

people farming

ATTENTION FOREST OWNERS

FORMATION OF NEW FORESTRY CO-OP

SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday 18th May
TULLY'S HOTEL, Castlerea

Wednesday 19th May
ROYAL HOTEL, Boyle

Both Meetings at 9pm

Come and hear about the benefits

- Guaranteed Markets
- Professional Management
- Member Control

An unique opportunity to boost prices of first and second thinnings

MOUNTBELLEW MART CATTLE & Weanling Sale

FRIDAYS @ 11AM

Special sale of Continental forward Store Heifers and Bullocks

Friday May 14th - in conjunction with usual sale

Reduction/Dispersal Sales catered for Transport can be arranged

Sheep sale every Saturday at 10am

ENQUIRIES/BOOKINGS 090 9679660

Meetings on formation of new forestry Co-op

All forest owners in Roscommon are being invited to special meetings next week at which plans to establish a new forestry co-op will be outlined.

The meetings will be held in Tully's Hotel, Castlerea on Tuesday, 18th May and in the Royal Hotel, Boyle on Wednesday, 19th May. Both meetings start at 9 pm.

The new co-op is aimed particularly at growers in Roscommon, Galway, Longford, Westmeath and Offaly who planted in the early to mid 1990s and now have forests ready for first or second thinning. According to the promoters, it offers a unique opportunity for growers to join an initiative that will offer a guaranteed market and will boost prices for first and second thinnings.

The new co-op is being supported by ICOS, the umbrella body for the co-operative movement, as well as by a number of key state agencies and local bodies. It is being spearheaded by a number of local forestry growers, led by Michael Spellman from Kiltveevan, who is Chairman of Roscommon Mart and a member of the Board of ICOS.

Michael Spellman, who also has wide expertise in the processing and sale of forest products, told Roscommon People that the new co-op offers exciting opportunities for growers to capitalise on increased demand for forest products for heating and energy.

"The co-op plans to operate as an energy supply company, providing heat to the commercial, residential and industrial sectors. It will also be in an ideal position to capitalise on increased demand from the three peat-powered generating stations in the region which will be co-firing their peat fuel with a 30 percent input of biomass by 2015," said Michael Spellman.

SFP deadline looms

Farmers are reminded that the closing date for receipt of applications under the 2010 Single Payment Scheme is Monday, 17 May 2010.

"It is vitally important for applicants to meet this deadline, which is the latest date allowed under EU rules" Agriculture Minister Brendan Smith said this week. Although there is a 25-day period after 17th May during which late applications may be submitted, applications received during this period will be subject to late penalties, at a cumulative rate of one percent per working day.

Applications received after Friday, 11th June, will be sub-

ject to 100 percent penalty, as per governing EU Regulations. "It is clearly in the interest of all applicants to avoid such penalties and for that reason I strongly urge everyone concerned to ensure they get their applications in to my Department on time" the Minister added.

The Minister reminded those farmers who are availing of the services of an Agent for the completion and submission of their form to ensure that the form has actually been submitted. This is particularly relevant where Agent has been engaged to submit the form using iNet, the Department's on-line application facility. "Unfortunately, experience has shown

that some farmers have made the mistake of believing that simply by engaging an Agent to do this work that the form has actually been submitted," the Minister said, adding "it is, of course, necessary to meet with the Agent to complete the form, thereby allowing it to be submitted."

The Minister also advised those farmers who use iNet themselves not to make the mistake of saving a draft of the form and then failing to submit it. "It is essential to be very prudent in this regard," he said. Minister Smith said that ultimately it was the responsibility of individual farmers to ensure that their applications were submitted to the Department on time.

The Minister took the opportunity to again urge farmers to ensure that they check the maps, which had been posted to them in recent weeks. "It is critical that all applicants only apply on eligible land" the Minister explained "therefore, I would again ask that everyone concerned take the time to closely examine the maps of their farms which my Department have provided. Where any areas of ineligible ground are identified, these should be marked on the maps in red pen and returned with the completed 2010 application form, making sure that the appropriate amendments have been made to the claimed areas on the application form".

Macra AGM a great success

Macra na Feirme's National AGM took place last weekend in the Abbey Hotel in Roscommon.

Dara Kavanagh from Wicklow was re-elected National Chairman, with Catherine McCollum from Cavan and Kieran O'Dowd from Sligo taking up the respective roles of National Secretary and National Treasurer for a second term.

They are joined by 14 new National Council representatives and 17 existing representatives. The new NCRs are from the counties, Clare, Avondhu, Dublin, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Mayo, Monaghan, North Tipperary, Waterford, and Westmeath. Two new executive members former Munster Vice-President Flor O'Gorman from Imokilly

and James Healy from Muskerry have also been elected.

Chairpersons and members of Macra's three sub-committees, Agricultural Affairs; Rural Affairs and Member Services and Competitions, will be elected in June at the next national council meeting.

Speaking at the event, national president Michael Gowling welcomed all the new NCR

and wished them a great term representing their counties. He also thanked the Kepak Group for their sponsorship of the event and congratulated the organising committee in Roscommon Macra for successfully coordinating the day's proceedings along with McCormick Tractors for supplying tractors for the event and the Abbey Hotel for their fantastic service.



Keegan Tractors supplied tractors for the recent Macra na Feirme AGM held in Roscommon. Pictured in front of one of the tractors are North West Vice President John Kenny and Macra na Feirme National President Michael Gowling.

mart round-up

Castlerea

There were 850 cattle on offer with trade similar to last week. There was good demand for the large numbers of weanling on offer with exporters and feeders in attendance resulting in a good clearance. Store heifers: Ch 400 kgs €810; Lim 395 kgs €725; AA 470 kgs €880; Ch 600 kgs €1,000; B. Blue 545 kgs €1,020; Lim 595 kgs €1,040; Lim 460 kgs €880; R. Lim 600 kgs €965. Dry cows: AA 730 kgs €1,007; Ch 495 kgs €630; AA 750 kgs €955; B. Lim 480 kgs €770; Ch 600 kgs €740; Ch 480 kgs €640. Cows with calves at food made from €700 to €1,470 per head. Springers made from €600 to €850 per head. Calves: B. Her. Heifer €220; Ch bull €350; Fr. Bull €155; Sim heifer €220; B Blue heifer €245; B. Blue bull €275; Ch heifer €405. Weanling bulls: Ch 275 kgs €680; Lim 285 kgs €700; Ch 420 kgs €865; Lim 395 kgs €855; Sim 360 kgs €805; Sim 330 kgs €650. Weanling heifers: Ch 285 kgs €595; AA 280 kgs €600; B. Blue 430 kgs €1,000; Lim 410 kgs €750; AA 220 kgs €442; Lim 265 kgs €505. At the bullock sale on Monday, 3rd May, there were 300 bullocks

on offer with good demand for quality forward store bullocks. Prices: Lim 470 kgs €1,000; Ch 530 kgs €1,020; B. Blue 550 kgs €1,070; Ch 600 kgs €1,115; AA 730 kgs €1,250; Lim 695 kgs €1,100.

Mountbellew

There was a large number of cattle on offer. Quality store bullocks were an excellent trade, store heifers were easier. Suckler cows were a good trade. Weanling heifers were a much stronger trade than previous weeks. Weanling bulls were similar. There is a special sale of continental store bullocks and heifers on Friday 14th May. Pre-booking essential. Midland buyers will be in attendance. Exporters in attendance each week for quality weanling bulls and heifers. Bullocks made from over €500 with their weight. Heifers: Ch X 480 kgs €870; 2 Lim X 407 kgs €770; Ch X 515 kg €970; Ch X 465 kgs €980. Heifers made up to €290 with their weight. Weanling bulls made up to €420 with their weight for quality lots. Weanling heifers made up to €320 with their weight. Cattle sale each and every Friday at 11 am. Large numbers required weekly. Book-

ings or enquiries to (090) 96 79660.

The sheep sale was larger than previous week with spring lambs and stag ewes in strong demand. Also improved trade for stag ewes with brisk bidding for heavier lots.

Spring lambs: Eleven spring lambs at 43 kgs €105.50; six spring lambs at 42 kgs €104.50; four spring lambs at 50 kgs €119; five spring lambs at 50 kgs €125.50; seven spring lambs at 48 kgs €121.50; six spring lambs at 45 kgs €113. Hoggets: Ewe hogget at 63 kgs €120; six wether hoggets at 56 kgs €114; two wether hoggets at 49 kgs €97.50; six ewe hoggets at 43 kg €93. Stag ewes: Improved trade to previous week with large number on offer. Prices ranged from €60 to €130. Ewes with lambs at foot: One second crop ewe with two lambs at foot €154; four third crop ewes with four single lambs at foot €122; one first crop ewe with two lambs at foot €180; three second crop ewes with three strong single lambs at foot €173; eight third crop ewes with fourteen lambs at foot €145. Sheep sale as usual on Saturdays. Stags 10 am, lambs 11 am, breeding ewes 12 noon Bookings or enquiries to (090) 96 79660.