

## Margaret Leahy

### *Fable Tours*



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Margaret Leahy set up Fable Tours in 2022, leveraging her contacts from a 30-year career in community development and organic farming to offer personalised food tours along the Wild Atlantic Way.

A licensed organic farmer with her own growing operation free of commercial pesticides and artificial fertilisers, Margaret guides clients around Ireland's best small-scale sustainable farms and independent artisanal food producers.

"All the farms we visit produce something that they sell directly to consumers and retailers, whether that's raw milk, cheese, meat or vegetables. Our groups will eat in restaurants that have a relationship with the farms, so the tour groups get a unique and immersive experience," says Margaret, who works on the company full-time but hopes to hire a part-time administrative assistant in 2025.

The tours are largely focused on Galway, Clare and Mayo, with groups limited to a maximum of 14 people to ensure they remain intimate affairs. While her first year in business saw her client base formed of domestic tourist groups, networking and industry events have helped her form relationships with tour operators and attract visitors from outside Ireland.

"We aim to work with high-end corporate clients, groups of friends and multi-generational family groups. Children in particular love the farm, but we have different tours depending on the make-up of the group," says Margaret, who also contributes a regular column to Irish County Living magazine.

Margaret credits the ACORNS programme with helping her to rebrand the business, and for providing opportunities to collaborate with her fellow participants.

"The peer-to-peer support during our regular meetings was fantastic for me. All the businesses had a rural focus. They may have been in different industries but there was a lot of crossover in terms of the challenges we all experienced as entrepreneurs," she adds.

***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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