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categories:
Production Forestry; Farm Forestry; and Community Woodlands.

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RDS forestry award winners in four provinces

Good geographical spread in entrants to RDS forestry awards with winners emerging from Counties Meath, Donegal, Roscommon, Monaghan and Cork

Donal Magner

Like most events in 2020, the presentations of the RDS Forestry Awards were a mixture of online virtual events and site visits due to Covid-19 restrictions. "Unfortunately, it wasn't possible to host our awards ceremony in the RDS Concert Hall, but it has been both enjoyable and educational to spend time with our winners on their farms and forests," said Michael Duffy, CEO of the RDS.

The awards, organised by the RDS and supported by the Forest Service and Teagasc, rewarded the following entrants:

- Teagasc Farm Forestry – Ross Buchanan, Carndonagh, Co. Donegal
- Teagasc Farm Forestry runner-up – Patrick Rhatigan, Roosky, Co. Roscommon
- Production Forestry – Peter and Patricia Farrelly, Kells, Co. Meath
- Production Forestry runner up – John Sherlock, Navan, Co. Meath
- Community Woodlands winner – Rossmore Forest Park, Co. Monaghan
- Community Woodlands runner-up – Lower Castle Park Woodland, Mallow Co. Cork

Farm forestry

Peter Meyen, Teagasc writes about Ross Buchanan's award winning forest in Co. Donegal (page 58). This is an example of how forestry and agriculture can be integrated successfully. Patrick Rhatigan, Roosky, Co. Roscommon received the Special Commendation Award. Patrick was farming a suckler herd on 52ha before deciding to plant the majority of his farm in 2012 for lifestyle, environmental and economic reasons.

Forestry reduces his workload, cuts down on the use of fertilisers and sprays and provides him with a regular income.



Patrick Rhatigan, Roosky, Co. Roscommon, recipient of the 2020 RDS Teagasc Farm Forestry Special Commendation Award.



Steven Meyen, Teagasc Forestry Advisor, presents Ross Buchanan, Co. Donegal, with the 2020 RDS-Teagasc Farm Forestry Award

RDS-Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

2021 Irish Forestry and Woodland Awards

Celebrating and rewarding excellence in Irish Forestry since 1988

€9,000 Prize Fund

Whether your woodland is for commercial, recreational or a number of different purposes, there is an award category for you. Everyone is encouraged to enter with prizes for winners and runners up in every category.

For more information on the 2021 Awards, contact:

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Production forestry

Peter and Patricia Farrelly won the Production Forestry Award for their excellently managed 46-ha forest, established between 1999 and 2001 near the village of Kilmainhamwood, Co. Meath. The species mix is Sitka and Norway spruce, oak and ash. Their sustainable approach maximises the various natural and man-made features in the forest including the Whitewood river which flows through the property, two ring forts, and an old farmhouse which they are restoring.



Peter and Patricia Farrelly, Moynalty, Co. Meath, winners of the 2020 RDS Production Forestry Award.

The runner-up in the 2020 Production Forestry Category was John Sherlock, Gainstown outside, Navan. He took over the management of the 18-ha forest in 2009, originally planted by his father Patrick.



John and Evelyn Sherlock, Gainstown, Co. Meath. With the 2020 RDS Production Forestry Special Commendation Award.

The popular Coillte Rossmore Forest Park won the Community Woodlands Award. Located 3.5km south west of Monaghan Town, the park has picnic sites, forest and lakeside walks, nature trails and viewing points. Mallow Castle Park was runner up in this category.