

Project Number: 2013-1-PL1-LEO05-37562

Brussels 7 May 2015 - Farmland Project Conference:

“School farms, didactic activities and social services as new work opportunities in rural areas”

Note on speakers



Nele Dejonckheere

Head of service for agricultural diversification in education

Inagro

Holding a Master degree in social work (University of Gent) Nele Dejonckheere has worked since 2005 for Inagro, a center for research and advice in agriculture and in horticulture in West-Flanders. She started as coordinator for the network of farm visits for schools ‘Met de klas de boer op’ as part of an Interreg project. In 2012 she became the Head of service for agricultural diversification in education. The service assists farms with diversification activities and links them with the network to innovate and improve entrepreneurship. Via the communication activities *Inagro* brings farmers closer to their environment. To find more information please click here www.inagro.be (for professionals) or here www.onthaalopdeboerderij.be (for public).



David Lamb,

Policy Analyst

ENRD Contact Point

David Lamb works as a Policy Analyst for the ENRD Contact Point with a particular focus on local foods and short supply chains. He comes from a background of working within advisory services in Scotland in Food Marketing, where he led a team of advisors for 12 years, supporting small rural businesses in the development of capacity and market access. He developed and led a programme of activities on local food development, food tourism and in the development of collaboration before moving to work in Brussels last year. He has previous experience working within the food processing sector for 5 years, and edited guides on Local Food Marketing, Organic Marketing and Food Networks, and has delivered training and project management across the EU and beyond.

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Ronan Byrne,

Owner of The Friendly Farmer, Rural Entrepreneurship Specialist
UCD

Ronan Byrne had a simple desire to run his own agri-business and for nearly a decade that desire has brought the business & farm from a part time subsidized smallholding to a growing food business, now employing 5 people in a rural area. From day one Ronan implemented lean business principles & relied heavily on innovative use of resources. His motto is: 'Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can'. When given the opportunity people can innovate and add value to any situation. That belief is what led him to his role with the UCD Innovation Academy. Facilitating others in the development of their business idea and more importantly enabling them to act on this idea is the simplest & quickest way to ensure bottom up real development in rural economies. Ronan completed an MA in EU Integration, focusing on the area of rural development policy under CAP. He regularly participates in an EU Commission Civil Dialogues Group on CAP. Ronan won the title of the Farmer of the Year – Rising Star in 2014. He aims to bring his practical experience to bear & develop policies that enable action on the ground. The Friendly Farmer is now at the next stage in its growth. As the business builds Ronan is looking for new opportunities to add further value to both existing & new products.

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