

Social Farming Across Borders Pilot Farm Profile:

Section 1 – Your Details

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Section 2 – Your Farm

About my Farm:

We run a lowland farm only a stone's throw from the River Roe at the foot of Binevenagh mountain. We are mainly a small arable farm with a small sheep flock, we also have a variety of more unusual farm animals such as pygmy goats and pots bellied pigs along with ferrets and hope to acquire two Dexter Cattle. We breed pedigree dogs and have a Crufts show winner. We have a small orchard with a variety of apple, pear and plum trees.



On the edge of the farmyard we also have a small domestic wood which provides a sustainable source of firewood for the house.

Parallel to farming activities Daniel runs a small agricultural engineering business that refurbishes vintage farm machinery. As well as this Daniel has a degree in Horticulture and has a lot of experience in gardening and landscaping.

Farm Activities offered to the Participants:

There is availability to commence a vegetable garden and hope to purchase a poly-tunnel to provide all year round horticultural activities such as planting fruits and vegetables. We have an out shed which is suitable for plant potting activities. Participants may also be involved with cooking classes, which will be centred on the fruit and vegetables which the participants will have assisted in growing on the farm.



There will also be the opportunity on the farm to work with the animals, feeding, bedding and just general animal husbandry. The participants will also be involved with general farm duties e.g. Fencing, painting gates, chopping wood, picking fruit in the orchard, and haymaking activities.

We have an extensive garden, and participants will be involved with seasonal work such as cutting grass and maintaining shrubs and flower beds.

As and when practical participants will be shown and taught basic engineering workshop skills.

Preferred Days of the Week:
Mondays or Fridays

Projects on-going at the moment:

Participants will be involved with the minor renovation of a small byre and begin cultivation work in preparation of the new poly-tunnel and garden plot.

Daniels engineering business has ongoing small projects which the participants could assist him with tasks such as; sanding, polishing and painting, to help boost their skills base.

Section 3 – Your Locality & Community

Nearest Services: Disabled fishing area, thatched picnic area 400yds, local spar/post office 2miles

Nearest town: Limavady

Nearest public transport or rural transport initiative:

Bus service at the end of the farm lane, train service Bellarena train station

My locality and community interests :

Two community halls within a few miles of each other Aghanloo Community Hall, and Magiligan Community Hall which often have social activities throughout the year.

Farmers market held in the town as well as country markets, garden produce grown by participants could be sold here.

Limavady has an annual agricultural show just a few miles from the farm which would provide a good day out together.

Carrowmena Activity Centre often brings groups to the river beside our farmhouse for team building and kayaking and raft building activities.

Bellarena has very active gliding club and often the gliders would land on the farm, and would provide an interesting day out to get to see them up close.

Ballycarton forest is a short walk from the farm and has many different walking and mountain biking tracks.

Section 4 – You, the Farmer

Me and my Farm:

Daniel has been reared on the farm from a young age; he has a love of animals and machines and is gifted with his hands. Daniel has spent several months in Namibia, Africa teaching locals essential engineering and workshop skills such as welding, drilling, cutting and a basic knowledge of hand tools.

Daniel is trained in horticulture and is competent in maintaining lawns, hedges, paths, gardens, poly-tunnel activities and landscaping jobs.

Ruth is also a keen gardener and has been involved with an allotment in her work as social worker in a community mental health team in Limavady. This involved clearing an overgrown site and ending up with raised beds where vegetables were grown. Ruth has a 'Cook It' qualification as well as A-Level cookery and has a passion for cooking and baking. Ruth has motivated mental health patients with no gardening experience to begin planting spring bulbs in small tubs outside their local hostel.

Ruth has also worked with a small group doing artwork which was eventually sold at a fun day to raise funds for NI Hospice. This was a big esteem builder for participants.

