

Ailbhe Gerrard Brookfield Farm

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Ailbhe Gerrard is the farmer, beekeeper, craft maker, agricultural researcher, and educator at Brookfield Farm. After working and living in Dublin and abroad, she returned to farm near her family home in Tipperary. Since then, Ailbhe has received several awards, including RDS Sustainable Agriculture Social Impact Award Highly Commended (2024) Climate Ambassador Outstanding Impact Award (2022), and RDS Sustainable Farming Award (2019). She focuses on producing food sustainably and engaging rural communities to address climate change and biodiversity loss.

Ailbhe has managed Brookfield Farm for over thirteen years, developing skills, new ideas, and collaborations with other farmers, agricultural experts, and consumers. The 75 organically certified acres of Brookfield Farm include native woodland, broadleaf plantation, multispecies leys, a sheep flock, beehives, tillage and forage crops, and experimental crops. In addition to farming, Ailbhe offers Brookfield Farm Hiveshare and Hive Gifts, a craft and honey business. Brookfield Farm Hiveshare allows people to buy shares in the farm's hives to enjoy honey from their own hives.

Ailbhe also conducts agricultural research, hosts agri-tourism farm experiences and tours, and runs an agricultural initiative and annual festival called Field Exchange funded by Creative Ireland with Climate Action Fund. Field Exchange is a programme aimed at addressing climate change and biodiversity loss within the agricultural community in Ireland using creativity. This project works with rural communities, farmers, artists, craftspeople, and experts in sustainable agriculture, providing a space for idea exchange and changing practices.

She studied Sustainable Development MSc at University College London and Organic Agriculture MSc at the Scottish Agricultural College (SRUC), and has an MSc in Project management from Technological University Dublin. Off-site, Ailbhe has lectured at Gurteen Agricultural College, taught Regenerative Agriculture for IFOAM, and consulted on Sustainable Development Goals and regenerative agriculture. She is an Honorary Ambassador for Farming for Nature and a Climate Ambassador.

Ailbhe was also honoured with a Nuffield Agricultural Scholarship and an Organic Agriculture Leadership scholarship, which enabled her to research direct farmer consumer engagement globally and short food chains.

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