



Rural Social Scheme

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) provides an additional income for low-income farmers in receipt of certain Social Welfare payments.

The aim of the RSS is to utilise the skills and knowledge of the local farming community in the development of local amenities, facilities and services.

The Rural Social Scheme is primarily aimed at the farmer in the household, however a spouse/civil partner/cohabitant, brother, sister, adult son or adult daughter of the farmer may instead be eligible for participation on the scheme.

To participate on the RSS a person must be:

- In receipt of a means tested Department Of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DEASP) payment for example Farm Assist/Fish Assist or Jobseekers Allowance.

! Aged 25 or over

! The household must hold a Herd Number and be in receipt of an EU Basic Income Support for Sustainability Scheme (BISS) and also meet the criteria for either a self-employed farmer or fisherman/woman.

RSS participants are contracted to work 19.5 hours per week. Each participant is subject to normal income tax and also benefits from making a PRSI Class A contribution.

Community Groups are you interested in availing of the Rural Social Scheme?

Works carried out in communities include:

- ! Maintenance of waymarked ways, agreed walks and bog roads;
- ! Village and countryside enhancement projects;
- ! Maintenance and caretaking of community and sporting activities;
- ! Community administration/clerical duties;
- ! Social care and care of the elderly, community care for both pre-school and after-school groups;
- ! Projects relating to not-for-profit Cultural and Heritage Centres.

For further information contact:

Geraldine Kelly or Anita Bodenham in the Listowel Area on 068 23429.

Aine Stack in the Tralee Area on 066 7180190.

Joanne O' Sullivan or Kay O' Connor in the Castleisland Area on 066 7142576

