



IFA



# Ready to Lead 2026 Programme



# FARMERS NEED A STRONG VOICE – TOGETHER WE CAN SHAPE THE FUTURE

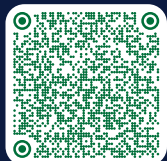
Just like every other sector, farmers need a united, powerful union to represent their interests and ensure their voices are heard—both at home and in Europe. We are that voice, and you can be part of the movement shaping the future of farming.

## Do you want to?

- **Understand the Policy Landscape:** Get a clear insight into the decision-making processes at both the EU and national levels, as well as key state agencies.
- **Stay Informed:** Increase your knowledge of policy direction, both in Ireland and across Europe, so you're always one step ahead of upcoming changes.
- **Influence Change:** Learn the skills to actively influence policymakers and understand how policies are formed that directly impact your farm.
- **Prepare for the Future:** Know what's coming and how policy decisions will affect you at the farm level, so you can make informed decisions.
- **Build Connections:** Network with fellow farmers, share insights, and strengthen your collective power.
- **Join an IFA National Committee:** Participants in the Ready to Lead Programme may be co-opted onto a National IFA Committee for two years (see IFA Rule 25 d).

## Why Your Voice Matters

It is critical that the next generation of farmers step up and play a key role in shaping IFA policy. By joining the IFA, you harness the strength of our collective influence to drive policies that support productive, sustainable agriculture.



To find out more about this programme and how to enter scan the QR CODE or email [readytolead@ifa.ie](mailto:readytolead@ifa.ie) Closing date for Applications: Monday, 22nd December 2025



# WHAT DOES THE PROGRAMME CONSIST OF?

This six day programme is spread over the 2026 calendar year. This programme will see participants spend time in our political institutions in Dublin and Brussels. You will also have access to key industry stakeholders and see first-hand how the Association works to shape and influence agricultural policy.

- **Online Interviews:** Will be held between Thursday 15th and Thursday 22nd of January.
- **Day 1 and 2 of Programme:** Tuesday 28th April and Wednesday 29th April in the Irish Farm Centre (overnight accommodation will be provided).

## PROGRAMME CONTENT

| DAY 1   | DAY 2  | DAY 3   | DAY 4   | DAYS 5 & 6   |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <b>Welcome and introduction by IFA President and Director General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFA Leadership Team</li> <li>• IFA Policy</li> <li>• IFA Communications</li> <li>• FBD Introduction</li> </ul> | <b>Representing IFA on Boards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Industry Speakers - organisations on which IFA has board seats</li> <li>• Teagasc Strategy</li> <li>• Bord Bia Strategy</li> <li>• Ornua Strategy</li> <li>• ICBF Strategy</li> </ul> | <b>The Irish Political System</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Agriculture, Food &amp; the Marine</li> <li>• Dáil Éireann visit</li> <li>• Agri Policy Formation</li> </ul> | <b>Lobbying and Leadership</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to Lobby</li> <li>• Media Coaching</li> </ul> | <b>Brussels</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IFA Office Brussels</li> <li>• European Parliament</li> <li>• European Commission</li> <li>• European Farm Organisations</li> <li>• European Economic and Social Committee</li> </ul> |

## We Support You

This programme is fully funded by IFA, FBD Trust CLG and Farm Business Skillnet

### Criteria for Potential Ready to Lead Candidates:

- Anyone who has served on IFA National Council or has more than 2 years experience on any IFA national committee is not eligible for this program
- Must be actively farming – full or part-time – and be committed to a long term career in farming
- Successful candidates will be co-opted onto an IFA National Committee



## About IFA

The IFA is Ireland's largest farming representative organisation. We have protected and defended the interests of Irish farmers in all sectors for more than 65 years. We represent Irish farmers at home and in Europe, lobbying and campaigning for improved conditions and incomes for farm families. We also provide representation, support and advice to members on an individual basis. IFA is a democratic association, organised in branches, County Executive and National Committees. Through our democratic structure, each member can have their say.

## About Farm Business Skillnet

Farm Business Skillnet provides subsidised upskilling solutions to farm businesses and smallholders across the Irish agriculture sector. The Network's mission is to enhance farm productivity and efficiency through the provision of targeted talent development programmes. Through these programmes, participants gain the expertise and confidence necessary to adapt and grow their businesses. Collaborating with industry, the network designs, develops and delivers responsive, bespoke and flexible training courses to meet the ongoing needs. Farm Business Skillnet is promoted by the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA). Membership of the network is open to micro and small businesses in the agri sector.

## About FBD Insurance

FBD is Ireland's largest homegrown insurer looking after the needs of farmers, consumers and business owners and we are delighted to support the IFA Ready to Lead Programme. FBD was established in the 1960s by farmers for farmers, FBD has built on those roots in agriculture to become a leading general insurer serving the needs of its direct agricultural, small business and consumer customers nationwide. It has a network of 34 branches serving communities across the country. FBD Insurance offers €95\* off Farm, Home and Car Insurance exclusively for IFA members.

\*One voucher per member per year which is valid for one year and on a policy in your own name. Proof of in date membership required. Strictly non transferrable. Not available to members who hold a dual IFA/ASA Membership Offers are subject to change. Redeemable through FBD local offices or by phone. Subject to FBD Insurance's normal underwriting criteria. FBD Insurance plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



# IFA



**IFA Head Office:** Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12, D12 YXW5. +353 (0)1 450 0266

**IFA Brussels Office:** 61 rue de Trèves, 7th floor, 1040 Brussels, Belgium. +32 (0)2 230 04 57

Farm Business Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and network companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund and the European Union through the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Co-funded by  
the European Union