

Jonathon Codd

From: DRCD Press Office [press.office@drcd.gov.ie]
Sent: 27 May 2022 09:48
To: DRCD - Ballina; DRCD - Dublin; DRCD - Islands; DRCD - Regional
Subject: Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces €700,000 to support the return of Agricultural Shows in 2022
Attachments: Image 1.jpg; Image 2.jpg; Image 3.jpg; Image 4.jpg

Good morning,

Please see the below press release issued yesterday from the Department.

Kind regards,

Sarah Loughlin
Press Officer

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

Media Release

Thursday, 26th May 2022



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

Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces €700,000 to support the return of Agricultural Shows in 2022

- ***Funding to support shows in Rural Ireland that were impacted by Pandemic***
- ***Return of Shows to provide big boost to rural economies this Summer***

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced €700,000 in funding to support Agricultural Shows taking place over the coming months.

The Minister made the announcement during a keynote address at the Tullamore Show and FBD National Livestock Show Sponsors Night on Wednesday.

Announcing the funding, Minister Humphreys said:

“For over two and a half years, we lost something that really sums up everything that is good about rural Ireland.

“As Minister for Rural and Community Development, I know that our Shows are intrinsically linked to that sense of community that Rural Ireland is all about.

“It is fantastic to see the return of our Shows this summer and I am particularly pleased to announce funding of €700,000 will be made available by my Department to support our Show Committees the length and breadth of the country.”

Minister Humphreys added:

“I believe it is of vital importance to our rural communities that we support the efforts of the show committees and the work of their volunteers. I hope that this funding will help put the shows on a firmer financial footing and provide vital support to the committees. I’m delighted to support the Irish Shows Association and like many others I look forward to getting out and about and visiting our Shows this summer.”

The shows are key dates in the rural calendar and central points for the agri-food industry, farming community and local artisan producers. Key dates over the coming weeks include Middleton (29th May), Belgooly (4th June), Ballyconneely Performance Pony Show (4th June), Ennistymon (5th June), Westport Horse and Pony Show (6th June), Leap Horse and Pony Show (6th June), Ballivor Horse Show (12th June), Dundalk (12th June), Claregalway (12th June), Ballinalee Connemara Pony Show (12th June) and Clonakilty (12th June).

Minister Humphreys also wished the organisers of the Tullamore Show well as they prepare for the return of the popular event on August 14th.

The Minister continued:

"Tullamore Show, along with all other Agricultural Shows has been sorely missed, and its return is warmly welcomed. I commend the hard work of the local organising committee. The organisers have shown great initiative and enterprise in the quality of the programme for Tullamore Show and FBD National Livestock Show set for August 14th. It won't be long coming around."

Welcoming the announcement, Catherine Gallagher, National President Irish Shows Association stated:

"As National President of the Irish Shows Association I warmly welcome Minister Heather Humphreys' and her Department's continuing support with 125 shows set to benefit. There is no doubt costs have increased this year, it's great to have this support and we are also grateful for the support the Department gave us through the pandemic. The showing season has already started and I have attended four shows and the feedback from committees is their entries have doubled and the attendance has greatly increased. The sense of anticipation is palpable and from my experience to date I have no doubt this year will be very busy for committees up and down the country. The upcoming events will add a little colour to the summer"

ENDS

Contact:

The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office

01-773 6843 / 087-1734633

Press.office@drcd.gov.ie

Irish Shows Association, Catherine Cotter National P.R.O.

085 1044043

Photo-desks:

Captions:

Image 1 and 2 - Pictured with Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD, Tullamore Show Secretary Chelsey Cox McDonald and Chairperson, Joseph Molly at the 2022 Tullamore Show Sponsor Night.

Image 3 - Pictured Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD with attendees of the 2022 Tullamore Show Sponsor Night.

Image 4 – Pictured with Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys TD with Cllr. Neil Feighery, Tullamore Show Secretary Chelsey Cox McDonald, Tullamore Show Chairperson Joesph Molloy, and Offaly County Council Director of Services Tom Shanahan at the 2022 Tullamore Show Sponsor Night.

Credit: Jeff Harvey

Editors Notes

The Agricultural Shows support programme is funded under Project Ireland 2040 as part of “*Our Rural Future*”. This 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

The Department of Rural and Community Development funding is administered by the Irish Shows Association (ISA). The ISA is the official recognised body representing Irish Agricultural Shows on the island of Ireland. It has more than 130 affiliated agricultural shows, which run throughout the summer and into the autumn each year. A full listing of participating Shows is published online <https://www.irishshows.org/home>

You are receiving this press release / media notification as you are currently subscribed to the Department's media list.

If you no longer wish to receive emails of this nature from the Department of Rural and Community Development please respond to this email with the word “unsubscribe” in the subject-line and we will endeavour to remove your email from our database.