



Practical Steps to more Sustainable Farming Systems 2021 - 2022



SIGNPOST

Farmers for Climate Action

Sustainable Farming - Signpost Programme

OVERVIEW

This is a professional development programme for signpost farmers across the agricultural sector.

This innovative programme has been developed in conjunction with ICOS Skillnet, Teagasc and ICOS and is designed to address the sustainability needs of the agricultural industry in Ireland.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The key aim of this programme is to equip participants with the necessary knowledge, skills & practical competencies to demonstrate best practice sustainable initiatives and to inform, involve and empower participants to take ownership of their climate action plan for their own farms.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This programme is directed at farmers, advisors and those wishing to develop their skills further.

Suitable candidates from other related disciplines, who wish to develop their skills in this sector, will also be considered.

LEARNING APPROACH

The programme will run on a modular basis and modules will consist of lectures, case studies, practical demonstrations, self-directed learning, and a number of farm-based learning tasks. The programme will be presented by industry practitioners.

The programme will allow the application of theory and practice to the ongoing activities of the signpost farmer.

COURSE COMPLETION?

Participants will be in a position to become champions for climate action and help influence others within the sector to create climate change actions.

ACCREDITATION

On successful completion of the programme, candidates will receive an industry recognised certificate of completion from the Irish Institute of Training & Development and ICOS Skillnet.

DURATION

This is a blended programme, with 4 x 2-hour online modules and 1 ½ Days in Person Training.

The programme starts in December 2021 and concludes in April 2022.

MODULES

1. Sustainable Farming Systems
2. Policies Shaping Irish Agriculture to 2030
3. Dairy Farming Migration Measures
4. Water Quality
5. ASSAP Programme, Biodiversity & Social Sustainability
6. My Farm, My Plan – Bringing it all together

HOW TO APPLY

To Register your place, click the link below:

<https://forms.gle/EE9EnsCdz24zFhmbA>

Email: billy.goodburn@icos.ie

Tel: 087-126-5542

NEXT INTAKE

December 2021

Sustainable Farming - Signpost Programme

Programme Outline

<p>Session 1</p> <p>09/12</p>	<p>Sustainable farming systems - Setting the scene</p> <p>Why the urgency with climate change?</p> <p>Sustainability opportunities and challenges.</p> <p>Addressing our sustainability challenges through the Signpost Farm Programme</p> <p>Introduction of your farm action plan.</p>	<p>2 hours</p> <p>Online</p> <p>10.30am to 12.30pm</p>
<p>Session 2</p> <p>16/12</p>	<p>Policies shaping Irish Agriculture to 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Agricultural Policy • 2021 Climate Action Plan • Ammonia Policy • Nitrates Action Plan <p>What are the Irish solutions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Teagasc GHG and Ammonia Marginal Abatement Cost Curve. • Carbon Sequestration. <p>Improving efficiency roadmap for reduced emissions and improved profitability</p> <p>Carbon farming possibilities</p>	<p>2 hours</p> <p>Online</p> <p>10.30am to 12.30pm</p>
<p>Session 3</p> <p>06/01</p>	<p>Dairy farming mitigation measures – in depth look</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lime/Soil Fertility • Protected Urea • Low emission slurry spreading LESS/Timing • Clover/MSS • EBI • Concentrates Crude Protein % 	<p>2 hours</p> <p>Online</p> <p>10.30am to 12.30pm</p>
<p>Session 4</p> <p>13/01</p>	<p>Water Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieving optimum soil fertility • Nutrient management planning • Common nutrient loss issues that arise at farm level • Mitigation measures for sediment loss, N and P loss. 	<p>2 hours</p> <p>Online</p> <p>10.30am to 12.30pm</p>
<p>Session 5</p> <p>April</p>	<p>ASSAP Programme – Making a difference on farm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Quality field visit to a local farm <p>Biodiversity & Social sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity field visit to a local farm • Health & Safety and Farmer wellbeing field visit to local farm 	<p>5 hours</p> <p>10.00am to 04.00 pm</p> <p>On Farm</p>

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Programme Outline (continued)

Session 6 April	Final wrap up session: My farm, My plan - Bringing it all together Identify key lessons and create an action plan for my farm Communications & commitment to actions session plus a project by the farmers. Lunch and certificate presentation to participants.	2 hours 10.30am to 12.30pm In Person
		15 hours

Course will involve some further reading by email or videos during the spring period.



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<p>ICOS www.icos.ie</p> <p>Our The Irish Co-operative Organisation Society (ICOS) is a unifying force for the Irish co-operative movement.</p> <p>Our core business is to provide vision, leadership and value to the co-operative movement in Ireland. We use our collective voice to put the needs of the co-operative movement and our member co-ops to the forefront of what we do. We draw upon the pioneering, innovative and tenacious spirit of our founding members to help strengthen our co-operatives operating in today's ever changing and competitive world.</p> <p>ICOS member co-operatives and their associated companies collectively have over 150,000 individual members, employ >12,000 people in Ireland (a further 24,000 abroad) and have a combined turnover of almost €15 billion.</p>	<p>ICOS SKILLNET www.icosskillnet.ie</p> <p>ICOS Skillnet is the Learning & Development division of the Irish Co-operative Organisation Society.</p> <p>ICOS Skillnet actively supports and works with co-operative businesses in Ireland to address their current and future skills needs.</p> <p>The networks long-term strategy is to continue supporting the co-operative and agri-business sectors in meeting their learning and development needs to sustain, innovation, competitiveness and growth for the sector.</p> <p>ICOS Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and member companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Further and Higher Education, research, innovation and Science.</p>
<p>Teagasc Sign Post Farm Programme www.teagasc.ie/signpost</p> <p>The signpost programme is a collaborative partnership of farmers, industry and state agencies, working together for climate action.</p> <p>The Signpost programme is a Teagasc led-initiative, involving a partnership of over 30 companies and organisations from the Irish agri-food sector. Its purpose is to support climate action by Irish farmers. Its main goals are to reduce gaseous emissions from Irish agriculture, while creating more profitable and sustainable farming enterprises.</p> <p>100 Signpost Farmers will be central to the programme and demonstrate climate smart farming systems for all farmers.</p> <p>The Signpost Advisory campaign is the second element to the programme. It will engage with all farmers and support them to move towards more sustainable farming systems.</p> <p>Let's work together for climate action. Let's make a start today.</p>	<p>Golden Jubilee Trust www.goldenjubileetrust.ie</p> <p>The Golden Jubilee Trust is a charitable trust with the primary objectives of promoting, developing and improving the co-operative movement and the industry of agriculture in Ireland.</p> <p>It is a philanthropic Trust that supports worthy causes in Irish agricultural life. While some of the stated objects of the Trust are accorded less priority nowadays, many of the Trust objectives have a relevance and a benefit to today's agribusiness sector and to the rural community at large.</p> <p>The overall mission or objective of the Trust is to improve and develop all aspects of Irish agricultural and rural life.</p>