



Cultivating OpportUNiTY with Social and Community Farming

Our programme
starts at 10:30.
Why not sign up to
our newsletter via
the QR code?



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



Jubilee Farm

care, community & conservation

Cultivating opportUNiTY with social and
community farming

www.jubilee.coop
mail@jubilee.coop
07858098479



Dr Matt Williams, Education &
Conservation Manager
(matt.williams@jubilee.coop)

Jubilee Farm, Glynn Co. Antrim



Jubilee Farm

Jubilee Community Benefit Society

We are a cooperative enterprise working for the benefit of both a geographical community of all backgrounds and beliefs, the town of Larne and surrounding area, and the community.

All our profits enable us to pursue our vision and mission, based on our values:

We are NI's first community owned farm.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
Conservation
Care Farming (Social Farming)
Education & public engagement





William's Story









Reflections
on cultivating
good relations
at Jubilee Farm



A group of people are gathered in a grassy outdoor area, likely a garden or farm. In the foreground, a dark metal wheelbarrow is filled with soil and grass. A shovel with a green handle stands upright in the soil next to it. To the right, a woman in a black top and blue jeans is using a shovel to dig in the ground. Another blue wheelbarrow is visible in the background. Several other people are standing around, some looking towards the camera. The scene is set outdoors with a white fence or wall in the background. A blue horizontal bar is located in the top left corner of the image.

Finding home

**Home =
relationships with
people and place
(land, plant life &
animals)**







The vodfath

Peace
Southern Ireland
Community Program

Jubilee Farm

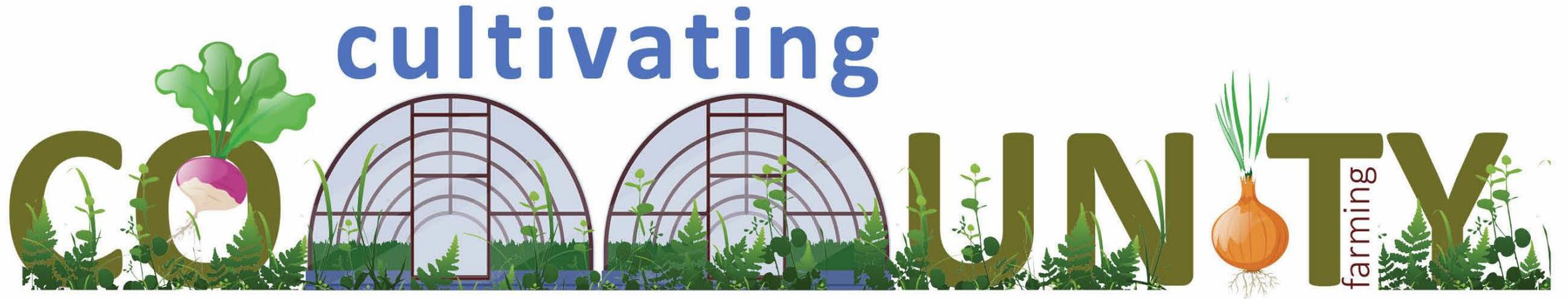
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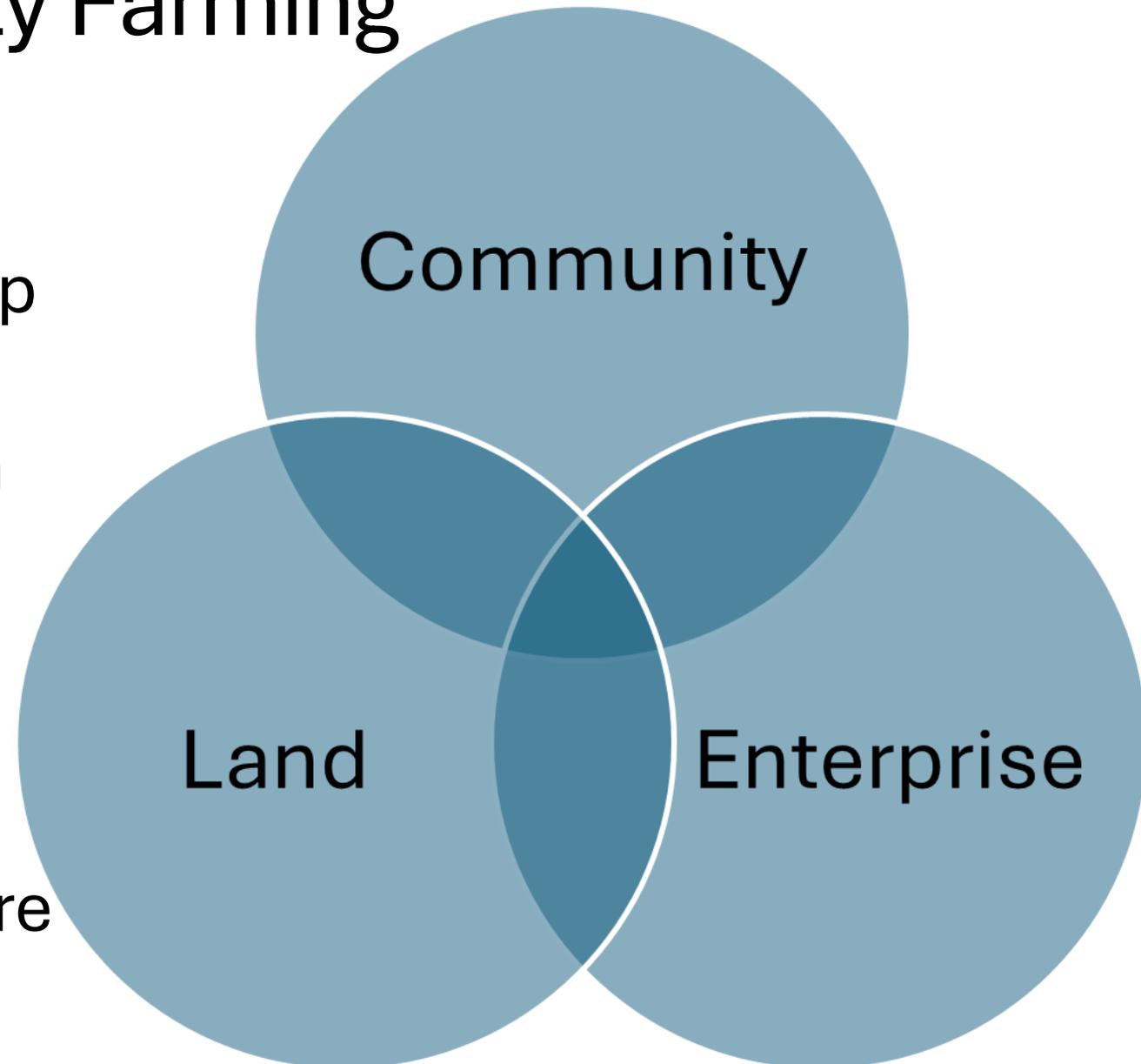


Cultivating communities with community farming

Tiziana O'Hara, Co-op Alternatives

Cultivating Community Farming

- Partnership approach: Co-op Alt, Jubilee Farm and Jonny
- £100,000 Co-op Foundation
- Two years
- 10 groups, 9 completed
- 40+ days of expert support provided to each group
- 10+ workshops and skillshare





Tenth Glen Heritage Farms

Gortin Wellbeing Collective CIC

Wee Farmer

L'Arche Belfast

Turnaround Project

Laurelbank Farm

Glenside Farm

Azora Community Farm

Seedbed at Glebe House



1587

individuals engaged with
or interacted with across
the CCF project

650

volunteering
opportunities created

15,000

volunteer hours delivered
across 9 CCF groups

37 acres

of land made accessible
across NI for
communities

17.2 acres

of land given to
conservation

7.4 acres

of land given to food
production

£45,000

of additional income
generated across 9
groups through social
economy activities

Part-time employment & work placements

Provided by 2 groups

Upskilling Learning and Edu opps

Provided by 7 groups

Farm shops, CSA schemes and agritourism

Explored by 4 groups





£100,000

Invested into the CCF initiative over
2 years

£351,630

Total Social Return on
Investment

352%

Total Value SROI

1:3.52

Total Value ROI ratio

£316,242

Social Value

£28,007

Environmental Value

£7,381

Economic Value



CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Land access

Community engagement

Financial sustainability



Thank you

Co-op Alternatives

www.coopalternatives.coop

Report

[Cultivating Community Farming - Co-operative Alternatives
\(coopalternatives.coop\)](http://www.coopalternatives.coop)

Contact

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Expanding Social Farming in Northern Ireland

Good Relations Week 2024

Dr Aoibheann Walsh

Head of Social Farming and Innovation



**Social
Farming
Support
Service**



**Rural
Support**

The Farm Support Charity for Northern Ireland



- Independent and free guidance for farmers and farm families
- Farm business support and development programmes
- Crisis mentoring, counselling and support
- Social Farming Support Service
- Social Wellbeing Support Programmes
- Agri Sector Training
- Digital Farm Support Hub
- NI Agri-Rural Health Forum

Freephone **Support Line**
0800 138 1678 (Mon- Fri 9am to 9pm)

www.ruralsupport.org.uk

Social Farming Support Service

- Funded by DAERA since 2015
 - “This is the type of project that helps social inclusion and improves the lives of many” (Former DAERA Minister O’Neill)
- Situated within Rural Support
 1. To promote Social Farming
 2. To support existing/new Social Farming initiatives
- Social Farming is an innovative use of agriculture to promote therapy, rehabilitation, social inclusion, education, and social services in rural areas



Social Farming Delivery

- Service delivered by farmers, providing the opportunity for individuals with support needs to get involved in farming in a supportive way
- Productive working family farms delivering for a proportion of their week
- Activities are structured, meaningful, and seasonal
- 1 farmer: 3 participants
- Participants groups: Learning Disability and Mental Health Recovery
- Values – person-centred, socially inclusive
- Social Farming Standards

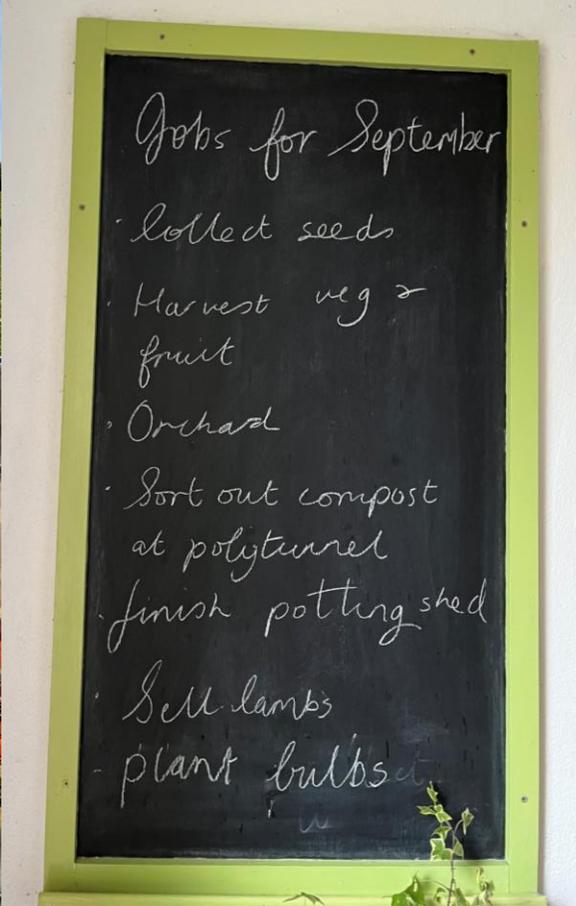


**Social
Farming
Support
Service**

Social Farming – delivery regionally

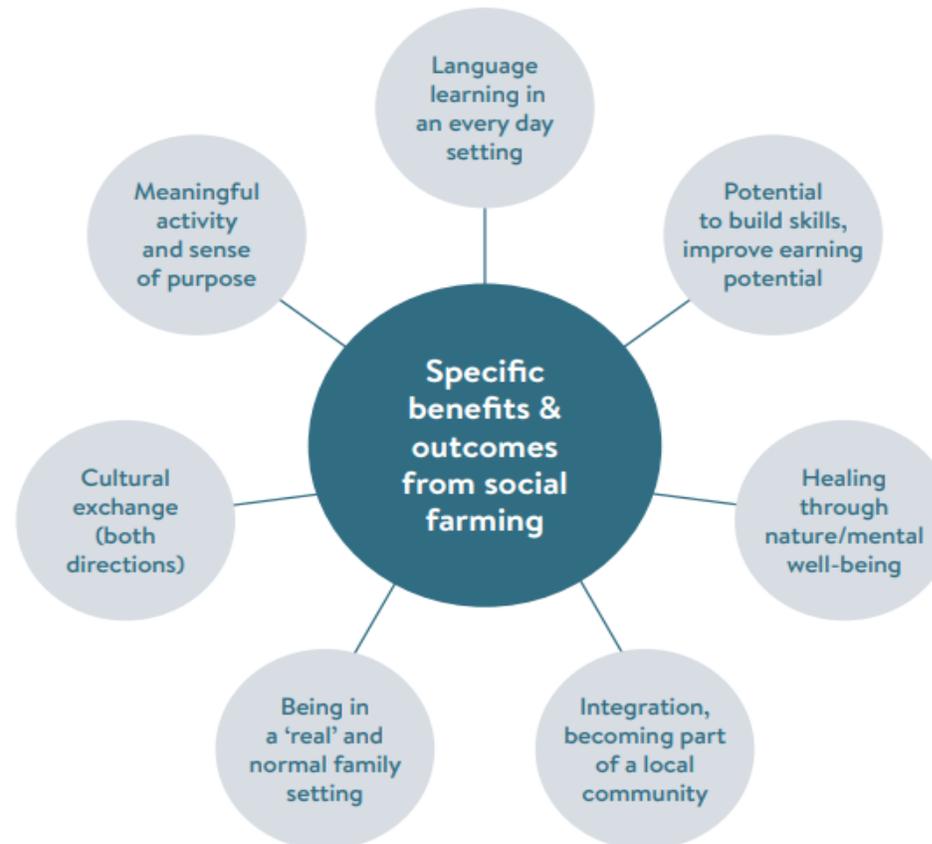
- 19 farms delivering 30 sessions for 97 participants = 102 engagements per week
- Majority deliver 1 session/week (9 farms)
- 9 sessions have available places for referrals
- Maximum participant number/session = 6
- Farm enterprise/business model
- Scope for more





Expanding Social Farming in Northern Ireland

Figure 1: Benefits and outcomes from social farming with refugees and asylum seekers (Social Farming Ireland, 2023).



Progress to Date - 2024



Jubilee Farm, Glynn, Co. Antrim

Taking Action – What's needed?

- Partnership working with support organisations
- Farmer and participant engagement
- Funding for delivery
- Pilot delivery – evaluate farmer and participant experience
- Learning and further engagement
- Scaled, sustainable delivery
- Cultivate good relations as a core purpose of Social Farming delivery

VISION, POLICY SUPPORT, FUNDING



**Social
Farming
Support
Service**

Farmer & Participant Voices

*“We would welcome having refugees and asylum seekers on our farm. It would be great to learn about farming practices from other countries. Our farm is quite close to a hotel where individuals stay so it would create an opportunity to help connect those people to the local rural community”
(Social Farmers, Co. Antrim)*

“Trees are like humans, they need to breathe. So we prune them and let the air blow through, just like with olive trees in Syria” (Social Farming participant, Co. Mayo)



**Social
Farming
Support
Service**

CONTACT DETAILS

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**Rural
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