



"Tour the world of agriculture with us!"

South Dakota Stock Growers Association
Ireland Agriculture Tour

April 30 to May 9, 2012

Tentative Itinerary

(Please Note: By clicking on the hotel name or visit you can go directly to their website)

Day 1 **(-/-/D)** **Dublin-Galway City**

Morning arrival in Dublin Airport

Meet our Driver/Guide in the arrivals hall at Dublin Airport. Driver/Guide will have a sign that reads: "SD Stock Growers".

Depart for Galway City via Athlone, the centre of Ireland & Ballinasloe

Visit [Clonmacnoise](#) the monastery founded by St. Ciaran in 6th Century

Evening free in Galway City, know as the "City of the Tribes"

Take a ramble down Quay Street with its many great pubs including "The Quays" and "Ti Neachtain" a town house that belonged to "Humanity Dick", an 18th-century MP who promoted laws against cruelty to animals.

Dinner & Overnight in [Menlo Park Hotel](#), Galway City

Day 2

(B/-/D)

Galway City

Morning visit to a [Connemara Pony Stud](#). Connemara ponies are known worldwide for their athleticism, versatility and good disposition. They are also strong & sturdy.

Tour of Connemara via Oughterard, Maam Cross & Recess before travelling up the spectacular Inagh valley to Leenane.

Visit to [Kylemore Abbey](#). *Its greatest attraction is its location, nestled at the base of Duchruach Mountain on the northern shore of Lough Pollacappul, in the heart of the Connemara Mountains. It is regarded as one of Ireland's most romantic buildings.*

Travel on via Letterfrack & Connemara National Park to Clifden

Return to Galway

Dinner & Overnight in [Menlo Park Hotel](#)

Day 3

(B/-/D)

Galway City-Killarney

Depart for Killarney via the Atlantic west coast of Clare

Visit a Beef & Sheep farmer near Tuam

- 62 hectares (153 acres)
- 110 Commercial Sheep, native breed
- All lambing mid-March
- 105 Cattle, Limousine Pedigree sucklers
- 35 Breeding cows
- He breeds Bulls and sells them for up to €5,000 (\$7,000 usd)
- 5 Connemara ponies for breeding, other ponies for jumping
- Maintains hedgerows and dry stone walls
- Employs contractors to collect the silage

Visit a local Cattle Market

Travel the Atlantic seaboard via Galway Bay & Ballyvaughan to Dunguaire Castle at Kinvarra. See [The Burren](#) (*Gaelic for rocky land*) and visit the dramatic 650ft [Cliffs of Moher](#)

Visit the beautiful thatched village of Adare

Continue on via Newcastle West & Abbeyfeale to Killarney

Dinner & Overnight in [Killarney Towers Hotel](#)

Day 4

(B/-/D)

Killarney

Morning visit to a mountain-sheep farmer for a sheepdog demonstration



Tour the Ring of Kerry via Killorglin, Glenbeigh, Cahersiveen, Waterville, Coomakesta Pass with its magnificent views over Derrynane, home of Daniel O'Connell, known as "The Liberator", Castlecove & Sneem, Moll's Gap, Ladies View, Killarney National Park and along the Lakes of Killarney to Killarney town.

Afternoon visit to suckler cow farm on the Ring of Kerry

Dinner & Overnight in [Killarney Towers Hotel](#)

Day 5

(B/-/D)

Killarney-Cork

Depart for Cork

Pass over the Cork/Kerry Mountains via the Irish speaking villages of Ballymakeery & Ballyvourney. In the old market town of Macroom, you will see Macroom Castle, once the home of Sir William Penn, whose son later founded the State of Pennsylvania.

Travel on to the village of Blarney via the valley of the river Lee

Visit [Blarney Castle](#) and opportunity for shopping at Blarney Woollen Mills

Visit a Dairy Farm for a chat with a farmer & his wife.

- *This farmer is the Chairman of the local IFA (Irish Farmer's Association) and his wife is a member of the ICA (Irish Countrywomen's Association).*
- *Area: 70 hectares (174 acres)*
- *35 hectares owned (82 acres), 35 hectares (82 acres) leased*
- *Herd size: 75 cows Pedigree Herd, Holstein Friesians*
- *Heifers have been crossed to Jerseys in 2008*
- *Milk quota: 420,000 litres*
- *Yield per cow: 6000 litres per cow*
- *Bull calves are sold at 6 weeks*
- *Spring Milk producer*



Visit [Old Midleton Distillery](#) for an Irish whiskey tasting

Dinner & Overnight in [Imperial Hotel Cork](#)

Day 6

(B/-/D)

Cork-Kilkenny

Morning visit to [Carrigaline Cheese](#), a boutique cheese producer outside Cork

Visit a Beef Farm near Crosshaven:

- 182 hectares (450 acres) with 94 ha (232 acres) under grass, 48 ha (119 acres) of woodland and 40 ha (99 acres) of tillage and fodder beet
- Herd size: 100 suckler cows, all Simmental and Charolais crosses
- This farm is one of the original members of the West Cork Beef Producers' Group
- All calving takes place in the spring
- Males are finished either as young bulls or steers
- Heifer calves not kept as replacements, are also kept through to beef



Depart for Dublin via Tipperary & Kilkenny

Visit [The Rock of Cashel](#).

This was the seat of kings and mediaeval bishops for 900 years and flourished until the early 17th century. Brian Ború was crowned King of Munster here in 977 and he became High King of Ireland in 1002.

Continue on to Kilkenny

Dinner & Overnight in Kilkenny Farmhouse B&B's

Day 7

(B/-/D)

Kilkenny-Dublin

Morning visit to a grain farm outside Kilkenny

- 1000 acres of tillage

Depart for Dublin

Visit a Beef Farm near Durrrow

- 50 hectares (125 acres)
- 80 Pedigree Angus cows
- Sells males as breeding stock. Also some of the heifers as breeding stock and the remainder of the heifers finished to beef.

Visit the [Irish National Stud and Japanese Gardens](#)

This is a state-run bloodstock farm, which was founded in 1900 by an eccentric Anglo-Irish colonel called William Walker. On finishing the tour of the stud farm

take a walk through the Japanese Gardens, which were laid out in 1906 to represent the "Life of Man".

Continue on to Dublin

Dinner & Overnight in [Wynn's Hotel](#)

Day 8 (B/-/D) **Dublin**

Guided tour of Dublin city including visits to [St. Patrick's Cathedral](#) and [Trinity College](#), home to the Book of Kells.

Visit the [Guinness Storehouse](#) at St. James Gate and enjoy a pint of Guinness in the Sky Bar

The Sky Bar is located in at the top of a glass tower that commands spectacular views of Dublin City & County in every direction.

Afternoon free in Dublin

Farewell Dinner and Irish cabaret at [Merry Ploughboy Pub](#)

Overnight in [Wynn's Hotel](#)

Day 9 (B/-/-) **Depart Ireland**

Transfer to Dublin Airport

Depart Ireland on return flight home

*Meals included: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Operational Notes:

Due to the nature of the technical visits, changes or adjustments to this itinerary may occur before or during the tour. If changes or adjustments become necessary, every effort will be made to maintain or exceed the quality and educational value of this program.