

Focus Farms

The Focus Farms' Scheme is funded under Axis 1 of the Rural Development Programme.

It aims to contribute to the creation of a more competitive agriculture industry through the provision of farmer-led training to farmers.

Focus Farms participating in the Scheme are commercial farms that demonstrate good farming practices. The farms represent a range of farm businesses and locations and promote good practice by example. They are available for visits by groups of farmers, where they can learn, share experiences and solve common problems through discussion, farm walks and demonstrations.

Focus Farmers receive financial assistance towards establishing and maintaining their farm as a training facility and also benefit from benchmarking of their farm against similar farms.

Focus Farms will be benchmarked against similar farms. Visiting farmers will have an opportunity to compare their own performance information with that of the Focus Farm. They can also benefit from a mentoring programme which provides access to the Focus Farmer on a one-to-one basis to follow up questions arising from the farm visit.

What type of farm can I visit?



Focus Farmers have been appointed across a range of key areas. Key areas include the Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Pig, Arable, Commercial Horticulture, Organic, Renewable Crops, Diversification and Environmental sectors.

Who can visit a Focus Farm?



Focus Farm visits are open to farmers and farm families who have a Business Identification Number (Business ID).

How do I arrange a visit to a Focus Farm?



Visits are arranged in response to demand. If you are interested in visiting a farm, you will be required to indicate what type of farm you want to visit and the area in which you live. You will then be contacted with a date and a time when the minimum number required for a group visit has been reached.

Why visit a Focus Farm?



Focus Farmers will be able to outline management practices and share experiences of managing a farm business as well as demonstrating:

- good farming practices;
- innovative farming methods;
- modern technology;
- on-farm research.