“Cultivating Mental Wellbeing in Rural Ireland”

Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise

20th November 2023

9.30 – 10.00  Refreshments

10.00 – 10.15  Opening address by Mr Martin Heydon T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Farm Safety.

10.15 – 11.30  Session 1 “Perspectives on Mental Health in the Farming Community” Panel Discussion chaired by Minister Martin Heydon T.D.

- Dr Noel Richardson, Director of healthCORE, South-Eastern Technical University
- Dr Anna Donnla O’Hagan, Assistant Professor in the School of Health & Human Performance at Dublin City University
- Dr David Meredith, Senior Research Officer, Teagasc
- Mr Peter Hynes, Cork dairy farmer and founder of Ag Mental Health Week

11.30 - 11.45  Comfort break


- Mr Fergal Fox, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications, HSE Health & Wellbeing, Strategy and Research, Healthcare Strategy
- Mr. Eddie Mullins CEO, Merchants Quay Ireland and former Governor of Mountjoy Prison
- Ms Josephine Rigney, Suicide Resource Officer, HSE
- Mr John Keane, young farmer and former President of Macra
- Ms Finola Colgan, Mental Health Ireland, National Lead on Farmer Wellbeing.

12.45 – 1.00  Closing Address – by Mr Bill Callanan Chief Inspector, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

1.00  Lunch