



# BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL CONTRIBUTORS

DAY 1: THURSDAY 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## EIP-AGRI SYMPOSIUM & BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL OPENING RECEPTION

<p>Dr. Brendan Dunford</p> 	<p>Brendan Dunford has spent the past 20 years living and working in the Burren region. He led the award-winning BurrenLIFE Project (2005-2010), its successor, the pioneering 'Burren Farming for Conservation Programme' (2010-2015) and currently manages the new 'Burren Programme'.</p>
<p>Dr. Maura Farrell NUIG/NRN</p> 	<p>Dr Maura Farrell is currently a full-time lecturer in the School of Geography and Archaeology. Maura's teaching reflects her research specialism which revolves around Rural and Agricultural Geography and her interests focus around processes of social, cultural and economic change for rural inhabitants. Maura is currently the Principal Investigator on the National Rural Network Project and the more recent Horizon 2020, RURALIZATION Project. Dr Farrell is extremely active outside university life, having been appointed to committees and organisations both nationally and internationally. These include an appointment by the Minister for Rural and Community Development to the Monitoring Committee for the Action Plan for Rural Development and by DG-AGRI to an evaluation and reflection group for the LEADER Programme.</p>
<p>Dr. Patrick Crushell Pearl Mussel Operational Group</p>	<p>Dr Patrick Crushell (Pearl Mussel Operational Group) is a Chartered Ecologist, with over 17 years experience working in the area of nature conservation and ecological assessment. Patrick has particular expertise in peatland and wetland ecology and management having undertaken extensive studies on Irish bogs in collaboration with Dutch researchers.</p>
<p>Dr. Patrick McGurn Caomhnú Arann Operational Group</p>	<p>Dr Patrick McGurn was the Project Manager of the AranLIFE project and currently works as the Project Manager of Caomhnú Árann. Prior to that he worked as an agricultural adviser with the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in N Ireland and latter in the design and implementation of agr-environment schemes. In 2010 he joined the European Forum of Nature Conservation and Pastoralism looking at High Nature Value systems in Ireland and was involved in developing the Aran Island's LIFE application (AranLIFE).</p>
<p>David Wallis</p> 	<p>Danú Operational Group 35 years farming (9 years overseas) 15 years Teagasc Dairy Advisor (1996-2011). Approved KT Discussion Group facilitator (2011). Currently drystock farming and delivering occasional short "Soils &amp; Biological Farming" courses to farmers. Team Leader, Danú Farming Group.</p>

<p>Dr. Shane Conway EIP-AGRI</p> 	<p>Shane is a Postdoctoral Researcher in the Discipline of Geography's Rural Studies Research Unit at NUI Galway. Shane's research interests are in Rural and Agricultural Geography, with a particular focus on generational renewal in agriculture, the human side of farming and rural sustainability.</p>
<p>Dr. James Moran GMIT</p> 	<p>Dr. James Moran is a lecturer in Biology and Ecology at Galway Mayo Institute of Technology teaching on agriculture and environment related programmes. His research and outreach work concentrates on sustainable agricultural systems specialising in High Nature Value farming and agri-environment scheme design. He leads a number of projects in this area at GMIT and IT Sligo. He was the knowledge transfer and ecological research specialist on the 5 year BurrenLife programme. Current research and outreach projects include the Results Based Agri-Environment Pilot Programme (RBAPS); EU AranLIFE; Farming and Natural Resources: Measures for Ecological Sustainability (FARMECOS); greenways as ecological corridors and research and development on European Innovation Partnership operation groups in Ireland.</p>
<p>Dr. Gwyn Jones EFNCP</p> 	<p>Gwyn is a director of the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism. He was a farm advisor in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland for 15 years. He has been interested in High Nature Value farming in Ireland for the last 20 years, co-writing a number of landmark reports for the Heritage Council and managing HNV farming officers. He coordinated the results-based pilot project in Ireland and Navarra.</p>
<p>Jack Nolan</p>	<p>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</p>
<p>Laura Burke EPA</p> 	<p>Laura Burke is the Director General of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), appointed in 2011 and served as a Director within the EPA since 2004. Laura is the Chair of the European Environment Agency (EEA) Management. Prior to joining the EPA, she worked in the private sector. Laura is a graduate chemical engineer of University College Dublin (UCD), holds an MSc from Trinity College, Dublin, is a Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering and is a Chartered Director. In 2016 Laura was awarded the UCD Engineering Graduates Association (EGA) Distinguished Graduate Award.</p>
<p>Jim Power Economist</p> 	<p>Jim Power is owner manager of Jim Power Economics Limited, an economic and financial consultancy. He recent published an analysis of farm advisory services in Ireland and is about to publish an independent assessment of the beef sector for the IFA. He writes a weekly column in the Irish Examiner; is Chairman of Love Irish Food and Chairman of Three Rock Capital Management, an investment company. He is a member of the Institute of Directors in Ireland.</p>



# BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTORS

DAY 2: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## HNV FARMING ACROSS EUROPE - PRESENTATIONS AND A BURREN LEARNING EXCURSION

<p>Nika Debeljak Life to Grasslands, Slovenia</p> 	<p>Nika Debeljak finished Biology at the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana. She carried out her doctoral research at the King Park and Botanic Garden Laboratory, Perth, Australia. Upon completion of her studies, she worked as a docent at the University of Ljubljana, Department of Biology. Since 2003 she has been employed at the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, where she first carried out tasks of the Scientific authority CITES for Slovenia. Since 2010, she has been managing various projects in the field of nature conservation, among others the awarded wining project "Conservation and Management of Freshwater Wetlands in Slovenia – WETMAN. Currently, she is the manager of the project: Conservation and management of dry grasslands in Eastern Slovenia - LIFE TO GRASSLANDS.</p>
<p>Cristi Gherghiceanu</p>	<p>(ADEPT, Romania)</p>
<p>Austin Taylor Shetland Islands, Scotland</p> 	<p>Austin Taylor is in a hurry - he mostly provides advice to colleagues about biodiversity and landscape, particularly in relation to development proposals or the impact of planning policy and the Council's corporate and development plans on the natural environment. But he knows time's running out and so he's on a mission – to get developers to produce benefits for biodiversity as and when development occurs. Currently, Austin's excited to be part of an agri-environment group seeking to promote nature-friendly farming in Shetland. He's a Chartered Town Planner and a Chartered Environmental Manager.</p>
<p>Wolfgang Suske Suske Consulting, Austria</p>	<p>Wolfgang Suske is director of the company "Suske consulting" (<a href="http://www.suske.at">www.suske.at</a>). The main tasks of suske consulting are Rural Development, Nature Conservation and Communication. The company has a strong background in the EU Policy which is relevant for agriculture and nature conservation. Suske leads several evaluation programs contracted by the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture, in particular regarding Natura 2000, Alpine areas (meadows) and specific regional programs. He prepares management plans, strategies and campaigns for Natura 2000 sites and nature parcs. And moderates seminars and workshops with stakeholders of Natura 2000 sites. He developed the "Result based Scheme" in Austria. Wolfgang Suske is also teaching at the University of Life Resources.</p>

Trish Fox

Ulster Wildlife  
Trust, Northern  
Ireland



A former journalist, Trish studied ecology at Queen's University in Belfast before undertaking a PhD in the salmon gum woodlands of Western Australia. She then worked in community-based conservation in Victoria's red gum woodlands for 10 years before returning to Northern Ireland. She has worked in raised bog restoration with Ulster Wildlife since 2014. Apart from the different climates (Ireland is a bit wetter) the challenges of modern conservation are remarkably similar in both countries.

Sigurður Torfi  
Sigurðsson  
The Icelandic  
Agricultural  
Advisory Centre



Sigurður Torfi Sigurðsson is project manager and consultant at the Icelandic Agricultural Advisory Centre (RML). His primary focus is on environmental consulting and business management. Sigurður has a BS in Agricultural Sciences from the Agricultural University of Iceland and MBA from University of Iceland. Sigurdur owns and manages a farm in South Iceland where he practices wetland reclamation and breeds Icelandic sheepdogs, horses and sheep (see <https://www.facebook.com/stokkseyrarselbreeding/>). Sigurður has a long-term experience in agricultural education, e.g. by developing farriery programs in Iceland, and as a field assistant for his wife's ecological research at Yale University and elsewhere.



# BURREN WINTERAGE SCHOOL PROGRAMME CONTRIBUTORS

DAY 3: 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019

## FARMING FOR NATURE IN IRELAND – FIELD TRIP, PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOP

<p>Brigid Barry</p> 	<p>Brigid is the Project Coordinator for the Farming for Nature initiative. This initiative is working with farmers to enhance the natural health of the Irish countryside. It seeks to identify best practices and change the dialogue around high nature value farming by acknowledging and supporting those farmers who farm, or wish to farm, in a way that will improve our biodiversity, soils and water across the land.</p>
<p>Sorcha Lewis</p> 	<p>Sorcha has always had an interest in the countryside from a young age which led to her undertaking a BSc (hons) in Countryside Management. Sorcha farms with her husband Brian (a third generation tenant hill farmer) in the Beautiful Elan Valley, Mid Wales. They have two children and it is very much an upland family run hill farm. Over the last 10 years Brian and Sorcha have developed the productivity of the farm, whilst successfully retaining and incorporating many important habitats, including hay meadows, ffridd and rhos pasture. Sorcha is on the Wales Steering group for the Nature Friendly Farming Network – A UK wide Farmer Led Organisation.</p>
<p>Brendan Dunford</p> 	<p>Brendan Dunford has spent the past 20 years living and working in the Burren region. He led the award-winning BurrenLIFE Project (2005-2010), its successor, the pioneering 'Burren Farming for Conservation Programme' (2010-2015) and currently manages the new 'Burren Programme'.</p>
<p>Ruth Hegarty</p>	<p>Ruth Hegarty is director of egg&amp;chicken food projects and consulting, an agency with a vision of creating a fairer, more sustainable food system and advocating for good food for all, through working directly with farmers and food producers and managing projects related to food education, food policy and sustainability. Ruth is Head of Community for Chef Network, a professional network of chefs in Ireland with over 3,700 members, and is a member of the management team behind Food on the Edge, a symposium on the future of food.</p>

	<p>Ruth has over 16 years unique experience in the food and hospitality industries, as well as in food policy at national and European level. She holds a Masters in European Economic &amp; Public Affairs, with a thesis on 'EU Food Quality Policy: Protecting Europe's Traditional &amp; Speciality Foods' and a certificate in Facilitation Skills.          Twitter: <a href="#">@eggandchick</a> Instagram: <a href="#">@eggandchick</a></p>
<p>Aisling Meehan</p>	<p>#understandagriculture Initiative</p>
<p>Ella McSweeney</p> 	<p>Ella McSweeney is an Irish food and farming journalist and reporter. She has worked for BBC, RTÉ and the Guardian newspaper. She graduated from Trinity College, Dublin and is a post graduate student in food policy at City University, London</p>
<p>James Moran (GMIT &amp; Farming for Nature)</p> 	<p>Dr. James Moran is a lecturer in Biology and Ecology at Galway Mayo Institute of Technology teaching on agriculture and environment related programmes. His research and outreach work concentrates on sustainable agricultural systems specialising in High Nature Value farming and agri-environment scheme design. He leads a number of projects in this area at GMIT and IT Sligo. He was the knowledge transfer and ecological research specialist on the 5 year BurrenLife programme. Current research and outreach projects include the Results Based Agri-Environment Pilot Programme (RBAPS); EU AranLIFE; Farming and Natural Resources: Measures for Ecological Sustainability (FARMECOS); greenways as ecological corridors and research and development on European Innovation Partnership operation groups in Ireland. He is part of an EU Horizon 2020 thematic network on High Nature Value Farming: Learning, Innovation and Knowledge Network (HNV-Link). James is a member of the National Biodiversity Forum; the National Rural Network sub-committee on Biodiversity, Environmental Challenges and LIFE Programmes; and the Uplands Management Board of the Heritage Council.</p>