

William McLaughlin

Social Farming Across Borders Pilot Farm Profile:

Section 1 – Your Details

<p>Name:</p> <p>William McLaughlin</p>		<p>Address: Ballylinn Malin Co Donegal</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

<p>About my Farm: The farm has been in our family for generations and I have always wanted to be a farmer. I studied at Agriculture college after leaving school. The farm is a dairy farm providing milk to the local creamery. We are also milk suppliers to some of the local community. Our work centres on caring for our animals in a safe and secure environment, milking, storing and transporting raw milk and collecting storing and delivering processed milk to local people and shops. Our Farm also grows/makes food for animal fodder.</p>	
<p>Farm Activities offered to the Participants:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feeding animals particularly the calves 2. Cleaning equipment 3. Storing equipment correctly 4. Setting a small vegetable garden 5. Setting trees for fencing or shelter 6. Visiting local mart 7. Mixing with local farming community 8. Some knowledge of farming i.e. breeds of cattle, names of birds and animals 9. Recognising farm equipment 10. Observing proper health and safety at all times 11. Growing and producing fodder 	
<p>Preferred Days of the week: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday</p>	

Projects on-going at the moment:

At the minute we are involved in reclaiming land for fodder production, updating cattle stalls, developing a small produce garden, extending our domestic animals (2 donkeys) and considering getting our own chickens. We are also re-draining some of our fields and extending our facilities for making and repairing our own equipment. We have recently begun negotiations with a local historical group on accessing and properly restoring caves on our land which are believed to be from the 10th century.



Section 3 – Your Locality & Community

Nearest Services:

- Local bus service which passes the farm
- Local hotel 2km and local village 2km
- Local Village has all amenities such as Post office etc.
- Local doctors 4km away
- Local food factories 3km and 5km
- Local Co-op 5km

Nearest town: Malin,
Nearest large town- Carndonagh
Nearest City- Derry,

Nearest public transport or rural transport initiative:

Local Transport as above

My locality and community interests :

I have lived here all my life and my 5 children and I have attended the same local school. There are many varied community interests such as; the tidy towns' initiative, large new GAA sports facility, parish community centre, proximity to Ireland's most Northerly point, and other tourist attractions such as visits to historic Inistrahau Island. The locality has an abundance of clubs such as a local fishing club, cycling group and local boxing club. The community centre holds a variety of adult learning classes such as, computer literacy, adult literacy, health and beauty and a local mens' shed.

Section 4 – You, the Farmer

Me and my Farm:

The farm has been in our family for at least six generations so after agriculture college I inherited the farm when my father retired. Primarily we are a dairy farm but the work is varied, from caring for the cows and their calves to setting hedges and repairing the buildings and machinery, every season brings with it new excitement and some trials too, for example 5 cows calving at the same time. Farming always involves planning ahead and pre-empting weather and seasons, in spring crops must be sown for next years food and new machinery must be in place well before it's needed.



Other information:

I am the secretary of a local NFA and my wife is a multi-task worker for intellectual disabilities so we have access to new innovations and Marie has an understanding of disability needs and support. We have teenage children who are all involved in farming and we can provide an experience that is typical of an average farm while having an awareness of the needs and supports needed for people with disability.

