



Teagasc Distance Education Green Cert Programme (for Award Holders)

We are now accepting **ONLINE** applications for the "Teagasc Distance Education Green Cert for Award Holders. See page two for details.

"Saturday Option" course commencing 22nd February 2025 – see page 2 for details

This course consists of attending one Saturday a month from 8am to 6pm in Pallaskenry and online tuition.

Online content will be bi-weekly @ 7pm mid-week live with the live recording made available subsequently. This will be discussed at induction.

Aim: This course has been developed to meet the training requirements of graduates from other non-agricultural award programmes who are interested in farming.

On **successful completion** of the program, students will meet the requirements of a qualified farmer/trained farmer for the purposes of Revenue Commissioners tax exemptions and Department of Agriculture (DAFM) schemes.

Please contact your **Local Teagasc Education Officer** to check if this course is the appropriate route to meet your training requirements.

Qualifications Awarded:

1. Level 5 Certificate in Agriculture 5M20454
2. Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farming 6S20487 (Your application includes both awards)

Included in these awards above are:

- ATV training
- Organic course training
- Training necessary to register as a Professional User (PU) of pesticides

Duration: The course extends over **13** months

Entry Requirements, applicants must:

- Be the holder of a Level 6 or higher major award
- Have continuous access to a commercial farm in the Republic of Ireland (home farm or approved nominated farm) to develop proficiency in farm tasks and complete farm based assignments and projects.
- Have access to all farm details including financial details on the nominated farm and are expected to spend time weekly on this farm and be involved in the farm operation and management.

Email your queries to mary.oconnor@pallaskenry.com or call us on 061 393100



Course fee €3,600

Once your application has been "accepted" we send an email requesting an initial payment of €1,800 and the remaining €1,800 must be paid by 31st August 2025

Places will be filled on a first come first served basis.

Payment options:

- Direct to our bank account IBAN: IE62AIBK93547639384245
- Online payment to <https://salesianag.ie/pay-online.html>
- **We cannot accept phone payments**

Receipts are issued from [No-Reply | Salesian Agricultural College Pallaskenry](#) . This can take up to five working days.

THE COURSE FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE AFTER THE FIRST DAY OF THE COURSE

Group 16 - Timetable.	
Typical contact day 8am to 6pm	
Saturday 22 February 2025	Day 1 of 12
Saturday 5 April 2025	Day 2 of 12
Saturday 17 May 2025	Day 3 of 13
Friday 6 June 2025	Friday Repeats for days 2 & 3
Saturday 7 June 2025	Day 4 of 12
Saturday 12 July 2025	Day 5 of 12
Friday 25 July 2025	Friday Repeats for days 4 & 5
Saturday 13 September 2025	Day 6 of 12
Saturday 11 October 2025	Day 7 of 12
Friday 31 October 2025	Friday Repeats for days 6 & 7
Saturday 15 November 2025	Day 8 of 12
Saturday 13 December 2025	Day 9 of 12
Saturday 17 January 2026	Day 10 of 12
Friday 30 January 2026	Friday Repeats for days 8, 9 & 10
Saturday 14 February 2026	Day 11 of 12
Saturday 14 March 2026	Day 12 of 12
Friday 27 March 2026	Friday Repeats for days 11 & 12

timetables are subject to change.

- If you miss an exam or assignment submission date you must wait for the repeat date
- A detailed timetable will be distributed at induction

If you don't successfully complete either the level 5 or level 6 portion of your course you must wait for a later group to complete this award. We cannot facilitate individual repeats at any stage. Additional repeats outside of the timetable above incur a cost of €100 per module.

Computer Access and Skills



An online system is used throughout the course for learner support and completion of some assessments. Therefore, students must possess a basic level of IT skills to ECDL level. Competency in internet and email is required. Students must also have access to a web enabled computer and printing facilities for the course duration. Students must have access to an active, personal e-mail account.

Communication

Communication regarding course content, timetables, fees, skills assessments, repeats, etc. will be discussed with the student only.

Level 5 Modules	
Module Title	Credits
Work Practice	15
Farm Business and Technology	10
Principles of Agriculture	15
Safe Use of Pesticide Products	5
Soils and the Environment	10
Farm Safety and Farm Assurance	15
Start Your Own Business - <i>some students may be exempted from this module. Details below</i>	15
Beef OR Sheep OR Dairy Husbandry (choose one)	10
Grass Production	10
Mechanical Pesticide Application	5
Organic Farming	5
ATV	5
Total Credits - Level 5 award	120
Level 6 Modules	
Module Title	Credits
Farm Management & Business Planning	10
Sustainable Farming in the Environment	10
Work Practice	15
Farm Performance Measurement	5
Applied Livestock Breeding	5
Grassland Management	5
Total Credits - Level 6 award	50

******An exemption may apply to the "Start your own Business" module. This exemption applies to students who have been awarded their Level 6 or Higher Major Award within the previous five years.

After you receive an email advising you your application has been accepted, you can then submit your completed "Exemption Application Form" (available on page 5 of this information pack) with supporting documentation. This must be submitted before you commence the course.

More information on this exemption available at the website below:

https://www.teagasc.ie/media/website/education/going-to-college/Exemptions-and-Recognition-of-Prior-Learning_website_Draft_3_LoRes.pdf



Applicants should note there will be a delay following successful completion of the course and awarding of certificates.

The "Green Cert" *trained farmer status* qualification comprises of two awards: Level 5 Certificate in Agriculture & Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farming. Your application includes both awards.

For each of these awards a number of quality assurance processes and procedures must be completed by Salesian Agricultural College and Teagasc. Courses must be internally and externally verified, results approval and sign off, details exported to QQI for certification. This process takes a minimum of eight months.

How to Apply

Log in to <https://salesianag.ie/distance-education-course> and follow the "Apply Now" link.

Please have items 1 to 4 available to you for uploading during the application process:

1) Certified copy of your qualification - Applicants are required to submit a certified copy of their award parchment. Copy your qualification parchment and have the copy certified as a true copy of the original in any Teagasc office or Garda Station.
Alternatively, a full transcript of results [for each year of the course] is acceptable. The transcript must be accompanied by a covering letter from the awarding body stating the candidate's name, address, the years in which the candidate was a registered student, name of award, and the date the award was conferred.

YOUR QUALIFICATION MUST BE CERTIFIED IN EITHER A TEAGASC OFFICE OR GARDA STATION AS PER THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE.

2) Evidence/proof of your PPS (Personal Public Service Number)
(e.g. copy of public services card (front and back as your PPS number is on the back), certificate of tax credits, letter from Revenue, etc.

3) Copy of your birth certificate or passport

4) Copy of your driver's licence - both front and back are required

PLEASE SUBMIT COMPLETE APPLICATIONS ONLY. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS CANNOT BE PROCESSED.

Course Profile

Delivery:	A blend of self-directed learning through support materials provided by Teagasc and practical contact days.
Course Start date:	See timetable on page 2
Course Duration:	13 months
Assessment Methods:	Exams, assignments, practical skills assessments
Assessment Format:	Continuous assessment
Attendance:	Attendance for a minimum of 180 hours (online and in Pallaskenry) for exams, practical skills training, workshops, discussion groups and other course components.
Course certification:	All Quality Qualifications Ireland (QQI) certified courses in Teagasc are subject to quality assurance and QQI certification procedures. Certification of courses will be subject to QQI certification periods.
Microsoft Word	Students need access to Microsoft Word. This is not provided by the college.



*Application Form for Exemption from Communications/Start your own Business.

Surname: _____

First Name(s): _____

Previous Name: _____
(If name on award is different)

Address: _____

Phone (incl area code): _____ **Date of Birth:** _____

Mobile Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Nationality: _____ **PPSN:** _____

1 Module(s) for which an exemption is sought

QQI Module Title	QQI Module Code	I wish to apply for an exemption for the following module(s) Please tick
Level 5 Communications	5N0690	

2 Details of Higher Education Training (HET) qualifications

Title of Award	Awarding Body	Is this a HET Award (yes/no)?	Is this a Major Award (Yes/no)?	Year of HET Award

I hereby apply to Teagasc for an exemption(s) for QQI Communications module(s) having completed a Higher Education and Training (HET) major award (Level 6 to Level 10) in the past 5 years.

I enclose a certified* copy of my award to support my application for this exemption.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Completed Application Form with supporting documentation should be returned either by post to: Salesian Agricultural College, Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick or by email to mary.oconnor@pallaskenry.com

To support an application for an exemption from Communications an applicant will be required to have their qualification parchment copied and the copy verified as a true copy at a Teagasc office. Applicants will be required to submit this verified copy of their award with their application.

In the absence of a parchment, a full transcript of results for each year of the programme is acceptable, if accompanied by a covering letter from the awarding body stating the candidate's name, address, award title, award level, duration of the programme, years the candidate was a registered learner with the provider and date award conferred.

Why it's worth getting the Green Cert

MARTIN
O'SULLIVAN

I am often asked by farmers whether their son or daughter should do the Green Cert course. In most cases the answer is yes because if that son or daughter is to have any involvement in the farm, there are likely to be some worthwhile benefits. Ideally, get the Green Cert well before turning 35.

Young trained farmer

The definition of a young trained farmer can cause a lot of confusion. The 'trained' part is easy in that the person must have a Green Cert or equivalent.

The 'young' part is not so simple: for certain schemes associated with the CAP reform programme (EU funded) a young trained farmer is 40 or under, whereas in the case of the Stamp Duty Exemption Scheme and 100pc Stock Relief Scheme (government funded), it means under 35. It appears that by applying European standards, farmers stay young for longer.

Inheritance tax saving

Being a young trained farmer has no bearing on whether you pay gift or inheritance tax.

However, being a trained farmer (not necessarily under 35) may be of significant benefit if the transferee intends to farm the holding while also working off the farm for more than

50pc of their normal working hours: eligibility for Agricultural Relief (a reduction of 90pc in the tax value) may apply in such cases if the transferee has a Green Cert or equivalent.

Where the transferee intends to work full-time on the farm, a Green Cert or equivalent is not required, nor does the person need to be under 35 to avoid tax.

There are various schemes, incentives and benefits that favour young trained farmers and can be of significant financial benefit for young farmers starting up and taking over a farm.

All these incentives are also available to young trained farmers farming in partnership with a parent or other qualifying person.

Stamp duty exemption

Where land is gifted or purchased, a stamp duty exemption applies to farmers who are under 35 and possess a Green Cert or equivalent. The relief applies where no power of revocation exists and runs until December 31, 2025.

The land must be retained for five years and must be farmed by the transferee for at least 50pc (typically 20 hours) of his/her normal weekly working hours.

There is a notable distinction between this relief and other reliefs, such as Agricultural

Relief, in that the usage conditions can only be satisfied by the transferee and the period for which the land must be farmed is five years and not six years.

There is an lifetime ceiling on the amount of relief available on transfers and purchases which equates with €100,000 in tax value to include any relief granted under the 100pc Stock Relief Scheme and the Succession Partnership Scheme.

For qualifying family transfers, the cash value of the Stamp Duty exemption is deemed to be 1pc on the market value of the property being transferred.

100pc Stock Relief Scheme

A system of stock relief claimable at 100pc (with no claw-back) for young qualifying farmers under 35 is available for four years from setting up. The scheme runs until December 31, 2027.

The cash equivalent amount of stock relief at the 100pc rate that a young trained farmer can receive is limited to €40,000 in a single year.

Succession farm partnership tax credits

A succession farm partnership is where an intending transferor and an intending transferee enter into a registered partnership and also sign an agreement that at least 80% of the farm will be transferred no sooner than three years' time and no later than ten years' time.

Such a partnership attracts an annual income tax credit of €5,000 for up to five years split annually between the partners in proportion to their profit-sharing ratio. In total, this can be worth up to €25,000 over the first five

years of the partnership.

Complementary income support

This CAP measure is designed to provide support to young, trained farmers in the years after setting up as head of the holding – solely or jointly. It provides certainty in terms of the level of income support for up to five years.

Eligible applicants who are entitled to a payment under BISS may receive a further payment per eligible hectare (max 50ha) in the region of €178/ha over the CAP period. Exact rates will fluctuate based on the level of participation.

National reserve entitlements

Young trained farmers (age limit 40) participating in BISS and setting up a farm for the first time, or who have set up such a holding during the five years preceding the first submission of a BPS application, may qualify for new entitlements from the National Reserve, or may qualify to increase the unit value of existing entitlements.

Young, trained farmers participating in a partnership may also qualify.

TAMS grants 20pc top-up

A top-up of 20pc can apply to young trained farmers (not over 40) resulting in a 60pc grant on approved investment costing up to a maximum investment of €90,000.

Martin O'Sullivan is a member of the ACA, is the author of the ACA Farmers' Handbook and is a farm succession consultant with IFAC; www.ifac.ie



It appears that by applying European standards, farmers stay young for longer