

## Ciara Stanley

### *Coppengh House Farm*



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Ciara Stanley, from Tullow, Co Carlow, is something of a serial entrepreneur. She and her husband Robert have run Coppengh House Farm, which specialises in rearing and selling waygu beef, since launching the farm shop in August 2022.

Ciara has also run her own business, Ardattin Embroidery, for over a decade, and in November 2022, she purchased Ballybar Ireland, a clothing and lifestyle brand.

In May 2023, she expanded the range of products in the farm shop and added a takeaway café with outdoor seating, floorspace for Ballybar and a dedicated workspace for the embroidery business.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, Ciara left her fulltime employment in media advertising and sales in March 2022 to focus on her burgeoning businesses.

Essentially, Coppengh House Farm is a farm shop that aims to bridge the gap between consumer and producer and showcase the couple's working farm to the general public.

The couple initially started selling their own beef in 2021 but food regulations meant they were not allowed to store the beef, so they had to have all their sales made in advance. Opening the farm shop allowed them to overcome this limitation, and they now employ five part-time staff to help them run it.

Last year, Ciara won the Carlow Powerhouse Female Entrepreneur of the Year and Start-up of the Year awards, as well as a Google You're the Business award.

Ciara says the support ACORNS participants gave to each other was invaluable as were the connections and contacts made through the programme.

With one eye always on expansion, Ciara is in the process of creating an online shop for her meat products and is looking at introducing corporate hampers and gift boxes in the run-up to Christmas. She also has a longer-term plan to build a walkway around the farm and begin offering tours.

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



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