

Media Release

Friday, 12 November 2021



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development**

Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches National Rural Network booklet of LEADER project case studies

- *The booklet outlines 72 inspirational case studies of LEADER projects*
- *This year marks the 30th anniversary of the LEADER programme*

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, today launched the National Rural Network booklet on LEADER. The booklet sets out case studies of 72 inspirational projects, which have been funded through the LEADER measure of Ireland's Rural Development Programme. The publication will guide and help future applicants to develop viable projects for their communities through the locally-led "bottom up" approach, which recognises the diversity of rural areas and the importance of tailoring projects to meet local needs, and is a central element of the success of LEADER.

Speaking today, Minister Humphreys said:

"I would like to congratulate the National Rural Network on this booklet of LEADER project case studies which highlights the impact and benefits of LEADER funding on our rural communities and businesses.

"I would also like to compliment the National Rural Network team in particular Dr Maura Farrell, and Dr Shane Conway for their hard work and time in putting together this excellent publication, and for their continued promotion of the LEADER Programme and all other measures relating to Ireland's Rural Development Programme."

The Minister continued:

“My thanks also to each of the Local Action Groups and their Implementing Partners for their work in engaging with communities on the ground and delivering vital projects for rural Ireland.

“As an important element of Our Rural Future, LEADER will continue to provide vital investment which will contribute to the future development and growth of rural communities and rural economies.”

The booklet is available from the National Rural Network website: [here](#).

Our Rural Future

Our Rural Future is the whole-of-government policy for rural Ireland for the period 2021-2025. It represents a new milestone in the approach to rural development policy for Ireland and adopts a more strategic, ambitious and holistic approach to investing in and maximising opportunities for rural areas.

National Rural Network

The NRN is a membership network for farmers, agricultural advisors, rural communities and others interested in rural development. It provides up-to-date information, case studies, seminars and conferences to maximise the beneficial outcomes of Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for rural stakeholders. The NRN is managed by a consortium led by Irish Rural Link in partnership with The Wheel, NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly & Co. The booklet will be available at www.nrn.ie.