



**NUFFIELD FARMING SCHOLARSHIPS TRUST
IRELAND Ltd**

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PRESS RELEASE

Nuffield Ireland announces 6 new scholars for 2016

Nuffield Farming Scholarships Trust Ireland has selected 6 new scholars for the 2016 Nuffield Scholarships. The objective of the Irish Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust is to identify future leaders of Irish Agriculture and facilitate their ambition to bring about meaningful change for the benefit of their community

“We received 24 applications of a very high standard for these scholarships from very capable people. Following a 2 stage interview process, the selection panel chose these 6 candidates to receive this award. I look forward working with our new scholars as they engage in the Nuffield Leadership development programme, work on their study topic and produce their report” said Bill O’Keeffe, Chairman of Nuffield Ireland.

Nuffield awards these scholarships with the support of its sponsors, namely, FBD Trust, IFA, the Irish Farmers’ Journal, the Golden Jubilee Trust, Meat Industry Ireland, Aurivo Co-op Glanbia, Dairymaster and LIC.

The new scholars for 2016 are

Tom Dinneen, Ballynoe, Mallow, Co Cork. Tom is a dairy farmer, with a farmhouse cheese business.

Peter Farrell, Kilmessan, Co Meath. Peter is a dairy farmer.

Ailbhe Gerrard, Coolbawn, Nenagh, Co Tipperary. Ailbhe runs a mixed farm (tillage, livestock and forestry) and has an artisan food and hive products business.

Ray Hunt, Dualla, Cashel, Co Tipperary. Ray is an area manager for Munster AI, and a dairy farmer.

John Joyce, Carrigahorig, Lorrha, Nenagh, Co Tipperary. John is a suckler, sheep and tillage farmer, who also provides farm contracting services

Roberta McDonald, Ballycumber, Co Offaly. Roberta is Farm Profitability Programme Manager with Aurivo Co-op.

The new scholars will be introduced, and will give an outline of their study topic, at the Nuffield Ireland Annual Conference in the Castleknock Hotel on Friday 16th October 2015. Details of the conference are on www.nuffield.ie.

Mr O’Keeffe explained that “the scholars will receive a travel bursary of €14,000. They will first receive briefings and skills development over the coming months, before further training

with fellow-Nuffield Scholars from around the world at the Contemporary Scholars Conference which will be held in Cavan in March 2016.

After this initial stage, they will undertake 6 weeks travel on one of the 5 Global Focus Programme (GFP) itineraries to about 6 countries (such as China, US, Brazil, Africa, Eastern Europe, Japan Indonesia and others). They will travel in groups of about 8 scholars from different countries, meet farmers, companies and policymakers to get an understanding of the issues, trends and insights into global agriculture, and to see farming in a wide range of sizes, regulatory and climatic conditions.

Some months later, they will travel individually to research their topic of choice. They will be expected to prepare a comprehensive report, to be presented to the Nuffield Farming Scholarship Trust , as well as various other Irish and international agricultural forums,” Mr O’Keeffe said.

“I am delighted to welcome these new scholars to Nuffield Ireland, and look forward to seeing them develop their full potential, and play an important role for Irish Agriculture, their local community and for Nuffield in the years ahead. This brings to 77 the total number of scholars who have been awarded Irish Nuffield scholarships since 1996” he said.

Wednesday 23rd September 2015

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