

Maeve Sheridan

Western Herd Brewing



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Maeve Sheridan and her brother, Michael Eustace, both shared a passion for good-quality beer so setting up their own brewery was a natural progression for the siblings.

Maeve, who has a background in finance, was working in Luxembourg when she developed a fondness for the various European-style beers. Michael, who is a civil engineer by profession, had always been a keen home brewer.

Noticing the rise in craft breweries opening around Ireland, they decided to open their own brewery. And they already had the perfect location – their family farm in Kilcloher, Kilmaley, Co. Clare.

Maeve and Michael aspired to create beers that embodied the charm and character of their idyllic hilltop farm built by their great-grandfather 100 years ago. And so, after much market research, and many experimental batches, Western Herd was born in November 2015.

Maeve's background in finance helped when they were setting up the business and, through ACORNS, she receive much support from fellow participants.

Western Herd launched with four types of beer and has since increased its range to eight. The beers are widely available throughout County Clare, including their own pub McHugh's in Ennis, and in several off-licences in Dublin. Just this year, the company started exporting to Italy and France.

Western Herd has won numerous awards, most recently receiving Gold and Silver by RateBeer.com for its Back Beat Witbier and Siege in January 2018.

With a team of seven between the brewery and pub, Maeve and Michael have ambitious plans for Western Herd which include continuing to export, and creating a visitor's centre at the farm, so people can experience where the beers are brewed.

Providing early stage female entrepreneurs, living in rural Ireland, with the knowledge, support and networking opportunities to meet and even exceed their current aspirations.