



FarmPEAT Project | c/o Irish Rural Link | Moate Business Park | Clara Rd. | Moate | County Westmeath | N37 W9R0
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March 2022.

FarmPEAT's 'Love Your Wellies' Art's Competition

The FarmPEAT 'Love Your Wellies' Art's competition is now live, and it is unlike anything you have seen before! Every corner of every field, village and town in rural Ireland has a story that needs telling. This is the chance for students across the country to give a voice to those gems. Through song and dance, story-telling or visual arts, use your skills to tell us your story. This art's competition is designed primarily for students living in the peat landscape of the midlands of Ireland but is open to everyone with a passion for nature, farming, community, or history. All we ask is that students tell us their story through their eyes, using whatever means best suits them and that their story has a connection to the peat landscape. Firstly though, I should mention who we are and why we want your story.

FarmPEAT is an EIP (European Innovation Partnership Project) aiming to improve the environmental quality of agricultural lands on peat soils. The aim of the project is to find ways of managing agricultural land on peat for the benefit of climate, biodiversity, and water quality. To encourage this change of management we offer results-based payments. This means a farm in good ecological condition will get a higher payment than a farm in poor ecological condition. We work with a group of farmers whose lands surround 8 raised bogs across the midlands. These farms surround some of Europe's finest remaining raised bogs. Improving the quality of the transition zone around these bogs will help protect the raised bogs for generations to come.

Farmers are on the frontline in the fight against climate change and as much as they try to do, they cannot do it alone. Every farmer is part of a community, and they also need to help. The real question though, why does it matter? Why do we need to save raised bogs? Did you know that they store 13x more carbon per hectare than the Amazon rainforest? Yes, they are that effective! However, after years of draining water out of our bogs, most of Ireland's raised bogs are now carbon sources, which means they are releasing more carbon into the atmosphere than they are taking in. We need to turn them back into carbon sinks so they can take in the carbon and store it out of harm's way, or at least reduce the amount of greenhouse gases they are releasing. We can do this by stopping the flow of water (water is essentially the blood of the bogs) from the peat and make our bogs wet again. In Ireland, the greenhouse gases released from 1ha of farmland on drained peat releases about the same amount of greenhouse gases as 5 cars. We need this to stop but we need to find a balance so farmers can continue to do the great work they have done for so long, while also helping to store carbon in their peat soils.

The FarmPEAT project is an EIP (European Innovation Partnership) project being administered by Nature Based Agri Solutions Ltd. The Project is funded by the EU Recovery Instrument Funding under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022.



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
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The 'Love Your Wellies' art's competition is one of the ways we are engaging with the community. We need your stories to show why this land is so special and to raise awareness to those who are unaware. So far, the response has been incredible to the competition with numbers expressing interest beyond what we thought possible, but we do not have a limit. Every entry will be accepted and given our full attention. We have students making 3D models, writing stories and drawing some beautiful art. A wonderful example of our entries so far is of a group of students who are interviewing their grandparents, comparing how different their lives are with when their grandparents were young and then creating a collage to represent it. Another group of students are writing a song and creating a music video about their local bog while performing from that same bog. The opportunities are endless!

Be sure to get your entries in before 8th April. Go to our website at www.farmpeat.ie for all the competition details on how to enter the 'Love Your Wellies' art's competition. Follow us on Facebook @FarmPEAT and Twitter @FarmPEATProject to stay up to date on the competition. Subscribe to our YouTube Channel (www.youtube.com/c/FarmPEATproject) to learn more about the project. There are prizes for both the students and their schools. We await your creation.

Paddy Malone, Public Liaison Officer, The FarmPEAT Project.

'Love Your Wellies'

Choose YOUR Theme
Choose YOUR Format
Tell YOUR Story!

Art's Competition

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Raised Bogs store approximately 13 times more carbon than the Amazon Rainforest at 3,250 tonnes p/ha!

1 hectare agricultural grassland on peat emits the equivalent amount of Carbon that 20 cars do in 1 year.

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