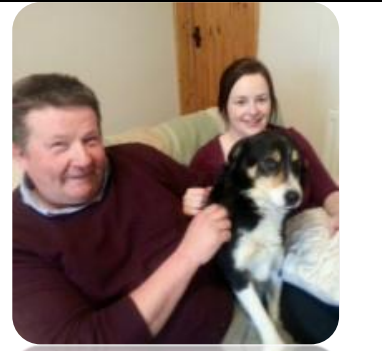



Social Farming Across Borders Pilot Farm Profile:

Section 1 – Your Details

<p>Name: Clare McMonagle and Seamus Mullan</p>		<p>Address: Claudy Co Derry</p> 
<p>Contact to be made via the Social Farming Across Borders office: Laird House Drumshanbo Leitrim</p>		<p>+353 (0)71 964 1772 socialfarming@ldco.ie www.socialfarmingacrossborders.org</p>

Section 2 – Your Farm

About my Farm:

Our farm is situated close to the village of Claudy and is a small farm consisting of 60 acres of land. While the farm was only purchased 9 years ago, Seamus has operated a farm business for over 15 years and has always had a keen interest in farming practice. The farm is the centre of family life for parents, grandparents, grandchildren and the family pet Tim.



The farm is not intensive and we have a particular emphasis on Countryside Management and Habitat enhancement.

The main activities being undertaken on the farm over the next few months will include lambing, feeding animals, cutting turf, development of a vegetable garden/greenhouse, hedge laying and fencing. Current animal stock on the farm includes 140 breeding ewes and 6 Aberdeen angus cows.

In anticipation of the development of the Social Farming project we have developed additional accommodation at the farm house to facilitate other activities including cooking, art therapy, painting etc.



Farm Activities offered to the Participants:

The main farming activities which we would intend to undertake as part of the Pilot are:

- ❖ Sheep Lambing – (April)
- ❖ Feeding and general welfare of sheep and calves
- ❖ Development of a vegetable garden/greenhouse
- ❖ Hedge Laying
- ❖ Turf Cutting
- ❖ Planting potatoes
- ❖ Art or painting activities
- ❖ Vintage Club Charity Event (June)
- ❖ Selling vegetables/produce at local market
- ❖ Cooking
- ❖ Bakery
- ❖ Jam Making



In general our aim would be to provide an opportunity for participants to enjoy all the activities which make up the day on the family farm including enjoying meal times with the family and enjoying social interaction with children, parents and grandparents.

Preferred Days of the week:

Mondays would be the best but other days are negotiable

Projects on-going at the moment:

- ❖ Fencing and hedge laying
- ❖ Lambing (April)
- ❖ Development of greenhouse area/vegetable plot
- ❖ General feeding and welfare of animals
- ❖ Organising of Charity Vintage Event to Moville Vintage show



Section 3 – Your Locality & Community

Nearest Services:

Claudy Village – services in the village include a variety of shops, local butcher, post office, transport scheme, community centre, rural development organisation and three schools.

Nearest town:

Derry City –the City is currently UK City of Culture 2013 and as such will facilitate a number of cultural events throughout the year.

Nearest public transport or rural transport initiative:

The local transport initiative in the area is Easi Link who provide a service across Strabane and Derry Council areas. Easi Link have a local office in Claudy within the Diamond Centre and provide a range of service options tailored to suit individual and group travel requirements.

For individuals there is a Dial a Lift scheme which provides door to door travel either in Easilink minibuses or by car with vetted volunteers.

My locality and community interests :

The locality benefits from having a very active Rural Development Organisation (RAPID LTD) who have developed a Heritage Lottery Landscape Partnership Scheme which provides various opportunities for the community to become involved in a range of conversation initiatives.

The area also benefits from keen a local interest group who participates in Vintage tractor events and raise funds for charity.

A farmers market in the Walled City on a monthly basis proves opportunities for local people to sell farm produce.

There is a very active GAA Club in the local area. We also live close to a western riding centre that we can use if required.



Destined L td have developed a very exciting Rural Learning Disabilities Programme in Feeny. Destined is an advocacy and user led organisation which provides personal and social skills training and social activities for people with a learning disability to enable them to participate fully in their community. The Destined rural development project aims to reduce the levels of isolation and exclusion experienced by people with learning disabilities living in rural areas.

Section 4 – You, the Farmer

Me and my Farm:

Seamus Mullan is the main farmer and his skills include all aspects of animal husbandry and land management. Seamus has operated a farm business for over 15 years. He has a particular interest in Countryside Management and Animal Welfare. He is also interested in growing vegetables, which until now has mainly concentrated on planting of potatoes. However Seamus intends to develop a vegetable garden/greenhouse as part of the Social Farming Pilot.

Seamus will bring his skills in animal husbandry, crop vegetable production and countryside management to the project.

The farm is not an intensive farming enterprise and the focus is always on providing a healthy farm environment for the farm animals, where wildlife can live and thrive.

Seamus enjoys a keen interest in Vintage tractors and machinery.

Clare (Occupational Therapist) – Clare is a daughter of the main farm business owners.

Clare is Occupational Therapy trained and currently works for the Western Health and Social Services Trust. She works with clients with intellectual disabilities within the Day care setting, supporting clients to take part in day to day activities. She is acutely aware of the need for appropriate services which meet the diverse needs of a variety of adults with learning disabilities having gained experience working for a range of service providers including WHSST, Apex Housing, Destined.

She has 6 years experience of working directly with adults with intellectual disability including mental health and special needs. She has worked in a variety of settings including supported living, day care, vocational rehabilitation, community and within the home care environment. She has experience developing care plans as part of the multidisciplinary team, carrying out risk assessments and supporting clients to achieve their goals including socially, educationally, vocationally and in their activities of daily living always promoting the person centred plan of care.



She has training regularly updated in care and responsibility, abuse of vulnerable adults, challenging behaviour and behaviour management, medication, first aid and food hygiene. She also has level one in hippotherapy (horse therapy for clients with physical and intellectual disability).

Clare currently volunteers on a weekly basis for DESTINED Ltd- an organisation set up with an overall aim of integrating people with learning disabilities into the community. Here she supports clients to take part in day to day activities.

Clare is very keen to take part in this pilot study given her passion for working with this client group and supporting them to take a valued role within the farming environment. She is very aware of the advantages this project can have for the service users holistic health. She feels through her training and experience she will be able to offer a secure and supported environment for the service users where they can reach their full potential.

Susan Mullan (wife of the main farmer)

Susan currently works as an employee of Derry City Council and is responsible for the delivery of the Rural Development Programme within the Council area.

Susan has worked in Rural Development for over 15 years and is aware that social farming is a potentially viable option for social service delivery, farm diversification, and rural development in Northern Ireland and she is keen to explore these opportunities given her passion for rural development and farming practices. She is very interested in the research element of the pilot and how the learning can inform the development of new initiatives for Rural Development in the next programming period 2007 – 2013.