

From the Minister of State's Desk

News from
Shane McEntee TD



January 2012

Forestry, Horticulture and the Greyhound industry are well-funded for 2012

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I am pleased and proud to state that the main economic sectors for which I have direct responsibility have been well provided for in the Government's spending plan for next year. I want to pay tribute to my colleague, Minister Simon Coveney TD, for his work at Cabinet level in ensuring a favourable outcome.

Forestry

"The provision by the Government of almost €112 million for forestry is a reflection of the importance we attach to an industry that provides employment opportunities predominantly in rural communities for more than 16,000 people, in the growing, harvesting and processing of forest products. Funding for approximately 7,000 hectares of planting, as well as for the other schemes in the programme, has been provided.

Horticulture

I am delighted to announce continued Government support for the Horticulture Sector during 2012. €3.25 million has been allocated for the fifth round of the Scheme of Investment Aid for the Development of the Commercial Horticulture Sector. This aid, which is set at 40%, (50% in the case of young farmers), of total eligible capital investment, will fund projects in commercial horticulture undertaken during 2012. The scheme covers all horticultural sectors – protected crops, nursery crops, field vegetables, soft fruit, apples, beekeeping and mushrooms."

Greyhounds

"Greyhound racing is a traditional industry which plays an integral role in the rural landscape both socially and economically. It sustains in excess of 10,000 full and part-time jobs directly and indirectly." With seventeen racing tracks throughout the country and greyhound owners, breeders and trainers located in every county, the economic benefit is well distributed geographically. The industry injects an es-

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estimated €500 million into local economies. The funding provision we have made in the Budget underlines the on-going commitment of the Government to this very important industry, one in which Ireland excels”

“The Art of Hurley Making, from Ash to Clash” - DVD



Minister of State McEntee recently attended the launch of a DVD entitled “The Art of Hurley Making, from Ash to Clash” in Croke Park. Also there were the President of the Irish Guild of Ash Hurley Makers, Wille McAuliffe, the Director of Teagasc, Prof Gerry Boyle and the President of the GAA, Christy Cooney. The DVD was a joint initiative by the three organisations

Minister of State McEntee said: *” The growing of ash for making hurleys is another example of Ireland’s forest owners providing a sustainable and renewable supply of raw material to another indigenous, rural industry - hurley making, thereby creating a winning combination.”*

The DVD will be available through three websites (www.Teagasc.ie; www.gaa.ie and www.igahm.ie). It will also be on view in the GAA museum in Croke Park.

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Minister of State launches the 2012 “Forestry and Timber Yearbook”



Pictured at the launch of the 2012 Forestry & Timber Yearbook were (l to r) Donal Magner, Editor Forestry & Timber Yearbook, Donal Whelan, Technical Director of the Irish Timber Growers Association (ITGA), Minister of State for Forestry, Shane McEntee TD, Brendan Lacey, Chairman ITGA and Tom Byrne, Coillte.

The Minister of State commented that the ITGA Yearbook remains one of the most important sources of information and reference for people working in the forestry sector and he added “*The ‘Forestry & Timber Yearbook 2012’ includes a range of useful statistics and articles of general interest and serves to increase people’s awareness of the extent of the forest sector, its outputs and issues.*”

The Minister of State also commented that he was pleased that the Forest Service of his Department had been in a position to support the production of the Yearbook again this year.

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“Government will continue to support organic farming”



Minister of State Shane McEntee with staff of the Organic Centre in Rossinver, County Leitrim

The Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Shane McEntee TD, recently visited the Organic Centre in Rossinver, County Leitrim. Minister McEntee said: *“We will continue to promote organic farming because of the contribution it can make to farm incomes while meeting consumer demands and the beneficial effects it has in protecting and improving the environment and enhancing animal welfare”.*

He continued: *“Farming and our indigenous food industry are fundamental to an export-led economic recovery. The organic sector may be small in the overall context of farming but it has a role to play in economic recovery”.*

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Please prevent worrying of sheep by dogs

The Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Shane McEntee TD, has drawn attention to the damage and distress that arise from attacks by marauding dogs on farm livestock, particularly sheep.

Each year, particularly but not exclusively around lambing time, roaming dogs create a serious menace to sheep. Even the family pet can cause great distress to sheep, including pregnant ewes and lambs and it is essential that dog owners do everything possible to prevent such attacks as uncontrolled dogs can decimate a flock in a very short period of time.

Minister McEntee drew attention to the heavy penalties provided under the law for negligent dog owners, pointing out that they may be found liable for damages and costs in a civil action. In addition, dogs may be shot by the owner of the animals which are subjected to attack. The potential consequences of failure to keep dogs under control can have serious financial and emotional impact on dog owners and their families, in addition to the obvious effects on sheep and lambs and their owners and keepers. Apart from the cruelty and distress suffered by livestock, the financial losses to farmers can be very considerable.

The Minister appealed to all dog owners, particularly those living near farms, to ensure that their dogs are kept under control at all times and particularly at night, so that the suffering and death caused to sheep and lamb flocks can be avoided.

Register

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- Mobile Number
- Whether you want to be contacted by email or text

Please note you will be included in all messages relating to the issuing of Minister of State McEntee's Newsletter.