**Farming Conference 2026 – Tax, Sustainability & Succession**

**Date:** Thursday 10 December 2026
**Time:** 09.30 – 13.00
**Venue:** Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise & Online

**Programme**

| Time | Topic | Speaker |
|---|---|---|
| 09:30 - 09:35 | **Chairperson's opening remarks** | Aileen Keogan, *Keogan Law & Tax* |
| 09:35 - 10:20 | **Sustainability-focused tax reliefs available to farmers – making them work for your clients**<br>• Accelerated capital allowances<br>  ○ energy efficient equipment, including wind turbine systems & solar PV systems<br>  ○ slurry storage facilities<br>• VAT recovery for unregistered farmers on those costs<br>• Anaerobic digestion for farm waste management – tax issues for farmers<br>• Land leased to solar farm operators – overview of agricultural relief and retirement relief issues<br>• Other related issues<br>  ○ Cost of fuel: reliefs for farmers and agricultural contractors – tax treatment<br>  ○ Carbon tax – the future, what it is likely to mean for farmers<br>• Examples in practice | Kieran Coughlan *Coughlan Accounting & Taxation Services Ltd* |
| 10:20 - 10:50 | **Sustainability-focused financial supports and current farming trends in Ireland**<br>• Financial supports and sustainability initiatives available to farmers investing in renewable energy and farm modernisation<br>• Grant aid schemes such as the Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Scheme (TAMS III) covering supports for solar PV panels, slurry storage facilities, and nutrient storage infrastructure<br>• Real-world examples from farms adopting solar PV panels, biomass boilers, anaerobic digestion/biomethane, and biogas systems<br>• The practical benefits and challenges faced by farmers embracing these technologies<br>• The evolving landscape of farm diversification (agri-tourism & food processing)<br>• The impact of evolving EU Common Agricultural Policy frameworks and climate action targets on farming sustainability efforts | Barry Caslin *Teagasc* |
| 10:50 - 11:05 | **Tea & coffee break** | |

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| 11:05 - 11:55 | **Planning for the future: bringing the next generation into the business – tax considerations**<br>• Lifetime transfers, including sales to third parties<br>• Operating through a registered farm partnership<br>• Operating through a company<br>• Transfers on death<br>• Factors influencing the decision and timing<br>• Examples in practice | Robert Johnson, *IFAC* |
| 11:55 - 12:45 | **From Sustainability Initiatives to Succession: Key Legal Issues for Farming Clients**<br>• Renewable energy initiatives – brief overview of key legal considerations<br>• Planning for the future: bringing the next generation into the business<br>○ Proving for and protecting the exiting generation – e.g. rights of residence, living & healthcare expenses<br>○ Practical issues associated with operating a farming business through a partnership or company<br>○ Partnership agreements<br>○ Wills<br>○ Examples in practice<br>○ | Aisling Meehan<br>*Aisling Meehan Agricultural Solicitors* |
| 12:45 - 13:00 | **Panel Discussion and Q&A** | All speakers |

## Speakers Bio

**Barry Caslin** is an Energy and Rural Development Specialist at Teagasc, Ireland's agriculture and food development authority. With extensive experience in agricultural advisory services, his role involves promoting sustainable energy farming practices and rural innovation. Barry specialises in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and farm diversification, focusing on areas such as anaerobic digestion, solar energy, biomass, and community energy projects. As the coordinator of the Teagasc Farm Business Options programme, Barry empowers farmers and rural entrepreneurs to explore new ventures and adapt to changing market conditions. He organises impactful events, seminars, and conferences that promote knowledge exchange and collaboration within the agricultural sector. Barry contributes to EU research projects including Horizon Europe and Interreg. He also works closely with the EU CAP Network Support Facility, supporting the implementation of Common Agricultural Policy measures across Europe.

**Kieran Coughlan** is a specialist in farm tax advice and is Principal at Coughlan Accounting & Taxation Services Limited. Kieran is a Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA) and FCCA. Kieran is an active member of the Irish Tax Institute Branch Network and has lectured extensively for the Institute and other colleges. Kieran is a regular columnist with the Irish Examiner on farming tax and finance issues. Kieran is an active qualified farmer having trained at Clonakilty Agricultural College.

**Robert Johnson** is a Tax Partner at IFAC, a prominent Irish agricultural and food business advisory firm. Based out of the Cahir, County Tipperary office, he specializes in farm succession planning, taxation, wills, and agricultural relief strategies. Robert is a Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA), a member of ACCA and member of STEP Ireland.

**Aisling Meehan** is a Farmer, Solicitor and Chartered Tax Adviser (CTA). She trained in one of the top 5 commercial law firms in Dublin qualifying as a solicitor and CTA before setting up her own firm in 2008. Her law firm specialises in agricultural law and tax advice and has a nationwide client base. She takes an active part in shaping agricultural legal and tax policy and was awarded a Nuffield Scholarship in 2011 awarded to future leaders in the Agricultural Industry. She was invited by the Department of Agriculture to be special rapporteur on financial and legal issues that affect women in agriculture for the National Dialogue on Women in agriculture and thereafter was invited to be a member of the Women in Agriculture stakeholders' group. She was invited by the Minister for Agriculture to be on the Commission on Generational Renewal in Farming which published its report in September 2025. She is regularly asked to speak on national television and radio on agricultural and rural matters and is solicitor to the Irish Farmers Journal. Aisling farms in partnership with her husband Brian, in County Clare with their children.