IRISH TILLAGE AND LAND USE SOCIETY

Winter Conference and Annual General Meeting

Sowing the Seeds of Tomorrow

3 December 2026, Clanard Court Hotel, Athy (R14 FY90)

Agenda

9.15 am **Registration, tea and coffee**

10.00 am **President's introduction**

10.30 am **Get the conversation started**

James McDonnell, Farm Management Specialist at Teagasc, will explain on how the get the ball rolling on talking about the farm succession. James will discuss some case studies demonstrating how to make the discussion easier.

10.50 am **What are young farmers questions?**

A representative from Macra na Feirme will outline what they are hearing from their members on the topic of succession and give their view on how to make succession easier for the next generation farmer.

11.10 am **The accountants view**

Con O'Connell, Partner at IFAC Carlow, will discuss the accountancy, tax and planning side of farm succession, and will go through what he views as common problems clients face.

11.30 am **My family farm**

Craig England, ITLUS president and farmer, will speak about his experience with succession on his farm; how the discussion started to how it evolved for him and his family.

11.50 pm **Panel discussion on the morning's topics, including Q&A**

Siobhan Walsh, Irish Farmers Journal, will chair a panel discussion with this morning speakers to further explore the topics presented.

12.30 pm ***Lunch***

2.00 pm **ITLUS student bursary winners 2026 – presentation of awards**

Awards to Sinéad Gleeson (Kildalton College), Amanda Norris (South East Technological University), and Oisin Lynch, (Dundalk Institute of Technology, and Cian Lenihan (University College Dublin) in recognition of excellent performance in final year cereal and crop classes.

2.15 pm **Over 50% of Tillage farmers are part time, let's look at off-farm opportunities that help keep the young farmer on the land**

Fergal O Sullivan, Agri- Engineering/Mechanics Lecturer at MTU Kerry, will speak about agri-mechanics and apprenticeship courses, with an outlook on retention in the industry.

Tony Woodcock, Lecturer and course leader at SETU Waterford, will talk about agronomy courses and how they lead to beneficial off-farm job opportunities.

Damien Fewer, Lecturer at Kildalton, will take us through the tillage courses available at Kildalton, and will share his views on the industry from his position.

3.00 pm **A look at tillage farmers in Australia & Northern Ireland**

Karryn Duncan, business partner and owner of Urara Ag in Western Australia, will talk about their family run farm of 8,000ha, comprising of a 6,500ha cropping program and 7,000 head Merino sheep. She will give a brief look into how their farm business has changed in the last 10 years.

Simon Best runs Acton House Farm, a 1,200-acre tillage and Aberdeen Angus beef farm in Armagh, with his father John and brother Rory. They grow a range of crops including winter and spring oats, winter wheat, barley and oilseed rape and spring beans. 85% of what is produced is sold within a five-mile radius. The farm also has a green waste recycling business producing compost all of which Is utilised on the arable land.

3.40 pm **Panel discussion including Q&A for the afternoon session**

Craig England will chair a panel discussion with this afternoon's speakers.

4.15 pm **Society AGM**

4.45 pm **Conference closes**

Please note: Numbers are limited so pre-booking is essential – email itlussec50@gmail.com by 5pm on Wednesday 25 November. Fee payable on the day (by cash, card or cheque) is €50 for members (student members are free) and €80 for non-members (student non-members €30).