



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine



An Roinn Sláinte  
Department of Health

## **“Cultivating Mental Wellbeing in Rural Ireland”**

**Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise**

**20<sup>th</sup> 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**

11.45 – 12.45    **Session 2 “*Promoting and Supporting Farmers Health and Wellbeing*”** Panel Discussion chaired by Ms. Biddy O’Neill, National Policy Lead, Health and Wellbeing, Department of Health

- 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**