



How Agriculture and Ecology can work together

‘A FARMERS PERSPECTIVE’

The BRIDE Project

FARMING WITH NATURE

A solid orange horizontal bar spanning the width of the slide at the bottom.



BirdWatch Ireland
100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000

2019 Calendar

BirdWatch Ireland
Protecting Birds and Biodiversity



January - Black-throated Diver



February - Purple Sandpiper



March - Cormorant



April - Song



May - Bunting



June - Snipe



July - Puffin



August - Buff-breasted Sandpiper



September - Bunting



October - Red Bunting



November - Short-eared Owl



December - Blue Tit



IFA
YOUR ASSOCIATION. YOUR VOICE.

Calendar 2019



www.ifa.ie

Official Calendar Partners



Goals of the Project

- Improve biodiversity in Irish farmland
- Reward farmers for environmental improvements
- Create a positive image of Irish farming
- Aim to get farmers more tuned in to their surroundings and re-connect with nature





Kill St Anne South

Mohera

Kill St Anne

Castlelyons

Corbally

Google Earth

Ballyarra

© 2016 Google

Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe

2003

Imagery Date: 5/24/2009 52°05'13.01" N 8°13'47.66" W elev 40 m eye alt 2.56 km

Farmers and Conservation

- Farmers don't like to be told what to do on their own farms
- Historical issues such as Designations, SAC's etc., best of intentions but started off on the wrong foot
- BRIDE Project – no designations, everybody included, habitats are key regardless of designated land
- Much time spent engaging with farmers and explaining why there is a specific problem and how it can be fixed.”
- Farmers get blamed for environmental damage but very little training has been given to them about it's importance, especially biodiversity



The Lark builds her nest on the ground generally in cows' tracks. It is made of very fine hay. She lays blackish eggs. When the young larks are hatched they are very healthy.

They grow feathers very quickly and after about three days they leave the nest and creep among the grass. They do this because if they stopped in the nest too long they may get trampled by some animal or a hawk might pounce on them and kill them.

A Goldfinch builds her nest on a fir tree and lays six eggs coloured white with brown spots on them. The nest is made of bits of sticks. The nest is not very big and it is made in less than three days. Goldfinches go in flocks and chirp on a white thorn bush.

William O Sullivan
 Bhurchtown
 Mallow
 Co Cork,

Mr James O Sullivan
 Knockbarry
 Butterant
 Co Cork.
 (30 years)









Our Farming Image

“98k views, 741 likes, 202 shares, 73 comments from all over the world”

“Brilliant stuff from the farmer”

“There are some good farmers out there. This one restored my faith in them. Others should follow his example”

“Most farmers love nature and are full of pride when they discover something like this. Farmers aren’t always the enemy they are often the conscientious custodians of our countryside”

“The regulations often put pressure on farmers to do works they know are going to adversely affect wildlife but if they don’t adhere to them they are going to permanently lose part of their Single Farm Payment”

“What a fabulous person”

“Fair play to the farmer – not many would do it”

“More farmers like that needed”

“Ireland needs more farmers like this man”

“I wish there were more farmers like him”

How to engage farmers

- National schemes – difficult to get full engagement. Local schemes for specific goals.
- Targeted measures at local level – every farm/farmer is different
- Fear of inspections – leading to less participation – needs to be “Simple for the farmer – simple for the inspector” - RBP's payments based on results – no penalties
- Expertise for improving biodiversity.
- Ecologists advising on biodiversity/environmental issues.
- Agronomists advising on food production.
- Disconnection between farmers and nature – importance of environment/biodiversity and farming needs to be addressed.

What needs to change?

- Proper accreditation for biodiversity-friendly farming
- Food companies/retailers rewarding farmers for verifiable improvements
- Every farm to have one visit from an ecologist every year
- Biodiversity hotspots identified and made known to the farmer – farmer is usually delighted to have a rare species or habitat on their farm
- Need for a signal to the consumer about biodiversity-friendly food products

Summary of Biodiversity Improvements in the Bride Valley

No. of Farmers 44

Capital Funding Available €100,000

Measure	Uptake	Physical Quantity	
Bird Boxes	44	94	farm specific bird boxes
Bat Boxes	44	88	bat boxes
Bee Scrapes	44	220	beescrapes
Rodenticide Free	44	44	farms rodenticide free
Nettle Patch	43	86	nettle patches
Field Margins	41	12km x 2m	field margins
Pollinator Plot	40	3.8km x 2m	of pollinator plots
Pond	37	37	ponds
Treeline	37	1020	native trees (5.1km)
Hedgerow	36	6km	of new BRIDE hedgerows
Woodland	31	31	native woodlands (4,960 native trees)
Riparian Buffer Strip	25	9.2 km x 3m	riparian buffer strips
Biodiversity Plot	22	2.6 ha	of biodiversity plots
Invasive Species Control	12	12 farmers	managing invasive species
Multi-species Grassland	11	11 ha	of Multi-species Grassland
Winter Stubble	2	8ha	of Winter Stubble



BRIDE Project EIP

Farm Habitat Management Guidelines



A Guide to

Farming with Nature

Compiled by Sinéad Hickey, Donal Sheehan & Tony Nagle

Poll Question

What as an ecologist do you think are the 3 main causes in farmland biodiversity decline?