

EAAP 2016 Presentation
*“Improving the connectivity
between young farmers and
young scientists”*

Presentation by:

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35th President Macra na Feirme



Background

- Sean Finan - Ballinlough Castlerea, Co Roscommon.
- Beef Farmer with father and brother.
- Cattle enterprise.
- Stores / weanlings to beef.
- U and R grade continental heifers.
- Land type: heavy clay soils.
- Focus: Live weight gain from grass.

Macra na Feirme

- 35th National President of Macra na Feirme.
- Two year term.
- Full time role with family support.
- Macra na Feirme is the Irish Young Farmers and Rural Youth organisation.
- Est 1944 - Educate Young Farmers.

Young Farmer Issues

- Represent the interests of young farmers and rural youth.
- Lobbying and working on the issues.
- Land mobility, access to affordable Finance, access to education and farm viability and income.
- Value on education, research and the importance of Knowledge Transfer
- Its fitting that the topic that I'm going to shed some light on today is how to...

Improving the Connectivity Between Young Farmers and Young Scientists

A herd of brown and white cows standing in a field with trees in the background. The cows are of various breeds, including some with white faces and some that are entirely brown. They are standing in a line, looking towards the camera. The background shows a line of trees and a clear sky.

1) Education

2) Effective Communications:

- Easy to understand
- Practical and relevant.
- Effective delivery.

3) Knowledge Transfer

4) Collaborations and Partnerships

Examples of Collaborations - Teagasc

- State agriculture development authority.
- Teagasc is a unique model and not replicated in many countries across Europe.
- It combines Research, Advisory and Education within the one organisation.
- Allows collaboration between young scientist and young farmers.
- Various centres of excellence that exist within Teagasc.
- Grange for Beef, Moorepark for Dairy, Athenry for Sheep, Oakpark for Tillage

Rural Development Programme- Knowledge Transfer Scheme

- Macra training programme - Skillnet
- Continued professional development for young farmers.
- Contact with scientist, advisors and industry specialists.

Improving Connectivity

- Promote discussion groups model.
- Foodwise 2025.
- Grass measuring & soil fertility.
- Science of farming becoming more important.
- Better beef farms programme
- Open days to increase awareness of research.
- Sustainability - Increased efficiency, Increased Profitability
- Origin Green Programme.

Mediums for Communications

- Greater use of Social media.
- Video technology.
- Interactive technology.
- Work with representative organisations.

Conclusions

- Clear and simple communications essential.
- Willingness on young farmers side to engage with Research.
- Scientist – Need to understand the needs of young farmers.
- Lots of collaborations exist but need to be developed further.
- Value of representative organisations to be engage as link.
- Improving the connectivity between young farmers and young scientists.