

Una Wycherley *Larkin's Hill Farm*

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In a Wycherley had already been working in horticulture for a number of years when she decided the time was right to set up her own business, Larkin's Hill Farm, a primary producer of leafy green crops, on a mixed farm near the village of Puckane, Nenagh, Co Tipperary.

A huge and growing demand for her produce and the idea of working for herself convinced Una, who is originally from Skibbereen in West Cork, to become an entrepreneur, and she started trading at the start of the pandemic in March 2020.

After a year in business, demand for Larkin's Hill Farm produce is steadily growing and spreading further geographically than Una anticipated. She supplies produce to SuperValu, the Urban Co-op supermarket in Limerick, local businesses in Nenagh and the Harvest Day veg box scheme in Dublin.

Una says getting the SuperValu listing was a key moment for Larkin's Hill Farm as it pivoted the business from being very local to seeing the possibility of supplying outlets across the country. She has already taken on one employee and hopes to take on more in about a year to take advantage of huge interest from other shops, particularly in Dublin.

Una, who grew up on an organic farm, did an apprenticeship in organic farming after studying horticulture at Cork Institute of Technology. She is currently going through the process of getting Larkin's Hill Farm certified as organic.

She says ACORNS gave her the confidence to take out a substantial loan to drive her business forward, something she would have been reluctant to have done otherwise, and, as a female-led support network, it was particularly beneficial for her as farming can be a very male-dominated industry.

