

Ailbhe Gerrard

Brookfield Farm Hive Gifts

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Ailbhe Gerrard is the farmer, beekeeper, craft maker and agricultural researcher behind Brookfield Farm. After working and living in Dublin and abroad she returned to farm near her family home.

Ailbhe has a number of elements to her rural business; a diverse farm with crops, sheep, bees and trees; agriculture research, teaching and consultancy; a craft business based around hive products; agri-tourism with farm tours, honey tasting and craft demonstrations.

Driven by her vision of bringing agriculture back to its sustainable roots, she is determined to produce good food for people. Ailbhe has farmed Brookfield Farm for over nine years, growing skills, developing new ideas and making collaborations with skilled farmers, apiarists and consumers.

She studied for an MSc in Sustainable Development in University College London, and an MSc in Organic agriculture in the renowned Scottish Agricultural College (SRUC).

Ailbhe lectures at Gurteen Agricultural College, teaches Regenerative Agriculture for IFOAM, the global organic agriculture organisation and consults on Sustainable Development Goals and regenerative agriculture.

As well as farming the land, Ailbhe launched Brookfield Farm Hiveshare and Hive Gifts in December 2014. Hiveshare allows people to buy shares in the farm's hives to enjoy honey from their own hives. Members receive a pack which includes Hive Gifts such as honey, lip balm and handcrafted beeswax candles, which are dipped and poured, often scented with botanical essential oils. Hivesharers receive seasonal updates, and invitations to the annual 'Honey Celebration', connecting them to the hive and farm life. Hive Gifts can also be purchased separately from Brookfield Farm's website and have been selected for numerous awards and are on the Department of Foreign Affairs approved embassy list for craft gifts.

Recently honoured with a Nuffield Agricultural Scholarship and an Organic agriculture Leadership scholarship, Ailbhe travelled the globe to research how farmers can reach consumers directly. Her latest accolades are the RDS Sustainable Farming award and she is an Honorary Ambassador, Farming for Nature.

Brookfield Farm welcomes visitors for open days to view broadleaf forestry, wildflower meadows, lambs, crops, hives and craft demonstrations. Visit www.brookfield.farm for more information on upcoming activities and Hiveshare options.

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



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