



CAP Network Ireland Update

LEADER Capacity Building Workshop

November 27th, 2025

 @capnetworkire  capnetworkireland.eu  CAP Network Ireland



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



Co-funded by
the European Union

Co-funded by the European-Union and the Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine under Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.



CAP Network Ireland



- A **national network** dedicated to supporting sustainable agriculture and rural development in Ireland.
- **Members** include farmers, advisors, researchers, rural communities, and other interested stakeholders.
- **The network's role** is to engage stakeholders, promote networking, innovation and funding opportunities under the CAP Strategic Plan (CSP).

A Partnership Consisting of 3 Organisations



Irish Rural Link is a non-profit, rural Irish advocacy cooperative campaigning for sustainable rural development in Ireland and Europe.



ERINN Innovation is an Irish SME that specialises in bridging the gap from science to policy, industry and society.



Munster Technological University is a multi-campus technological university with expertise in agricultural and rural development.

Our Work Covers Four Key Areas



Research



Communication
& Networking



Management &
Implementation



Innovation
Hub

Recent Highlights – Events



CAP Network Ireland

BIOECONOMY IRELAND WEEK OCTOBER 13-19 2025

Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

CAP Network Ireland National Conference

Launch of Bioeconomy Ireland Week 2025

Agri-Bioeconomy Value Chains & Business Models in Ireland



CAP Network Ireland

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

CAP Network Ireland

EIP-Agri Capacity Building & Networking Workshop

Supporting EIP-Agri Operational Groups' Innovative Work in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development

Co-funded by the European Union

11 November 2025 | Athlone Springs Hotel, Co. Roscommon



Recent Highlights – Publications



WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE
DRIVING CHANGE UNDER IRELAND'S CAP STRATEGIC PLAN
2025 Edition



CAP Network Ireland
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INNOVATION



Co-funded by the European Union



An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



CAP NETWORK IRELAND
BIOECONOMY IN ACTION

A collection of case studies highlighting bioeconomy projects from across Ireland.



www.capnetworkireland.eu

YOUR GUIDE TO
TAMS 3
TARGETED AGRICULTURE MODERNISATION SCHEME



CAP Network Ireland
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INNOVATION



Co-funded by the European Union



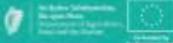
An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Recent Highlights – Campaigns

There's more to the story...
Farmers are part of the solution. Spread the word!



97% of farmers
have joined the Eco-Scheme
and are making 'space for nature' on their land



There's more to the story...

Farmers are part of the solution. Spread the word!

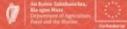
CAP Network Ireland's campaign to highlight actions for nature by farmers in Ireland.

[VIEW MORE](#)

There's more to the story...
Farmers are part of the solution. Spread the word!



Organic land area has tripled
with 5000 farmers participating
in the Organic Farming Scheme in Ireland



There's more to the story...
Farmers are part of the solution. Spread the word!



2,400 km of hedgerow,
the distance from Dublin to Kiev,
is being planted by 55,000 farmers in ACRES



LEADER

Forbairt á stiúradh ag pobail áitiúla

Development led by local communities



LEADER Capacity Building Workshop

10th June, Athlone

Channels



A Multi-method Approach to Communication

- CAP Network Ireland website:
www.capnetworkireland.eu
- LEADER section:
<https://capnetworkireland.eu/leader/>
- Email:
info@capnetworkireland.eu
- Facebook, X, LinkedIn, YouTube
- Pitch stories to local, regional and national newspapers & radio stations



LEADER
New LEADER Funding Opportunity for Energy Upgrades in...

County Kildare LEADER Partnership has announced a Targeted Call for projects under Theme 3:...



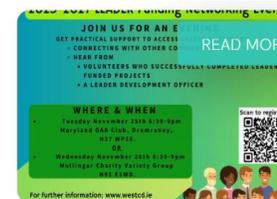
LEADER
'Innovative On-Farm Enterprise Development' LEADER Call in...

Are you a Farmer, Farm Family, or Rural Entrepreneur in County Meath with an idea to diversify...



LEADER
Read the EU CAP Network's November LEADER Newsletter

The latest edition of the EU CAP Network's LEADER newsletter is now available. This publication...



LEADER
LEADER Funding Networking Events in Westmeath

Are you based in County Westmeath? Are you interested in developing new initiatives that will...



LEADER
Vote for Ireland's Finalist in Prestigious EU Awards

The Create Green business training programme in Co. Offaly has been shortlisted as a finalist in...



LEADER
LEADER Funding Workshops in Laois

Laois Partnership Company invites individuals, businesses and community groups across the county...

Publications

2023-2027 LEADER Programme: How To Apply Guide

- 12-page publication outlining the **LEADER** programme funding process, including the themes and sub-themes, rates of funding & key stages involved.
- Useful resource for all rural stakeholders.



2023 - 2027 LEADER PROGRAMME

2023-2027 LEADER Programme: How To Apply Guide

HOW TO APPLY GUIDE

Irish Government
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Rural Development Programme 2023-2027
Department of Rural and Community Development
Ar an Tochtachai
Teallach
Our Rural Future
Arna chomhchaitiú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by
the European Union

The 2023-2027 LEADER Programme at a Glance

LEADER
Development led by local communities

The 2023-2027 LEADER Programme supports private enterprises and community groups who improve the quality of life and economic activity in rural areas.

[Read More](#)

The LEADER Project: Galway Wool Co-op

Highly commended project

The Galway Wool Co-op, which received LEADER support, was singled out as a 'Highly Commended Project' in the EU CAP Network's Agricultural and Rural Inspiration Awards (ARIA) in Brussels in December.

[Read More](#)

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[Read More](#)

LEADER Programme How To Apply Guide

2023-2027 LEADER Programme How To Apply Guide

CAP Network Ireland recently launched a new publication to assist rural stakeholders interested in applying for support under the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme.

[Read More](#)

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[Read More](#)

Publications



CAP NETWORK IRELAND FEBRUARY 2025 E-BULLETIN

The Added Value of LEADER - Connecting Rural Europe

The added value of the LEADER Programme is felt beyond Ireland and it extends to rural areas all across Europe, connecting communities and businesses alike.

[Read More](#)

LEADER
Forbairt á stiúradh ag pobail áitiúla
Development led by local communities

New Visual Guidelines for LEADER

The European Commission has recently issued new guidelines to member states on how LEADER should be visually identified. This includes the discontinuation of the LEADER logo.

[Read More](#)

Important Dates For February & March

Stay up-to-date with important dates regarding schemes and deadlines in the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

[Read more](#)

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[Read more](#)

CAP NETWORK IRELAND NEWS DECEMBER 2024

NEWSLETTER
Connecting communities, growing our future.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INNOVATION

Irish Project Success at Prestigious EU Awards

Two innovative projects proudly represented Ireland as finalists in the EU CAP Network's Agricultural and Rural Inspiration Awards (ARIA) 2024 on December 4th. Both nominated by CAP Network Ireland, the LEADER supported Galway Wool Co-op and Farm Carbon EIP, were among only 24 finalists selected from over 100 entries across Europe.

At the event, held in the Théâtre du Vaudeville in Brussels, the Galway Wool Co-op was singled out as a 'Highly Commended Project' in the 'Socio-Economic Fabric of Rural Areas' category. In 2019, the Galway Wool Co-op was set up to restore the cultural integrity of native Irish wool and establish niche market opportunities domestically and internationally. Funding received under the LEADER programme in 2023 towards the development of a website (which acts as the Co-op's e-commerce Marketplace and Trading Platform), as well as promotional materials, has enabled them to have a countrywide impact. The Co-op has connected growers with buyers interested in preserving this rare wool in Ireland, resulting in a substantial increase in the base price of wool from €0.20 to €1.50 per kilogram. By harnessing the goodwill of growers to draw wool from throughout Ireland, a newly created community now works

diligently together to bring awareness to the consumer of the variety of applications for strong wool.

In the competitive 'Environmental Protection' category, Farm Carbon EIP reached the final six. This two-year pilot project sought to increase farmers' income through innovative farming practices like pascuiculture and restoration of hedges, ponds and other farm habitats. Farm Carbon adopted a three-stage process: (i) baselining participating farm habitats across the key environmental pillars of biodiversity, carbon and water quality; (ii) implementing measures to improve environmental performance in these areas for all farm habitats; and (iii) measuring the subsequent improvements. Large areas of on-farm peatland and other habitats were restored, upgraded and/or created because of actions undertaken as part of this project.

Find out more on the EU CAP Network website or by scanning this QR Code below.

[Read More](#)

CAP NETWORK IRELAND NEWS JUNE 2025

NEWSLETTER
Connecting communities, growing our future.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL INNOVATION

LEADER Capacity Building Workshop Takes Place in Athlone

On June 10th, CAP Network Ireland, in collaboration with the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCCD), hosted a LEADER capacity building workshop at the Athlone Springs Hotel, Co. Roscommon. This half-day networking event brought together Chief Executives and Chairpersons of Local Action Groups (LAGs) and their Implementing Partners (IPs) involved in delivering the LEADER Programme across rural Ireland.

Opening presentations were given by Daniel Bennett from CAP Network Ireland, Marie Duffy from DRCCD and Ailistair Prior from the EU CAP Network.

Following the presentations, participants took part in two interactive breakout sessions. Topic 1 was on 'The Added Value of LEADER'. Juhani-Matti Markkioja (Finnish Rural Network) presented on the subject of 'how other EU Member States capture added value'. He outlined Finland's step-by-step approach to demonstrating LEADER's impact at both local and national levels.

Participants expressed an interest in examining whether a similar framework or guidance model should be developed in Ireland to capture LEADER's added

value more effectively and in a practical, simplified manner. Additionally, the benefits of using case studies to demonstrate the added value of LEADER was also discussed.

Topic 2 was on 'Delivering Your Local Development Strategy'. This session focused on practical experiences in implementing local development strategies under the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme. The experience of staff members in delivering strategies, the level of local engagement, as well as the trust that has been built with communities, were seen as critical to the success of engaging those considered hard to reach. The importance of simplifying the scheme, increasing the involvement of younger people, and the recruitment of volunteers were also highlighted by participants.

To conclude the workshop, NAC James Claffey (CAP Network Ireland) outlined plans for future capacity building workshops aimed at building on the day's discussions and outcomes. A Summary Report of the event will soon be made available on the CAP Network Ireland website, where you can also find more information on the LEADER programme. [Scan the QR Code above.](#)

[Read More](#)

LATEST NEWS, EVENTS & CASE STUDIES

Breathing New Life into a Rural Town



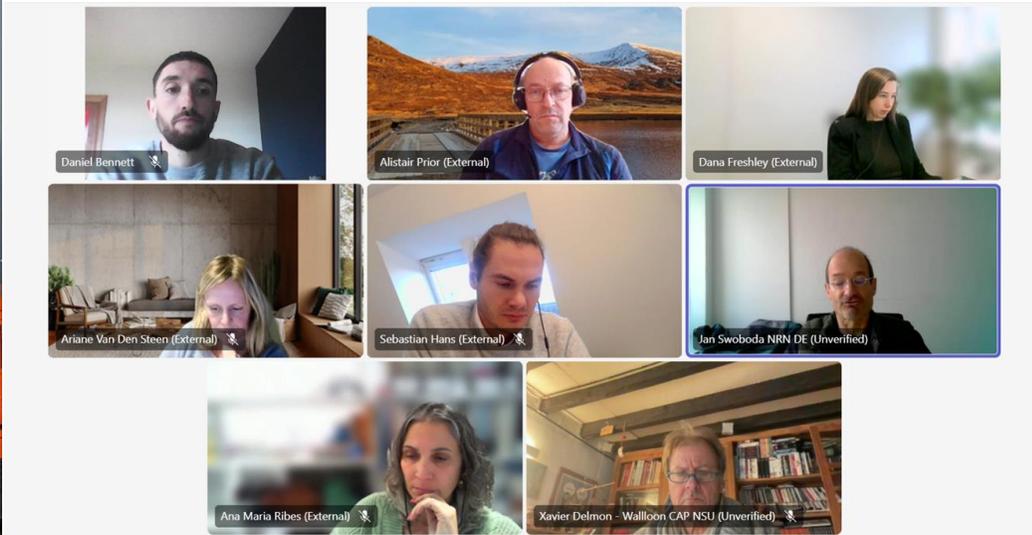
Across rural Ireland, vacant buildings often stand as reminders of changing times. In Miltown Malbay, Co. Clare, one such building – a former bank – has been transformed into a thriving hub of creativity thanks to the vision of Aoife O'Malley and the support of the LEADER programme.

Purchased in 2022, the property was first earmarked for apartments. Aoife, however, recognised its potential as a cultural and economic asset. With its central location, and distinctive heritage features such as the bank's original vault, safe and countertops, it offered an ideal setting for a new community initiative. Drawing on her hospitality background, tourism network, and her belief in the importance of socialisation, she set out to create a space that would benefit locals and visitors alike.

Aoife's vision became Design Bank: a co-working and retail space hosting artisans, craftspeople and artists. This social enterprise aims to strengthen social connections between makers and the public, enhance the visitor experience, and add to Miltown Malbay's cultural vibrancy.



Networking



Co-creation
CAPN provides support to individuals and groups seeking assistance





AGRICULTURAL & RURAL INSPIRATION AWARDS

FINALIST





Offaly Local Development Company

Cast your vote for



Create Green
Offaly sustainable by design

by Monday, 1 December

Upcoming Events



- CAPN Events
- General Events
- International Events
- National Events
- Schemes

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6

Don't miss out on upcoming agricultural & rural events, webinars and scheme deadlines

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THU 27 November 27 @ 19:00 – 22:00

Women in Agriculture Winter Webinar Series - 'Succession Planning'

Online

General Events

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is hosting a series of webinars targeted at Women in Agriculture taking place from October to December 2025. The fourth webinar [...]

WED 3 December 3 @ 16:00 – 17:30

ARIA 2025 Awards Ceremony

Théâtre du Vaudeville – Brussels, Belgium

International Events

The Award Ceremony for the third edition of the Agricultural and Rural Inspiration Awards will take place on 3 December 2025 in Brussels. The six winners of the 2025 edition [...]

THU 4 December 4 @ 08:00 – 17:00

GRASS CEILING Final Showcase Event

European Economic and Social Committee, Rue Belliard 99-101, 1040, Brussels

International Events

The GRASS CEILING Final Showcase, on 4 December 2025 in Brussels, highlights women-led innovation in rural areas and celebrates achievements across Europe.

THU 11 December 11 @ 08:00 – 15:00

The 2nd meeting on the Thematic Group on Unlocking the Potential of Cooperation

Brussels

International Events

This Thematic Group (TG) is considering how best to unlock the potential of cooperation in the CAP to increase business competitiveness, resilience and growth, particularly for small farmers. The TG [...]



Thank you

Daniel Bennett

daniel@irishrurallink.ie



Join the Network!

 @capnetworkire  capnetworkireland.eu  CAP Network Ireland



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



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