



# National Seminar on Improving Occupational Health of Farmers in Ireland

**Venue:** Clanard Court Hotel, Athy, Co Kildare  
**Date:** Tuesday 21st August 2012

## Background.

Farming has been identified as an occupation with significant occupational health issues. For instance, a recent Teagasc/ H.S.A./UCD study indicates that almost 1 in every 10 of farmers suffer a musculoskeletal injury annually with over 80% of injury victims being unable to work for three days or more. This national seminar will outline the key findings of a 4-year Teagasc/ H.S.A./UCD Walsh Fellowship Study on Occupational Health aimed at improving the occupational health profile of the farming community.

## Who Should Attend.

This Conference is particularly relevant to farmers, agricultural contractors, trainers and advisers and anyone with an interest in health and safety in Agriculture.

## Admission:

Admission is Free but a booking should be made to **Teagasc Naas Co Kildare (045 879203)**.

## Programme

**Chairperson, Mr Larry O'Loughlin, Regional Manager, Teagasc.**

**10.00 -10.45am**

**Opening Addresses, Minister, CEO, H.S.A. Mr Martin O'Halloran and Teagasc Director Professor Gerry Boyle and Presentation of FETAC Certificates (Farmers / MH Instructors).**

**10.45 – 11.10am.**

**Occupational Health Issues of Farmers in Ireland – an Overview.**

Dr Catherine Blake, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Performance Science, UCD.

**11.10– 11.30 am.**

**A Risk Assessment Approach to preventing Musculo-Skeletal Injury.**

Patrick Griffin, Health and Safety Authority.

11.30 – 11.40 am

**Break**

**Chairperson: Ms Margaret Hawkins, Health Correspondent, Irish Farmers Journal.**

11.40 – 12.00

**Musculoskeletal disorders among Farmers in Ireland.**

Dr Caitriona Cunningham, School of Public Health, Physiotherapy and Performance Science, UCD.

12.00 – 12.20.

**Key Findings of Teagasc Walsh Fellowship on Occupational Health - Coping with Lower Back Pain.**

Ms Aoife Osborne Walsh Fellow in Occupational Health.

12.20 – 12.40.

**Teagasc Training and Advisory Programmes related to Occupational Health and prevention of Muscular- Skeletal Disorders.**

Mr John McNamara, Health and Safety Officer, Teagasc.

12.40 -1.00 pm.

**Open Forum and Question and Answer Session.**

Seminar on Positive Mental Health among Farmers.

**Chair. Mr John McNamara, Teagasc, Health and Safety Officer**

1.00 – 2.15 pm.

**Seminar on Positive Mental Health**

2.15 pm – 3.00pm

**Pain and Distress in Rural Ireland**

The findings of a qualitative study of suicidal behaviour among men in rural areas.  
Dr Anne Cleary, Dept, of Sociology, UCD

3.00 – 3.30pm

**Positively Influencing Mental Health.**

Ms Finola Colgan  
Development Officer  
Mental Health Ireland ( Midlands Region).

