right: Thomas Cooney, IFA & Smart Farming, Fiona McCoole, EPA, Maureen, Lois, Eamon, Rachel and Julia Sheehan, Joe Healy, IFA President, Richard Bruton, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, Eamon Sheehan and James Murphy, Kilkenny IFA.

achieved if there is a fully mobilised advisory service, the removal of road blocks to make community and farm-scale renewables a reality and a whole of Government commitment to the implementation of Teagasc's climate roadmap.

The Farm Talk concluded with an engaging debate on CAP, climate action and consumers. During the debate, farmers and exhibitors all shared their views and experience with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, IFA, EPA and Bord Bia.

Smart Farming guidance focuses on being water-wise on the farm

Smart Farming has published updated water guidance on its website smartfarming.ie, to support farmers as they work to improve water quality and reduce the risk of penalties.

On water conservation, it encourages farmers to:

- Understand current water use, by studying the water bills.
- Locate & fix leaks to save money.
- Reduce use by recycling water.

Regarding protecting water quality, the guidance document encourages farmers to:

- Think about how the farmyard is "plumbed" to the local stream.
- Take specific actions to reduce risks of water pollution and subsequent penalties.
- Ensure that there is good drinking water quality, by properly constructing wells.



Left to right: Joe Gallagher, National Federation of Group Water Schemes, Catherine Seale-Duggan, Local Authority Waters Programme and Thomas Cooney Smart Farming Programme Leader at the launch of the updated guidance on water.

Meet Smart Farming farmers at the Ploughing

If you are going to the National Ploughing Championships in Fenagh, Co. Carlow this month, why not call into the IFA stand and hear from farmers who have benefited from the Smart Farming programme or register your interest in taking the Smart Farming cost saving challenge in 2020.

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| Michael Biggins | Joe Deverell | Gillian O'Sullivan | George Hatton | Robert Watson | Thomas Cooney |
| Livestock farmer, Ower, Co. Galway | Livestock farmer, Geashill, Co. Offaly | Dairy farmer, Dungarvan, Co. Waterford | Livestock farmer, Kilmeany, Co. Carlow | Livestock farmer, Stradone, Co. Cavan | Dairy farmer & Smart Farming Leader |
| Tues 17th Sept | Tues 17th Sept | Wed 18th Sept | Wed 18th Sept | Thur 19th Sept | Thur 19th Sept |

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Smart Farming is supported by the participating organisations and brought to you by IFA in conjunction with the EPA