

What is the Rural Social Scheme?

Are you a **farmer** with a herd number or a **fisherman** with a license for fishing salmon at sea, and in receipt of one of the following social welfare payments?

- Farm Assist,
- Unemployment Assistance,
- Unemployment Benefit, (if previously on CE),
- Disability Allowance

Then you may be eligible to gain employment on the **Rural Social Scheme (RSS)**.

The RSS allows low-income farmers and fishermen who are unable to earn an adequate living from their farm holding/fishing to earn a supplementary income, by working in local community projects.

The dependent spouse of a person qualified is also eligible to participate in the scheme as an alternate.



Work on the RSS comprises of **19.5 hours** per week, at times that are most convenient to the farmers and fishermen who are participating in the scheme, with the benefit of a Class A PRSI stamp.

If you are currently working on a CE Scheme and are eligible for the RSS, you have the option of transferring over to the RSS.

Participants have the opportunity to improve existing skills, develop new skills and participate in courses being offered by the community groups.

The RSS provides additional resources to maintain and improve local amenities and facilities in rural communities.



Communities all over County Wexford are benefiting from the skills and talents of local farmers and fishermen.

The type of projects carried out under the RSS include:-

- Village & countryside enhancement.
- Social care and care of elderly.
- Community care for both pre-school and after-school groups.
- Environmental maintenance work.
- Maintenance and caretaking of community and sporting facilities.
- Maintenance and enhancing way marked ways and agreed walks.
- Energy conservation work for the elderly and less well off.
- Any other appropriate community project identified during the course of the Scheme.



RSS Case Study

John is married with four children. He has a small dairy farm of 35 acres and a quota of 22,000 gallons. He has no other income.

He is currently entitled to €15,200 per annum from the Social Welfare. He also qualified for Farm Assist and earns a further €6,700 per annum.

As a result of working on the Rural Social Scheme, John is now earning an extra €10,900.

This is an increase of 50% on his original farm income and it has given John and his family a major financial boost.



It is the aim of the Rural Social Scheme to be of benefit to farmers, fishermen, (or their spouses) and the local community.

If you are a community group with a programme of work or an individual who may be eligible to participate on the scheme, please contact the RSS office and talk to one of our Supervisors.



Contact Details:

Eileen Furlong & Bill Walsh
Rural Social Scheme
 c/o W.O.R.D. Office
 Johnstown Castle
 Co. Wexford

Tel: 053 71550
 Fax: 053 46456

Email: rss@wexfordleader.ie

RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME



IN COUNTY WEXFORD



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