

Jan Douglas

Rocky Island Speckle Park Beef



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Jan Douglas, who comes from a farming background in Ballivor, Co Meath, felt the lure of the land in setting up her own business, Rocky Island Speckle Park Beef, in October 2019.

A ruminant nutritionist by profession, Jan initially started her business on rented land in Ballivor, but she has recently bought a small farm near Athboy in Co Meath, where she hopes to see the new business flourish.

There are two sides to the Rocky Island Speckle Park Beef business. Jan maintains a pedigree cattle herd for breeding, but she also buys in calves and rears them for beef. The animals are grass fed, with very little by way of inputs. Jan works in conjunction with her local butcher, who slaughters the animals before they sell them in 10kg boxes of different cuts of meat.

Speckle Park are a medium-sized Canadian breed that are known for their excellent beef. Jan decided to specialise in the breed in part because it is difficult to make a living from conventional beef farming. However, she also identified a group of potential customers, who want to know where their meat comes from and how the animal was reared.

The company now has a loyal base of repeat customers, who are notified whenever Jan has beef available. In the coming months, she plans to organise a nationwide delivery service for her products. She would also love to work with a couple of local restaurants and eateries.

Jan's experience of the ACORNS programme was that the network of business women had such confidence in each other that it proved catching. The monthly meetings always prompted a new sense of inspiration and determination to drive her business on.

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