

Ciara Kinsella Tykillen Farm Honey

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t was Ciara's love of animals that led her to honey production. She grew up helping out on her parents' farm and trained as a Veterinary Surgeon, before entering into a farming partnership with her mother Frances and establishing Tykillen Farm.

Initially Tykillen Farm was a mixed farming enterprise comprising of sheep, sporthorses and forestry, and in 2018 Ciara began bee-keeping as a hobby.

The initial plan was to increase biodiversity on the farm and to produce honey for family use. Ciara quickly realised there was a big interest in the honey locally and so in 2019, she diversified into beekeeping and honey production.

Within just a few weeks of harvesting, they were sold out of honey and since then the business has continued to flourish.

Tykillen Farm Honey, based along the banks of the River Slaney in County Wexford, now has 11 hives of bees and produces pure raw honey. The honey is all harvested from hives on the farm and has been cold filtered to remove impurities, but nothing is taken away or added to maximise the many health benefits of raw honey.

Being part of the ACORNS programme helped Ciara to accelerate the progress of her business, giving her the kickstart and confidence needed to grow Tykillen Farm Honey.

Ciara is now in the process of setting up an online shop to sell honey and a range of homemade beeswax products such as soaps, salves, lip balm and candles.

Over the next few years, Ciara is also planning to build up hive numbers to 40 and to expand the business to include the sale of hives to hobby beekeepers.

