



**young  
equine  
innovators**

## Our hosts



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara  
Kildare County Council

# Young Equine Innovators Summit Agenda

**Kildare Ireland  
March 3rd – 6th**



[www.younequineinnovators.eu](http://www.younequineinnovators.eu)



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## DAY 01 Tuesday, March 3rd

	<p><b>Arrival &amp; Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Arrival &amp; Check-in:</b> <u>Osprey Hotel</u>, Naas.</li> </ul>
19:30	<p><b>Welcome Meal (Optional):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An informal dinner at KCC in Naas for those available to settle in and meet the project team.</li> </ul>

## DAY 02 Wednesday, March 4th

	<p><b>Theme:</b> Turning Equine Passion into Innovation <b>Venue:</b> <u>The National Stud &amp; Gardens</u></p>
09:00 - 09:30	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome to Kildare: <b>Michael Timmons</b>, <u>Kildare County Council</u>.</li> <li>The YEI Vision: Kjartan Bollason, <u>Hólar University</u>,</li> </ul>
09:30 - 11:15	<p><b>Meet our Participants</b></p> <p><b>The Format:</b> A who is who session where participants present their equine background and one specific challenge they want to fix in the equine sector. <b>All participants must prepare a 5 minutes presentation.</b></p> <p>Facilitated by <b>Orla Casey &amp; Denise Callan</b>, <b>Momentum</b>. How YEI resources can support participants</p>
	<p><b>Refreshment Break</b></p>
11:30 – 12:45	<p><b>Lessons from Sweden: Focus on Equine Trends and Futures</b></p> <p>Presented by <b>Coompanion Göteborg</b></p> <p>Identifying career paths and professional goals (YEI Guidebook).</p>
12:45 – 13:45	<p><b>Networking Lunch</b></p> <p>A facilitated buffet designed for young innovators to build connections with European project partners.</p>
13:45 – 14:45	<p><b>Tour of the Stud and Team Building Exercise</b></p>
14:45 - 15.30	<p><b>Equine Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Tactics</b></p> <p>Led by Michael Timmons (Kildare County Council). How to find your innovation idea and move from a concept to a real business plan</p>
15:30 – 16. 30	<p><b>Spotlight on Sustainability - interactive workshop</b></p> <p><b>Case Study:</b> <b>Áskell Heiðar Ásgeirsson (Hólar University)</b> on sustainable event management for the Icelandic horse event, Landsmót.</p> <p><b>Expert Advice:</b> A presentation from <u>WorldPerfect</u> sustainability consultancy on future-proofing equine enterprises</p>
16.30	<p><b>Closing &amp; Briefing</b></p> <p>A reflection on the day's work and a briefing for the Summit Event. Return to hotel</p>
19:30	<p><b>Networking Dinner   Venue:</b> <u>Lily &amp; Wild at Naas Racecourse</u></p>



**Theme:** Equine Innovation Event - Pathways & Possibilities

**Venue:** The Curragh Racecourse

08:00 - 09:00

### Registration & Exhibition Networking

- **Cllr Carmel Kelly**, Cathaoirleach Kildare County Council.
- **Minister James Lawless**, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.
- **Minister Martin Heydon**, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

**Launch:** Young Equine Innovator's Guide to a Career in the Equine Industry.

**Keynote:** Nina Carberry (MEP), former champion jockey, trainer, & breeder.

- **Orla Casey**, YEI team and Momentum Innovate + Educate.
- **Jacqui McNabb**, Head of Enterprise and Economic Development, Kildare County Council.

10:00 - 11:15

### Panel 1: Opportunities & Outlook

Leading figures discuss the scale, future direction, and economic growth of the Irish equine industry.

**Panelists:**

- **Prof. William Hynes**, Managing Director, KPMG Future Analytics.
- **Joe Osborne**, Director, Godolphin Flying Start.
- **Denis Duggan, CEO**, Horse Sport Ireland.
- **Carol Nolan**, Director of People and Industry Education, Horse Racing Ireland.
- **Joey Cullen**, Marketing Director, Goffs.

11:15 - 12:15

### Panel 2: The Team Behind a Champion

Exploring diverse paths from veterinary surgery and equine nutrition to bloodstock breeding.

**Panelists:**

- **Ross O Sullivan**, Leading National Hunt Trainer, Ross O' Sullivan Racing.
- **Shane Foley**, Professional Jockey.
- **Dr. Marcus Swail**, Equine Veterinary Surgeon, EquiVET Ireland.
- **Nicole Groyer**, Equine Nutritionist, Connolly Red Mills.
- **David O'Callaghan**, Thoroughbred breeder, Yeomanstown Stud.

12:15 - 13:30

### Networking Lunch

- Interaction with YEI team, universities, training providers, and equine employers in the exhibition area.

13:30 - 14:30

### Panel 3: Innovation & The Future of Careers

Pioneering leaders discuss how AI, genomics, and data analytics are reshaping the sector.

**Panelists:**

- **Anne-Marie O'Brien**, CEO & Founder, Equimetrics.
- **Dr. Kevin Corley**, Director & Founder, Veterinary Advances.
- **Prof. Emmeline Hill**, Equine Genomics, University College Dublin & Co-Founder, Equinome.
- **Wendy Conlon**, Equine Specialist, Teagasc.
- **Pierce Dargan**, Former CEO & Founder, Equine MediRecord.
- **Emelie Andersson**, Founder, Ridhjälpmedel.



DAY 03 Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> cont.

14:30 – 15:30

**Panel 4: Equine Tourism – Showcasing Ireland**

Insights into travel, hospitality, and international opportunities in equine heritage.

**Panelists:**

- **Laura Magee**, CEO, Horse Country.
- **Shauna Harrington**, Visitor Experience Coordinator, Kildangan Stud (Godolphin).
- **Evan Arkwright**, Racing & Sponsorship Manager, Curragh Racecourse.
- **John Osborne**, Director, Godolphin Flying Start.
- **Aideen Morrin**, Co-Founder, Stories Ireland DMC.
- **Dr. Ingibjörg Sigurðardóttir**, Assistant Professor, Holar University.

15:30 – 16:00

**Closing Session: Reflections & Support**

Guidance on finding professional support, mentorship, and placement opportunities in the sector.

**Speakers:**

- **Cathal Beale**, CEO, Irish National Stud & Gardens.
- **Eileen Cullen**, Head of Innovation and Training, Kildare & Wicklow ETB.
- **Alan Dunney**, Director of Planning, Enterprise, Economic Development, Kildare County Council.

TBC

**Evening | Formal Dinner**

DAY 04 Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

**Theme:** Wrap Up & Departure

**Venue:** Goffs

09:00 – 11:30

**Final Review & Departure**

- Tour of facility
- Deep evaluation and debrief before departure.

**Host Venues & Descriptions**

**The Irish National Stud**

Home to the National Equine Innovation Centre, dedicated to growing equine entrepreneurs.

[irishnationalstud.ie](http://irishnationalstud.ie)

**The Curragh Racecourse**

Ireland's premier racing venue and a global centre for thoroughbred excellence.

[curragh.ie](http://curragh.ie)

**Goffs**

A world-leading bloodstock auction house and landmark in the thoroughbred industry.

[gooffs.com](http://gooffs.com)

