

## Ailbhe Gerrard

### *Brookfield Farm*



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**A**ilbhe Gerrard is the farmer, beekeeper, craft maker, agricultural researcher and teacher 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, and bring rural communities together to address climate change and biodiversity loss.

Ailbhe has farmed Brookfield Farm for over twelve 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 offers Brookfield Farm Hiveshare and Hive Gifts. Hiveshare allows people to buy shares in the farm's hives to enjoy honey from their own hives. 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 and Judge, Farming for Nature. Ailbhe's latest outreach is Field Exchange - bringing creativity back into agriculture. An innovative programme funded by Creative Ireland with Climate Action Fund; joining agriculture expertise, artists, farmers and the public, to address our challenges in climate change. Field Exchange has enjoyed a summer of gathering, food, creativity and community with hundreds of visitors and participants on the farm.

Brookfield Farm also welcomes visitors for open days to view broadleaf forestry, wildflower meadows, lambs, crops, hives and craft demonstrations. Visit [www.brookfield.farm](http://www.brookfield.farm) for more information on upcoming activities and gift 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