



Irish Countrywomen's Association

Bantracht na Tuaithe

ICA Press Release at the opening of the National Ploughing Championships - Tuesday 19th September 2023

The Irish Countrywomen's Association (ICA) calls on the government to engage in mindful and constructive discussions with farmers and farm organisations and to take on board the legitimate concerns of the farming community, as our country progresses to meet our mandated climate targets.

The farming community is especially disadvantaged by the category of emissions created in carrying out their work. It is not commonly known that methane gas is 25 times more efficient at trapping heat than CO₂, thereby imposing an unequal burden on farmers in relation to reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The Irish Countrywomen's Association requests that a just transition be afforded to farmers taking into account their important and very respected role as custodians of the land, their valuable and sometimes difficult and lengthy time spent in the growth and production of food for our families. Farming is not a 5-day-a-week 9 to 5 job but a 7-day-a-week job where livelihoods are often negatively affected by bad weather and consequent fodder shortages, as well as increasing costs in energy, necessary equipment and labour charges, not to mention the challenges that will be faced by this sector due to the more severe weather and flooding as a result of global warming.

The Irish Countrywomen's Association calls on the government to afford a just transition to all sectors and all families in meeting our climate action targets and we request that a significant amount of this year's exchequer surplus be earmarked for increased grants for affordable electric vehicles, alternative energy funding eg: solar and to help families retrofit their home all helping Ireland to become energy independent.

Global warming is happening at a much faster pace than was envisaged by scientists and experts and there is a new urgency to act now or face the enormous consequences of delay. We ask that our leaders show courage and lead by example with a new urgency now as the world takes on the biggest threat to humanity and to our Earth's ability to sustain life in all its forms.

ICA Climate Action & Sustainability Committee. (icaclimateaction@ica.ie)

End.