



European Forum on  
Nature Conservation  
and Pastoralism



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open your eyes to the living burren 



# Burren Winterage School 2015

*Supporting High Nature Value Farming in Europe*

*22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> October 2015*

*Corofin, Co.Clare*

## OVERVIEW

Many of Europe's finest landscapes and best biodiversity is found in areas where there has been a long tradition of extensive livestock grazing or 'pastoral' farming. The decline or demise of many of these farming systems in recent years poses a serious threat to many of these landscapes and the communities within them. So what do these 'high nature value' farmed landscapes look like, where are they, what needs to be done to sustain them and the farming communities that are so integral to their future?

Set in one of Ireland's greatest 'HNV' landscapes, the Burren, this conference will hear from farmers from diverse landscapes across Europe who form part of our wonderfully rich tapestry of HNV farmland. The conference will also hear from a range of speakers on how such farmers can be supported – through better policy, research, funding, innovation, empowerment and networking. Conference delegates will get to meet fellow HNV enthusiasts from across Europe while taking part in Ireland's premier HNV event – the Burren Winterage weekend, including the annual 'transhumance' cattle drive, a local food fayre, open farm visits and other events.



This event is part-funded by the European Commission (DG Environment)



## PROGRAMME

### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

1700-1900	Registration
1900-1930	Burren Winterage School 2015 - Welcome, Introduction, Scene setting (Brendan Dunford, Michael Davoren, Brigid Barry, Guy Beaufoy)
1930-2100	<p><b>WHO'S WHO:</b></p> <p><i>An evening of getting to know one another and of finding out what's happening on the HNV front in Ireland and across Europe</i></p> <p>Poster &amp; networking session with drinks, canapés and music</p>

### Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October

0800-0845	Late registration
0900-1100	<p><b>SESSION 1 <i>Stories from the land:</i></b></p> <p>Three presentations co-hosted by farmers and researchers working in three diverse HNV farming landscapes across Europe. Followed by brief Q&amp;A.</p> <p><b>Sweden:</b> Katrin McCann and Andreas Gustaffson - <i>Diverse Collaboration</i>  <b>Spain:</b> Jabier Ruiz and Edu Balsells: <i>Involving farmers in wildfire prevention: payments for grazing services in Mediterranean Spain</i>  <b>France:</b> Georges Zinsstag and (tbc)</p>

### Tea break

1130-1330	<p><b>SESSION 2 <i>Supporting HNV farming:</i></b></p> <p>Three presentations on different aspects of HNV which need to be addressed to strengthen support for HNVF in Europe.</p>
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	<p>Gwyn Jones - <i>Better targeting of policy support to HNV farming</i>          James Moran - <i>Research into new methods for targeting HNV farming</i>          Clunie Keenleyside - <i>New approaches to supporting HNV delivery – paying for results</i></p>
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## Lunch

1430-1700	<p><b>SESSION 3 <i>Fieldtrips:</i></b>          Exploring 'results-based' approaches to Agri-Environment Schemes on the ground. Site visits to farms taking part in the 'Burren Life Programme' and discussions on various HNV issues. Bus departs at 2.30pm</p>
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Free time - suggested informal meeting for food etc at 5.30pm, venue tbc

2000-2200	Farming on the Edge (Public event) – <i>Panel discussion, Q &amp; A</i>
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## Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>

0900-1100	<p><b>SESSION 4 <i>More stories from the land:</i></b>          Three presentations from farmers and researchers working in three diverse HNV farming landscapes across Europe. Followed by brief Q&amp;A.  <i>Ireland:</i> Case study and speaker (tbc)  <i>Croatia:</i> Iris Benes and (tbc) <i>Common pastures in Croatia's floodplains– oases of cultural and natural heritage</i>  <i>Austria:</i> Wolfgang Suske and (tbc)</p>
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## Tea break

1130-1330	<p><b>SESSION 5 <i>Supporting HNV farmers at local, national and EU levels:</i></b>          Katrin McCann (with Michael Davoren) - <b>Empowering HNV farmers</b>          Multi-speaker 'Pecha-kucha' format - <b>HNV farming innovation in practice</b>          Open floor, multi speaker format - <b>Networking HNV farming areas</b></p>
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1330-1400	<b>SESSION 6 <i>Harvest of ideas, next steps and close of conference</i></b>
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The Burren Winterage Weekend continues after the end of the conference with the following events:

1400-1600	Option to join Open Farm, Herdsmen's Walks and other Winterage Weekend Events
2000-2200	Option to join Community Celebration Event (Venue tbc)

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October

1100-1400	Option to join the Annual Winterage Cattle Drove
1200-1700	Option to visit the Burren Food Fayre
1400-1800	Option to experience Stories and Songs from the Burren (venue tbc)

**What to bring:** Sensible clothes and shoes for walking in the Burren in autumn.



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