Social Farming Support Service Update March 2022

Update March 2022

This bulletin covers the January - March period of 2022, and this update will detail how the Social Farming Support Service for Northern Ireland is continuing to support farmers and promote Social Farming. Please visit the Social Farming section of the Rural Support website: www.ruralsupport.org.uk or follow Rural Support on social media (Twitter: @RuralSupport; Facebook: Rural Support) to keep up to date on developments. You can also contact the Social Farming Support Service on the details below.

Office: 028 86760040
Email: socialfarming@ruralsupport.org.uk

Social Farming Quarterly Discussion meeting

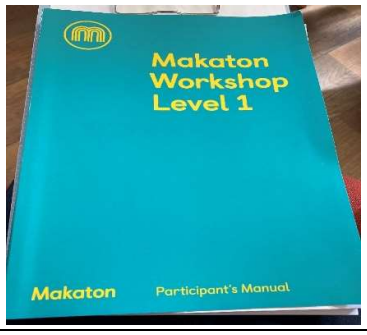
In January 2022 the Social Farming Quarterly Discussion meeting was hosted at Jubilee Farm in Glynn. It was great to meet-up in person again and a lovely day for the farm tour. The quarterly meeting is an opportunity to share learning and receive support from other farms delivering Social Farming.







Training



Training for Social Farmers took place in February and March. This included essential training days in Safeguarding Children and Adults, and Emergency First Aid at Work. In addition, Social Farms had the opportunity to complete a level 1 course in Makaton. Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk





Introduction to Social Farming Course

The beginning of March saw a new cohort of interested farms taking part in the Introduction to Social Farming course over two days. The first day was theory completed online followed by a second day farm visit to an active experienced Social Farm. Thanks to Marie, Paul and Martin at Yellow Road Farm for hosting and sharing their personal experience!







Social Farming at Rural Support's 20th birthday celebration event

The 22nd was a special day for Rural Support celebrating their 20th birthday. Active and experienced Social Farms were invited to attend to join in with the celebrations and to showcase their delivery. Guests were surprised with a visit from HRH Prince Charles who took a keen interest in the Social Farming stand. We hope everyone enjoyed the event!







Social Farming Standards

End of March saw the first cohort of applicants to the Social Farming Standards go to panel review. Those who have been successful will be announced later this month. The SFSS will be providing support to those farms who have started their application in the coming months, with panel reviews taking place each quarter.

Please get in touch with Rural Support to learn more about Social Farming