

# National Rural Development Conference 2009

**Rural Ireland in Uncertain Times:**  
the contribution of agri-food and  
enterprise sectors to rural development

## Programme

**10.00am Registration and Coffee**

**10.30am Welcome Address**

Jerry McCarthy, Teagasc Area Unit Manager, Cork

**10.35am Session 1: The Rural Economy –  
Past, Present and Future**

Chair: Gerry Scully, Teagasc Programme Manager  
*Rural Economy 10 Years on from White Paper*  
Cathal O'Donoghue, Teagasc Head of Rural  
Economy Research Centre

**10.55am *Recession, Local Labour Market and Skills Balance***

David Meredith, Teagasc,  
Rural Economy Research Centre and  
Jasmina Behan,  
Skills and Labour Market Research Unit, FÁS

**11.15am *The Future for Rural Ireland***

Prof Gerry Boyle, Teagasc Director

**11.35 COFFEE**

**11.50am Session 2: Land Use**

Chair: Fiona Thorne, Teagasc,  
Rural Economy Research Centre  
*Profiling Irish Farmers*  
Gerry Scully, Teagasc,  
Rural Development Programme

**12.10 *Economics of Irish Land Markets***  
Kevin Hanrahan, Teagasc,  
Rural Economy Research Centre

**12.35 LUNCH**

**13.25 Session 3: Financing Return to Growth**

Chair: Kevin Hanrahan  
*Investment and Debt on Irish Farms –  
Farm Financial Health Check*  
Fiona Thorne, Teagasc, Rural Economy Research  
Centre and Tom Kelly, Teagasc,  
Farm Management Programme

**Session 4: Productivity**

**13.50 *Increasing Productivity in Ireland***  
Ronnie O'Toole, Chief Economist,  
National Irish Bank

**14.15 *Driving productivity growth in the  
Irish Agri-Food Sector***  
Pat Dillon, Teagasc, Animal Research

**14.40 Session 5: LEADER Response to Crisis**

Chair: TBA  
Dorin Graham, CEO, Clare LEADER

**15.10 COFFEE**

**15.25 Session 6:  
Enterprise Creation in Rural Ireland**

Chair: Paul McCarthy, Teagasc,  
Rural Business Specialist  
*Open Discussion led by Jim Power,  
Chief Economist at Friends First*

**16.15 *Government Response to Recession***  
Minister Éamon Ó Cuív

## Booking Form

Name(s)

Address

Organisation

Telephone

Mobile

Email

Please return booking form by Friday, 2 October to:

Ursula Colohan  
Teagasc  
Mellows Campus  
Athenry  
County Galway  
t: 091 845212  
e: [ursula.colohan@teagasc.ie](mailto:ursula.colohan@teagasc.ie)  
[www.teagasc.ie/events/2009/ruraldevconf](http://www.teagasc.ie/events/2009/ruraldevconf)



# Teagasc National Rural Development Conference 2009



Teagasc will host a major conference on rural development, entitled 'Rural Ireland In Uncertain Times' on Thursday, 8 October 2009 in the Silver Springs Hotel, Cork City.

The expert panel of speakers, drawn from Teagasc and other organisations, will present current analysis of the impact of the economic downturn on farm families and the rural economy. The conference takes place 10 years on from the publication of the White Paper on Rural Development and presents an opportunity to assess how rural development can be achieved in the coming years.

The core theme areas of the conference are: ten years on from the White Paper on Rural Development, impacts of the economic downturn on the rural economy, the challenges ahead, and positioning the rural economy for growth. A key feature of the conference will be an open session with representatives from national and rural enterprise support agencies discussing the challenges associated with developing business opportunities in rural areas. This will be followed by an address by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív TD on the issue of the State's response to the current economic recession.

This major conference is of interest to a wide range of rural development practitioners, representatives of rural interest groups, as well as representatives from rural development agencies, and policy makers.

## REGISTRATION

Attendance at this conference is free of charge, however as places are limited we ask that you register your name, contact details and organisation affiliation either by

Fax: to 091 844296 or  
Email: to [ursula.colohan@teagasc.ie](mailto:ursula.colohan@teagasc.ie)



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Thursday, 8 October  
Silver Springs Hotel, Tivoli, Cork