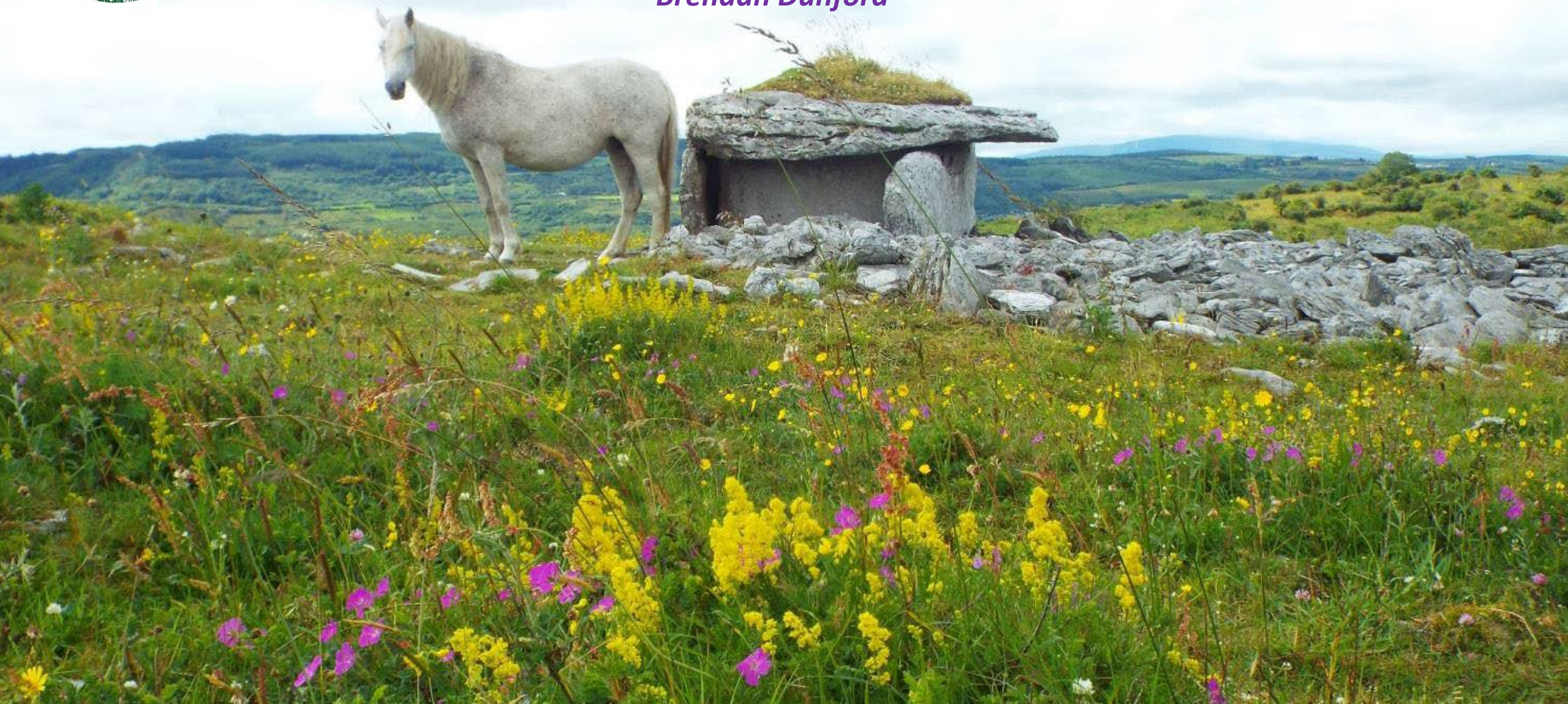
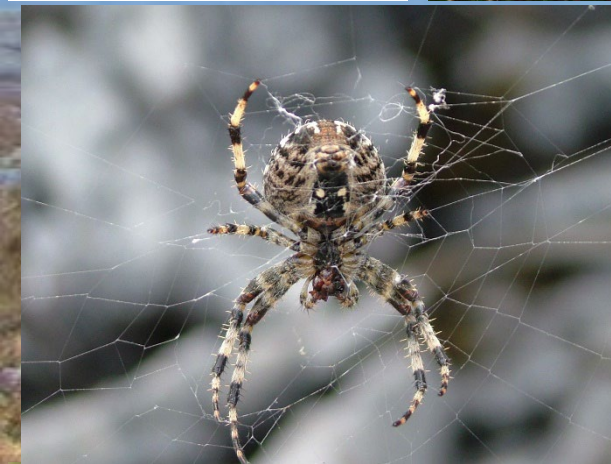
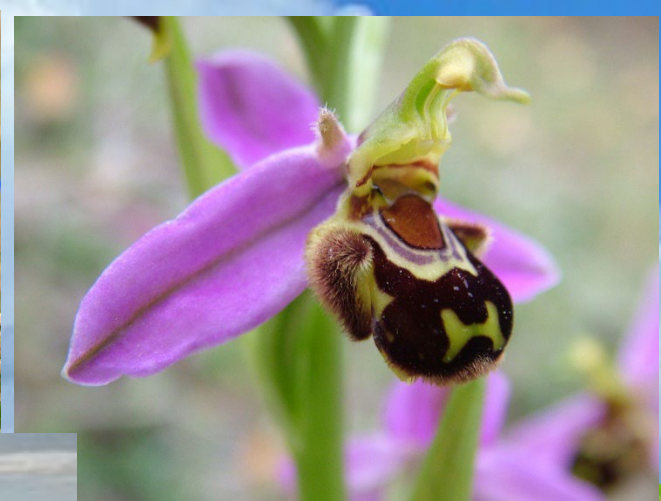
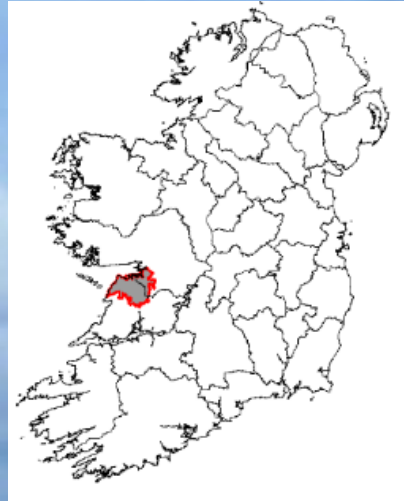




Engaging and motivating farmers to reverse biodiversity loss
Brendan Dunford





*If **over**-farmed or **under**-farmed, the Burren's heritage and environment suffers*



Farming intensity



Rather than criticizing farmer's actions, its more instructive to try to understand their perspective...

Will it cost me
and if so, who
will pay?

How do I do
this, who can
advise me?

What will other
farmers think
of me?





Paying for results!



0/10

'Overfarmed' - no payment



€1.2m per annum paid to Burren farmers through CAP Pillar 2

'Paying for results' means that the farmer is **free to decide** how to manage the land

10/10

Really well managed, pay €315/ha



4/10

'Underfarmed' - no payment





Paying for supporting actions to help manage the land for nature

Helping to reduce input costs and improve the condition of our farms for the next generation...

Farmer
nominates (and
co-funds) tasks
to suit his/her
farm and
priorities



Addressing water pollution? Provide alternative sources.



Improve access



Scrub encroaching on species rich-grassland? Targeted removal.

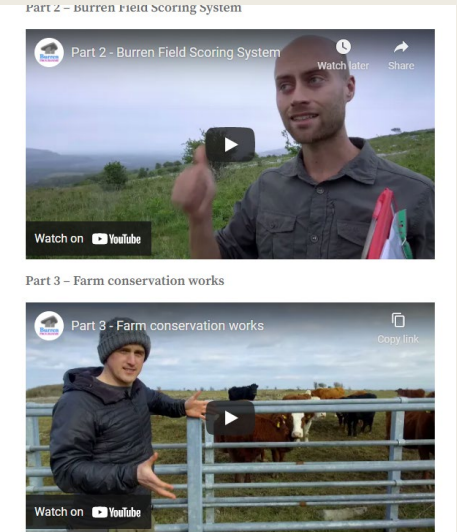


Need to restoring grazing? Repair walls.



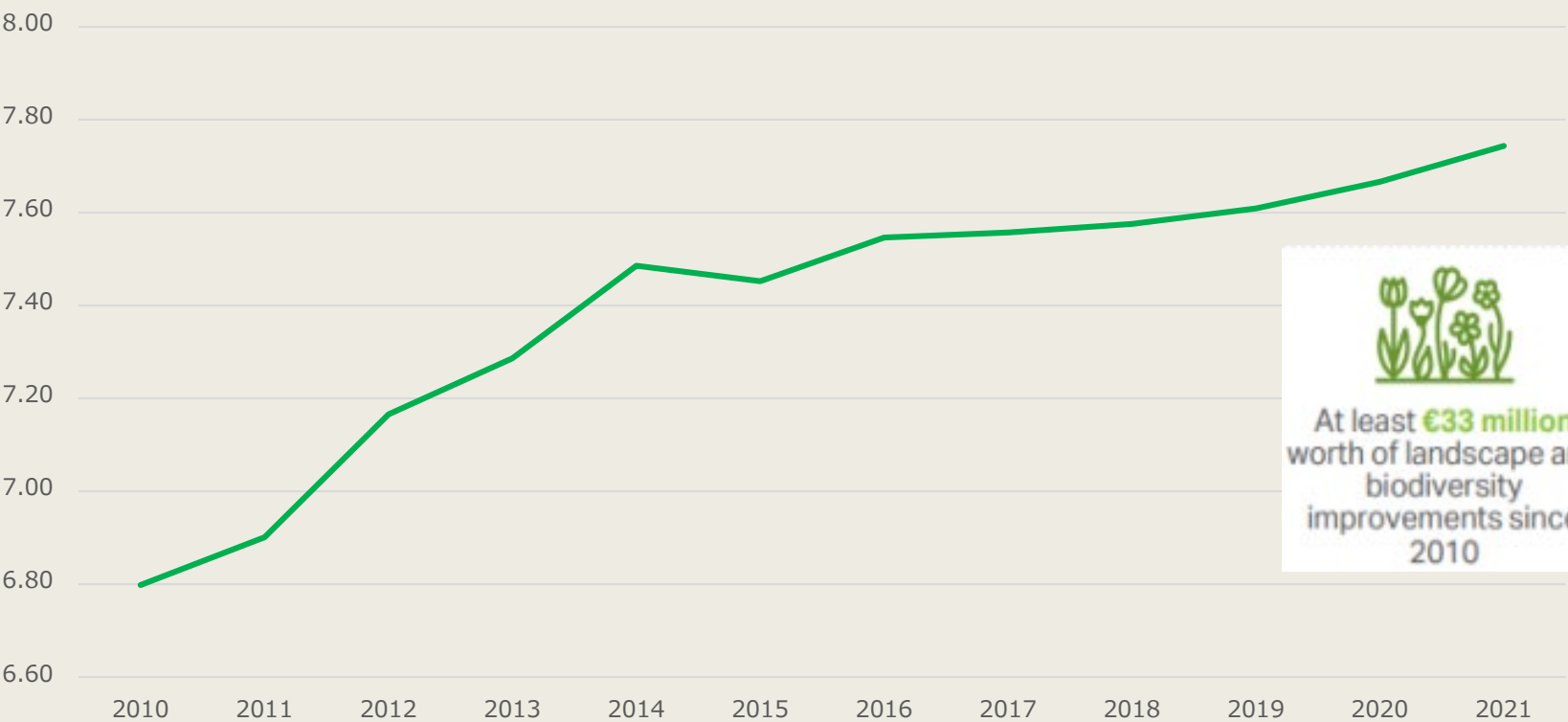
OK, we know how to farm for beef and dairy, but how do we 'farm for nature'?

Need for *Environmental* Training, Advice, Research and Support – ideally at a local level



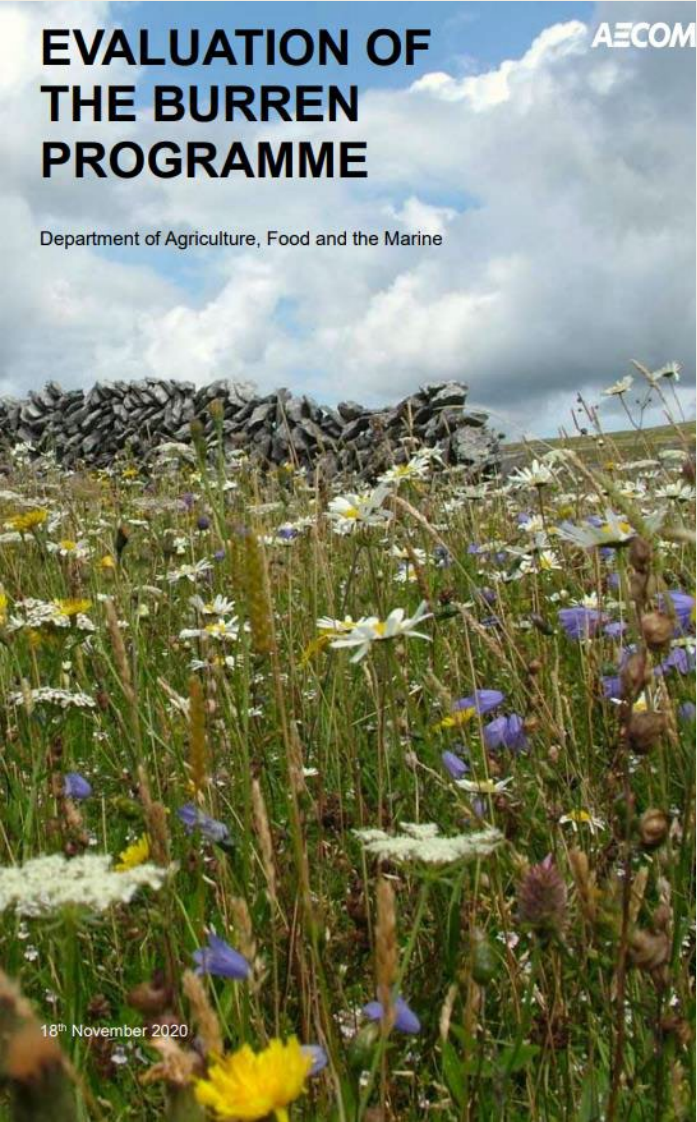
Impact of this local, result-based approach in the Burren (23,000ha)

Change in average I-1 Score per annum 2010 - 2021

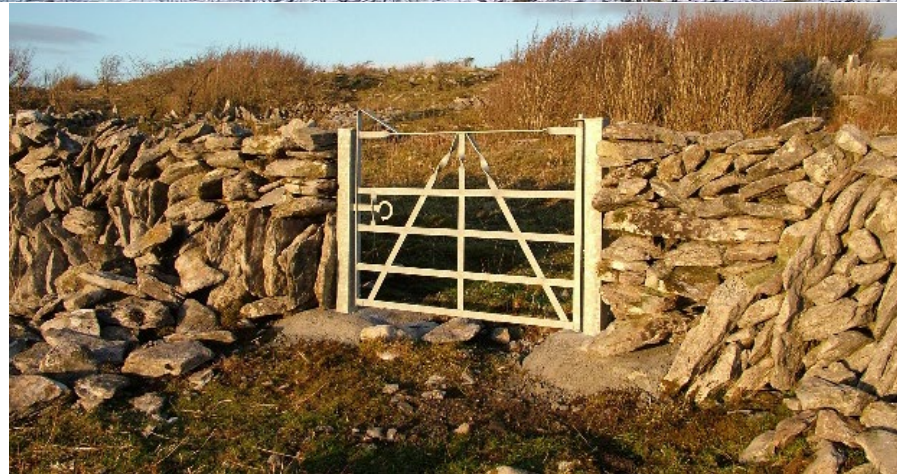
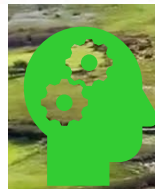



At least **€33 million**
worth of landscape and
biodiversity
improvements since
2010

IMPACT: Consistent improvement in Environmental outcomes since 2010



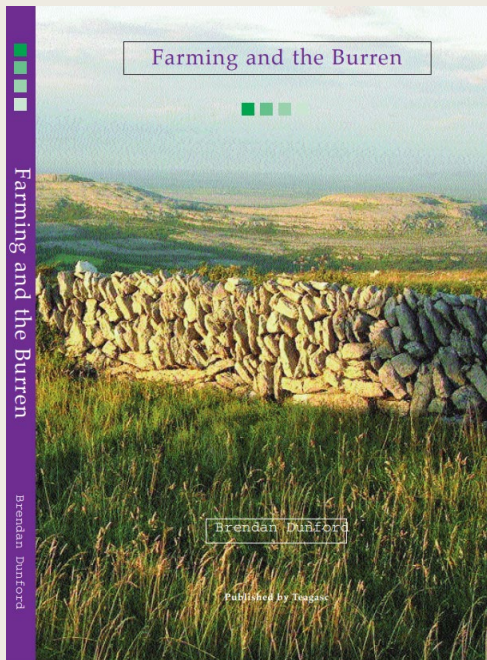
The Nagle Family





Place Based Learning: reconnecting people with their place, and their role in caring for it

burren**b**o**o**trust
connecting people and place

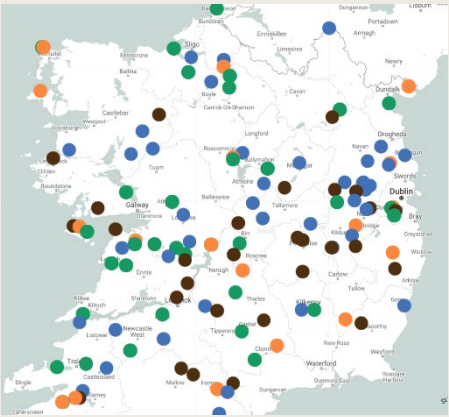




Celebrating, with pride, our farming heritage –the Burren Winterage Festival



The Burren and beyond – creating engaging new ‘messengers’ and messages – www.farmingfornature.ie



FARMING FOR NATURE
FARM WALKS

A series of walks for the Farming for Nature farmers to showcase their contribution to nature and good farming practices on their land

WALKS ARE FREE TO ATTEND & YOU HAVE TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE AS SPACES ARE LIMITED.

SAT 7 MARCH 2PM Tommy Earley, Co. Roscommon
SAT 29 MARCH 11AM Dilly Nolan, Co. Dublin
SAT 25 APRIL 2PM Ailbhe Gerrard, Co. Tipperary
SAT 9 MAY 2PM Donna Mullen, Co. Meath
SAT 16 MAY 2PM Joya Byrne, Co. Donegal
SAT 30 MAY 2PM Michael Hickey, Co. Tipperary
SAT 6 JUNE 2PM Gerard Walsh, Co. Galway
SAT 20 JUNE 2PM Feargal O'Donnell, Co. Mayo
SAT 27 JUNE 2PM Marynne Aherne, Co. Roscommon
SAT 18 JULY 2PM Suzanne Crampton, Co. Kilkenny
SAT 25 JULY 2PM Michael Hickey, Co. Tipperary
SAT 1 AUGUST 2PM Thomas O'Connor, Co. Kerry
SAT 8 AUGUST 2PM Mark Hurst, Co. Kildare
SAT 15 AUGUST 2PM Moyhill Community Farm, Co. Clare
SAT 22 AUGUST 2PM Ailbhe Gerrard, Co. Tipperary
SAT 5 SEPTEMBER 2PM Kate Egan, Co. Westmeath
SAT 19 SEPTEMBER 11AM Clive Briggs, Co. Sligo
SAT 10 OCTOBER 2PM Edmund Joyce, Co. Carlow

Registration and more information at buytickets.at/farmingfornature
www.farmingfornature.ie

Ask the Farmer Q&A with Mimi Crawford

Watch later Share

Watch on YouTube

Tommy Earley, Beef farmer, Roscommon

Farming for Nature



Good

1. Best meadows and pastures during the main flowering season (May-July, in meadows) they will allow flowers to seed and regenerate the seed bank, so increasing wildlife habitat, nutrient food, competition, encouraging more flowering plants to thrive.

2. Good diversity of plants and insect species present.

Grassland Features

3. Create a mix of habitats, features or features in an appropriate ratio, including rough grassland, wet grassland or waterlogging.

4. Reduce any overgrazing or overstocking before a grass has large or before it overgrazes too widely, leaving species - competing shrubs, bracken, thistles - control before seeding and before they become dominant.

5. After grazing, aim for a grassland with 10% and lower in this will show the best range of biodiversity to prosper.

Woodland Features

6. If the woodland is present, use hay instead of slugs or moss and will be shed to the meadow as the crop dies out.

7. Short mowing a corner of meadow in this will show remaining wildlife a better chance of escaping.

8. Short mow if you suspect the presence of ground nesting birds.

9. Rather using the grass crop, graze the aftermath with livestock - they will help to enhance the regenerative meadow and create the for new seedlings to establish.

10. There may be good demand for hay from species rich meadows.

11. Strong and targeted measures help improve organic matter levels in the soil.

John McHugh Farming For Nature Amb...

Watch later Share

Watch on YouTube

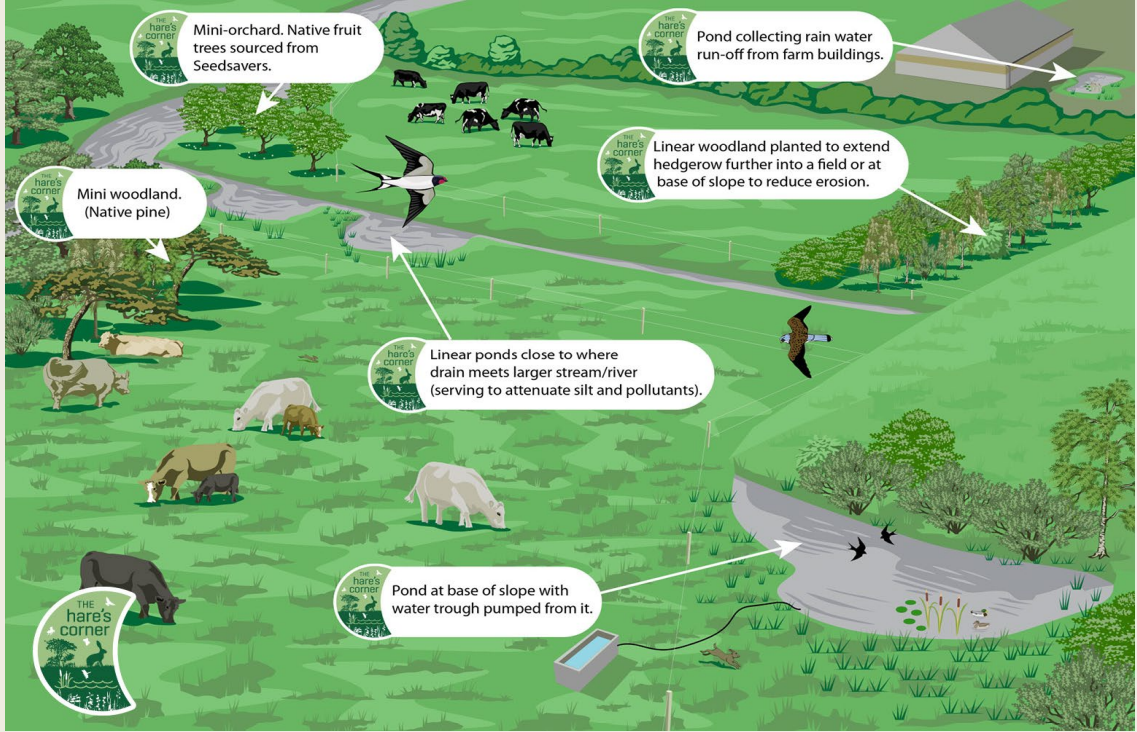
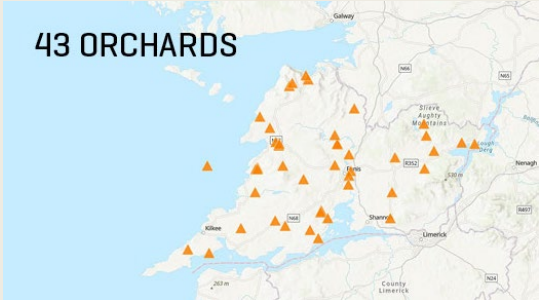
SUBSCRIBE



Moving from aspiration to action: The Hare's Corner



Helping farmers and landowners
create a little more space for nature



32 PONDS



38 WOODLANDS



Conclusion:



Farmers have a crucial role to play in reversing biodiversity loss. So how do we mobilise them at scale, right now?

We know how to do reverse biodiversity loss – there are great examples all over the country of ‘farming for nature’

We also know there is an appetite for action among farmers and landowners – the Hare’s Corner is a simple example of this.

In the Burren, the ‘pocket, head and heart’ approach has delivered gradual gains for people and place for over a decade.

The Burren Programme and Farming for Nature show what can be done with sufficient determination and innovation.

So the real question is not ‘how can we reverse biodiversity loss?’, rather how badly do we want to?



Thank you! For more info., please visit:



www.burrenprogramme.com



www.farmingfornature.ie

burrenbēotrust
connecting people and place

www.burrenbeo.com



www.burrenbeo.com/thc



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