

## Ailbhe Gerrard

### *Brookfield Farm Hiveshare*



#### CONTACT DETAILS

T: +353 86 8551309

E: [honey@brookfield.farm](mailto:honey@brookfield.farm)

Facebook: @BrookfieldFarmProduce

[www.brookfield.farm](http://www.brookfield.farm)



Ailbhe Gerrard grew up in a hidden paradise on the shores of Lough Derg in Co Tipperary. And although she left to pursue a successful construction project management career, she always felt a pull home.

In 2010, she returned and bought Brookfield Farm beside her home in Coolbawn, near Nenagh.

Inspired by her late environmentalist mother, Ailbhe had a vision to bring agriculture back to its roots and studied sustainable development in University College London and organic farming at the Scottish Agricultural College (SRUC).

Once she bought Brookfield, she began transforming the tillage farm into a nature friendly farm enterprise. As part of that process, Brookfield Farm Hiveshare was started in December 2014.

Hiveshare allows people to buy shares in the farm's hives so they can enjoy honey from their own hives, without having to mind the bees! Members get a gift pack delivered to their door which includes honey and beeswax candles and lip balm.

Ailbhe gives her members regular updates and invites them all to the farm's annual 'Honey Celebration' where they can see their own bees foraging nectar.

Ailbhe feels the monthly meetings with her ACORNS group helped her to focus on her aims and helped her through difficult times. Her handmade beeswax candles are now stocked in places such as Kildare Village, Shannon Duty Free and Kilruddery Estate.

She has also just been one of few people in Ireland to have been awarded a prestigious Nuffield scholarship for agricultural leaders and has been selected as part of Enterprise Ireland's Innovation Arena at this year's National Ploughing Championships.