



IN BRIEF

Insurance and the Donegal farmer

THE need for farmers in Donegal to secure their future in an industry which is in a period of change is to be addressed in an information seminar to be held in Letterkenny next month.

Off-Farm Investment Specialists Farrelly & Mitchell have launched their annual series of Investment Information Seminars. This year's Seminars, which are themed 'Securing Your Future in Changing Times', will focus on evaluating on and off-farm investments and reviewing current and future opportunities. An invited guest speaker from the agri, financial or political arena will address each meeting.

The Letterkenny meeting is on November 14 at the Raddison Hotel at 8pm and the guest speaker is James Campbell of the Irish Farmer's Journal, Northern Ireland.

Malachy Mitchell, Managing Director of Farrelly & Mitchell said: "Farmer focus has changed dramatically in a year with increasing commodity prices. Progressive farmers need to act smart in this changing environment and look carefully at on and off farm investments for income creating opportunities. While some investments in the core farming business is necessary, both on and off-farm projects should be rigorously assessed from a financial standpoint".

The Letterkenny meeting will be chaired by Philip Farrelly, and a number of senior members of the management team will cover topics including 'How much is your farm enterprise really worth?' 'Making your assets work to generate wealth' and 'Review of key property markets'.

Further details can be found on Farrelly & Mitchell's website; www.farrellymitchell.ie

Regional Pioneer Dinner Dance

THE annual North Regional dinner dance takes place in the Milford Inn on Friday, November 30, commencing with dinner at 8.30 pm. Music by No Fences. Tickets from any member of local Pioneer Centre committees or telephone 087-6774618.

Monagle welcomes farm pay outs

DONEGAL IFA County Chairman William Monagle has welcomed the payout of a 50% advance on the Single Farm Payment by the Department of Agriculture. These payments will provide a very important cash-flow boost to farmers at this time and are particularly important on livestock farms where they account for almost all of the net farm income.

Had cannabis and scales

A Derry man who was found with €200 of cannabis, €300 in cash and a set of weighing scales has been fined at Letterkenny District Court.

Paul Lynch (23) of 26 Renmore Drive, Derry pleaded guilty to possession of herbal cannabis in front of Judge Desmond Zaidan.

Inspector Seamus Ruane told the court the suspect was stopped and searched under the Misuse of Drugs act on September 30 last at Townparks, Lifford.

His solicitor, Mr Hegarty, said Lynch was carrying the scales because he has an addiction to cannabis and the scales were to ensure he was paying for the correct amount.

Judge Zaidan said he did not accept the reason put forward as to why Lynch was carrying the scales.

Mr Hegarty said the paraphernalia that he was carrying does not do him any credit.

"He has a problem with the use of cannabis and he must seek help," Judge Zaidan said. "If you have a problem I am telling you now to take steps to deal with it. It's people like you who fuel the sale of drugs.

"It will not be jail that brings you down or the garda or the courts. It will be you," he warned Lynch.

"Where is the man that supplied you with the drugs?" he continued. "He is probably having a pint with your money," he said, fining Lynch €350.

Grants for elderly in west Donegal?

Sinn Féin's Gráinne Mhic Géidigh has welcomed the support of the regional board of Údarás na Gaeltachta for her proposal to look at the potential of setting up a grant aided scheme to assist elderly people on low income living in the Gaeltacht.

"This scheme would assist in providing much needed repairs to their homes or to their streets. It is very clear to me since being elected on to Bord Údarás na Gaeltachta that many many people living in the Gaeltacht area are not able to avail of the existing state grants from Roinn na Gaeltachta or the Donegal County Council because they fail to meet the criteria.