

SOFAB Network Meeting

Enniskillen, Nov 8 Armagh Nov 12

2 JURISDICTIONS
12 COUNTIES
20 FARM FAMILIES
60 PEOPLE
30 WEEKS(a day per week)
MANY PARTNERS

KEY QUESTIONS EVOLVING TO DATE

1. What makes social farming a good experience for people?
2. Why is it **of interest** to Service Providers / Service Commissioners?
3. What are the **Key Requirements** a provider / commissioner has when engaging a community partner / social farmer?
4. What are **Key Expectations** that a SP / SC has in respect of engaging a community partner / SF?
5. What are **Key Expectations** Farm Families have by engaging in social farming: For their farm and family?
6. What are the **Key Requirements** a Social Farmer / Potential SF may have around participating?

CLARIFYING ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Service Provider responsible for?
- Social Farmer responsible for?

SOME FEEDBACK

1. What makes social farming a good experience for people?

- Meets personal choice
- Connection to earlier good memories and activity
- Enjoy working outside farming / animals / plant
- Being with a farmer / farm family
- Meals and times together in the kitchen
- Being part of other farm / farm family related community activities – farmers markets / show
- Peaceful – Variety – Living – Different each day (Michael)

2. Why is it of interest to Service Providers / Service Commissioners?

- It may be the specific choice of a person
- It can't be replicated in a service setting
- It is aligned to policy, values and vision of participation and inclusion in ordinary community life
- It meets development goals of people at a number of levels, work / vocational skills, social skills, building self-confidence, esteem and competence in ordinary settings, building new social and community contacts and social roles
- Represents VFM
- Challenges and leads change in service settings

3. What are the Key Requirements a provider / commissioner has when engaging a community partner / social farmer?

- Practice reflects core values of dignity, respect, inclusion and participation
- That the farmer has the disposition, skills and knowledge to support people, e.g. patience, consideration, understands values and their practice, e.g. dignity and respect
- That health, safety and welfare requirements are met and that farm works with pilot programme in assessing risks, agreeing response actions
- That there is a plan of activity reflective of interests and opportunities for people which changes and can respond to day to day realities – weather, seasonal variation
- That farms engage in training provided by pilot programme – Partnership arrangement.

4. What are Key Expectations that a SP/ SC has in respect of engaging a community partner / SF?

- People will learn and acquire new skills, competencies
- These (above) will assist people in developing ‘social roles’ in life
- Peoples interests and experiences and connections will broaden
- That there is variety and flexibility as dictated by weather, farming calendar, seasons, and other activity around the farm and local community
- That time is committed to building relationships prior to people starting on the farm – as agreed within a given local partnership setting

5. What are Key Expectations Farm Families have by engaging in social farming: For their farm and family?

- That it is a good and positive experience for the farmer and others in the farm family
- That it widens and deepens the role of the farm within its local community
- That it can create on going positive relationships and opportunities for the farm family

6. What are the Key Requirements a Social Farmer / Potential SF may have around participating?

- That there is support from an agency in getting started
- That they have sufficient information to provide enjoyable safe experiences for people
- That there is backup and help should a difficulty arise
- That the role time and commitment of the farm is valued and rewarded

YOUR VIEWS AND IDEAS

Laird House,
Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim,
Republic of Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)71 964 1772

Email: socialfarming@dco.ie

Web: www.socialfarmingacrossborders.org



Laird House,
Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim,
Republic of Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)71 964 1772

Email: socialfarming@ldco.ie

Web: www.socialfarmingacrossborders.org

