
Information for
Competitors, Coaches and Officials

67th World Ploughing Contest

Ratheniska, Co. Laois,
Republic of Ireland



Supported by:

**World Ploughing
Organization**



Hosted by:

**National Ploughing
Association of Ireland
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1. Location

Every day in Laois discover lavish country estates and woodlands, climb ancient castles and visit round towers. Explore our towns and villages and meet our most unrivalled treasure, our people, who are warm and friendly, and easy with a smile, always ready to let you in on the amazing local secrets.

A perfect base for discovering Ireland's Ancient East, it's so close to everything. Enjoy the wonderfully paced Laois life and enjoy the best in food and entertainment.

Located in the heart of the Irish Midlands, County Laois, this area is very beautiful and is dominated by two geographical features – the River Barrow and the Slieve Bloom Mountains. The Barrow is 120 miles long, the second longest river in Ireland. The Slieve Bloom Mountains are a range of mountains found in County Laois and Offaly and Tipperary.

Laois has a population of 80,559. Formerly known as Queen's County it is considered the most landlocked county in Ireland.

Laois has a large number of ancient monuments – Rock of Dunmaise and grand houses from a bygone era – Emo House and Ballyfin.

The site at Rathiniska, Stradbally, is located along the N80 road, a National Secondary Route, about 12 km from Portlaoise.

Accommodation will be in The Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise R32 HKN3 and The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise R32 KV20 which are both 15 minutes from the ploughing site, Exit 17, off M7 and both have Leisure Centres.

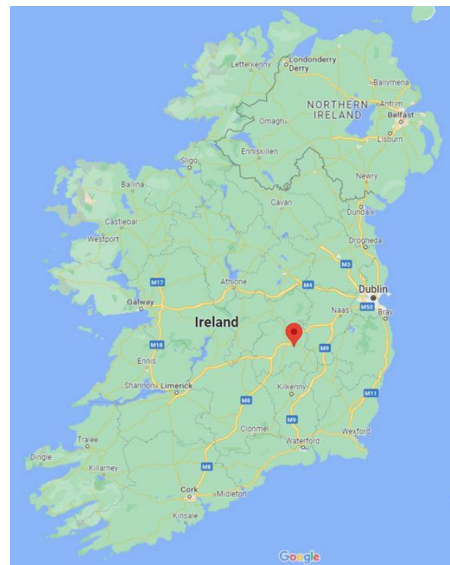
All briefings will take place at the Maldron Hotel.

Driving directions from Dublin, M50, M7

From Wexford N80

Distances

- Dublin Airport 81.8 kms (1 hour via N7 & M7)
- Dublin Port 88.7km (1 hour, 5 mins via M50 & M7)
- Port Rosslare, Wexford 143.1 km (1 hour, 58 mins via N80)



2. Soil, Ploughing, Depth, Plot Sizes, Time

Stubble Ploughing

Type of Land:	Barley Stubble
Description of Soil:	Free Draining Loam Soil
Analysis of Soil:	40% Silt 40% Clay 20% Sand

Grassland Ploughing

Type of Land:	2 Year Grassland
Description of Soil:	Free Draining Loam Soil
Analysis of Soil:	Varies somewhat throughout field but approximately 40% Silt 40% Clay 20% Sand

Ploughing depth: During the Contest the proposed ploughing depth will 16cm – 20cm, to be confirmed by the WPO.

Size of plots:

Conventional: Min. 18m x 90m – Max. 20m x 100m
(all plots will be same size)

Reversible: Min. 14.4/21.2 x 90m – Max. 16/24 x 100m

Practice Plots: Per country one plot on stubble, one on grassland. Size is approximately 40m wide x 50m long.

Time: Opening split/Opening furrow: maximum 20 minutes + 60 minutes stop time for judging + a maximum of 160 minutes for ploughing.

3. Preparations before arriving to Ireland

Passport & Visa: You may or may not need a visitor visa to visit Ireland, depending on your citizenship. Irish visas can be obtained at local Irish Embassy or Consulate. To have a visa issued, please request an official invitation after you register. Applicants have the right to apply for a visa no earlier than 90 days before the date of travel – we recommend that you apply for a visa at least 6 weeks before your travel date, taking into account possible unforeseen days.

You will find more information here:

<https://dfa.ie/travel/visas/visas-for-ireland/>

Travel documents: Your passport should be valid for at least six months beyond the period of stay.

Insurance: Competitors, coaches, judges and board members are required to insure themselves against personal accident, personal liability, sickness, and loss of baggage for the duration leaving home until returning home. Tractors/ploughs need to have liability insurance and competitors are requested to email copy of insurance no later than mid August. If a competitor is getting a loan

of a tractor/plough he/she is responsible for insuring the item. Driving Licence must be carried while driving.

Currency: Unit of currency is the Euro, which is the official currency. To obtain Euros you can use bank ATM/cash card. You can pay with Visa and Master Cards in 95% of shops. There are ATM machines and exchange offices in Ireland. Furthermore, foreign currency can be exchanged at banks, which are generally open from 10.00 to 16.00 from Monday to Friday.

Vaccinations: Not required, not necessary

Covid-19: If you do not have Covid-19 Vaccinations you may encounter issues with entry to some venues depending on status of Covid at the time of event. It is advisable that you arrive with a clear PCR test certificate and you may be required to get up to date PCR during stay. Any individual developing Covid during programme will be advised by Irish Health Authority on actions to take. Should an individual require accommodation for additional days due to quarantine that will be at their own cost.

Health insurance: Participants must have their own foreign health insurance and bring it with them to event – in Ireland apart from emergency medical assistance you will pay for medical services.

Stone for the Cairn of Peace: Size is 16 x 8 x 2 cm with the Country Name engraved in your language. Please courier your stone to: National Ploughing Association, Altona, Fallaghmore, Athy, Co. Kildare, Ireland. Contact person: Ann Siney. Contact telephone no.: 353 59986 25125 ploughing@npa.ie

Driving License: A valid driving license is required for driving tractors or cars. In Ireland, we drive on the left side of the road. Your full US, Canadian or EU driving licence allows you to drive in Ireland. For other countries it is advisable to bring an international driving certificate. There are some age and other restrictions on renting cars so please check with rental car company for more details.

Electricity: Electrical supply 230 Volts. The Primary Socket type is “Type G” Type F, a 3 prong Adaptor will be needed.

Clean Equipment: All equipment and tools brought to Ireland must be completely clean (no soil on tyres/plough). **EU approved disinfectant spray should be used on equipment before transit to/from venue and equipment should be certified clean by departure country Department of Agriculture approved person or company. (failure to implement this process could result in machinery being delayed at port or not admitted to country and host organization cannot assist on this matter.** Competitors are completely responsible for this process and any costs associated. If you rent or borrow any equipment or tools please make sure it is cleaned before you return.

4. Arrivals and Departures

Official arrival Airport: Dublin International Airport, Ireland.

Transport will be provided to and from the airport on 14th/15th September & 23rd September. Please send arrival and departure information to: ploughing@npa.ie

Portlaoise Train Station: It is possible to get a bus from Dublin Airport to Heuston Train Station, travelservices@dublinairport.com where a train to Portlaoise takes approx. 1 hour.

Official departure: The official departure day for all participants and visitors is 23rd September 2022

Registration:

Immediately if not already completed.

Price for 9 day package (8 nights) €1,400

Single Room Supplement + €740

If you have any questions concerning registration, please contact ploughing@npa.ie

Unloading and marshalling yard:

Tractors and other equipment can be transported to the marshalling yard from July onwards – there will be no marshalling yard security until week commencing 12th September – however venue is rural and private so once containers, tractors and toolboxes are locked there should be minimal risk BUT host organization take no responsibility for equipment. All equipment delivery

is only possible through arrangement with organizer - ploughing@npa.ie

Address of Marshalling Yard:

Ratheniska, Co. Laois – R32 A6C1 –
WILL BE WITHIN .5 KM OF PLOUGHING FIELDS

Should you require any help with the shipment of containers and customs clearance (at a cost), please contact:

Alison Macmillan/Niall Burns
Jenkinson Logistics
alison.macmillan@jenkinson.ie
niall.burns@jenkinson.ie
+353 1 816 3541

If you need a crane to take a container off a trailer you are advised to hire Hyland Transport from port booking the Hammer Lift Crane which is a trailer with crane build in. This will be more cost effective than hiring a crane at marshalling yard. accounts@hylandtransport.com

Alternatively Crane Hire can be arranged through organisers ploughing@npa.ie cost paid by delegation in advance to the haulage company – organisers will endeavor to get best rate if a number of deliveries are unloaded together.

5. Practice

Supervision: Please do not start any practice before your plots have been pointed out to you by the Practice Marshall in charge! No practice is allowed outside the designated hours or plots unless allowed by the Head Stewards.

Sighting Poles: Each competitor will be issued 3 official sighting poles. No other sighting poles are allowed. The sighting poles will be distributed at the start of the official practice.

Draw for Practice Plots: The draw for practice plots will take place on Thursday evening, 15th September 2022

Briefing of Competitors: After the draw for practice plots competitors will be briefed with information regarding practice fields, rules and infringements. The responsible teams for the Marshalling Yard, Practice Marshals, Plough Inspection Team and Head Stewards will be introduced. Competitors MUST attend. Coaches, Judges and Board Members are advised to attend.

Safety: The prevention of all accidents, particularly those involving personal injury or damage to equipment and property is paramount. Competitors need to be aware that the instructions of the marshalling yard, Supervisor and Parade Directors MUST BE OBEYED! Competitors will be penalized if they do not comply with safety rules during practice and contest days.

National requirements of safety: No work on the raised plough! PLOUGH MUST STAND on the floor or be supported.

The WPO commits itself to the implementation and enforcement of the host country's policy statement and the Head Stewards will ensure that the following basic procedures are strictly enforced:

- No passengers will be allowed to ride on tractors or ploughs.
- Tractors should be fitted with safety cabs or roll-over bars.
- Eye-protection goggles and gloves must be worn when using cutting/sharpening/grinding machines.
- Eye-protection shields and/or preferably welding booths should be used when electrical welding, to minimize the risk of glare to all.
- Electrical equipment should be properly fitted and installed. Particular care should be taken to ensure that electrical extension cables are not run-over by tractors and other vehicles.
- The sharp edges of spare upstanding disc coulters must be guarded. These should be taken to ensure that electrical extension cables are not run-over by tractors and other vehicles.
- All ploughs must have a support when a competitor is working underneath.
- Extra tractor wheels not mounted on the tractor must be laid flat down on headland.
- You are not allowed to lift the wheel by yourself – you must have assistance.

Tools brought to site by competitors that do not meet Safety Standards will not be permitted for use.

TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO PREVENT ACCIDENTS! THE SAFETY CODE MUST BE OBEYED!

Marshalling Yard: The marshalling yard is located within 0.5km of the ploughing plots. It will open at set times during the event. Tractors will be parked only inside the marshalling yard – there is no cover and tractors will be parked in a field. Security staff will be on duty 24/7 from 12th September and there will strictly be no access to Marshalling Yard without WPO ID Badge. Workshop is located in the marshalling yard.

Practice Fields: The practice fields are located within 0.5 km drive on tractor.

Pre Practice Land: Pre-practice plots will be provided in order of receipt of requests and full payment. No pre-practice grassland – however competitors are free to arrange privately.

To book pre-practice plots email: ploughing@npa.ie or indicate your wish for pre-practice plots directly in the registration form on the webpage.

NO PRE-PRACTICE CAN BE BOOKED ON ARRIVAL.

Cost for pre practice stubble	
Plot Size	€170
40 m x 50m	

Prepare for return shipment: Friday, 23rd September 2022

6. Visitors' Package

Limited to teams and close associates.

After registration payment should be made immediately.

Please find short description about visitors' packages as well as different price categories in the following tables:

Full Visitors' Package -

9 days

(15th – 23rd September 2022)

- Accommodation at The Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise (HQ) or The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise
- Full board – Bed, Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Four days of excursions – private bus/guide.
- Entrance to Official Opening/Closing Ceremonies, Blessing of Trophies
- 3-day pass to the National 20th & World Ploughing 21st & 22nd September
- Ticket to the Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony 22nd September
- Pick up/drop off at airport + Portlaoise Train Station
- Detailed visitor package with handbook

Price for Full Visitors` Package

	Double/Twin Room
To be paid upon booking	1,400
Single Room Supplement	+ €740

Children`s Packages – Long Package

0-3	FREE
4-12	Price on request

The Official Opening Ceremony will take place on Tuesday, 20th September 2022 at the Ploughing Exhibition site in Ratheniska and the Gala dinner and Awards ceremony will take place on Thursday, 22nd September in Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise.

Booking of Accommodation before the Official Programme:

Early accommodation can be booked before 1st of August pending availability. For further information, book directly through hotel website: www.maldronhotelportlaoise.com
Payment at time of booking.

Further accommodation: You are welcome to organize your own accommodation if you arrive earlier. For visitors not participating in the official package please be aware that all registered accommodation within a 20 mile radius of event is already fully booked. There will be details on www.npa.ie website from 1st June detailing private houses in the area that have rooms available.

7. The Contest

Church Service: The Church Service Sunday 18th September - venue to be confirmed.

Opening Ceremony: The opening ceremony will take place on 20th September at the ploughing site in Ratheniska at 5 pm. All team members (competitors, coaches, judges and board members) are requested to be present in the field at the flagpole with their country flag.

Closing Ceremony: The flag lowering ceremony will take place on Thursday, 22nd September after the Grassland Competition is completed.

Award Ceremony and Gala Banquet: The award ceremony takes place the evening of Thursday, 22nd September at The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise. It is a gala dinner with a multi course menu, live music and dance. Dress code for the gala dinner is evening wear.

Plots: The head stewards will inspect the contest fields and set the plan with numbers, before the draw for plots takes place.

Draw for Plots: Draws for contest plots will be on Tuesday, 20th September 2022 (Stubble), Wednesday, 21st September 2022 (Grass).

Competitors` Plot Numbers: Each plot will be numbered and each competitor will have a plot number to carry.

Number Signs: Each competitor`s tractor will be fitted with signs showing the number of the competitor.

Sponsors: Competitors are only permitted to advertise their personal sponsorship on clothing and ploughing equipment.

Tractor Parade: Before the contest starts all competitors will be lined up for a parade. The order will be decided by the parade marshals. The competitors will be asked by the parade marshals to line up.

Briefing of Competitors: After the draw for plots, the competitors will be briefed about specifics around the contest, the parade, and will be given the opportunity to ask questions. Competitors **MUST** attend; coaches, judges and board members are advised to attend.

Stubble Ploughing: The stubble ploughing will be on Wednesday, 21st September 2022

Grassland Ploughing: The grassland ploughing will be on Thursday, 22nd September 2022

8. Practical Information during your Stay

Population: The population of Rep. Ireland is around 4.9 million people.

Weather in the Ireland in September: Weather can be pleasant in Ireland during September with temperatures ranging from 20 C (68F) to lows of 9 C (48F). However, it is the second month of Autumn and rain can be frequent and weather can be cold.

Water: The water in Ireland is safe to drink from the tap in most places – please ask at reception.

Internet: You have free wireless internet access in the HQ hotel.

Tipping: Ireland does not have a strong tipping culture, but customers often give 10/15% of the total of the bill in restaurants.

Measurements: Ireland uses the metric system which means motorways and traffic indicators are in kms, petrol and diesel are sold by the litre, temperature is measured in Celsius, and the electrical current is 230 volts.

What to Pack: It is best to be prepared for all eventualities in Ireland in September, weather could be warm but equally it could be cold and wintery. It rains quite frequently so raincoats and sturdy boots are recommended.

Hotels provide towels/soap and shampoo in rooms.

Accommodation for WPO board members, competitors, team members and visitors:

***The Maldron Hotel Portlaoise (HQ) and
The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise***

There will be double/twin/triple and a very limited amount of single rooms available (at a significant supplement) . Allocation will be according to the date of registration.

Driving in Ireland: Seat belt use is mandatory for all drivers and passengers in Ireland. Children under the age of 13 are not allowed to sit in the front seat. Drivers are prohibited from talking, texting or emailing on the mobile phones or other devices while behind the wheel. As for most of Europe, Ireland has zero tolerance for drink driving. Please do not drink and drive. In Ireland, we drive on the left side of the road.

Speed Limit:	Motorways:	120 km/h,
	National Routes	100 km/h
	Local/Regional Road	80km/h
	Cities and towns	50 km/h
		unless otherwise stated.

9. The Official Program

Subject to changes

Wednesday, 14th September 2022

Arrival of WPO Head Stewards & WPO Executive Committee to Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise HQ

Thursday, 15th September 2022

- ◆ All day Arrival of WPO Board, Official Teams and all delegates on Visitors Package.
- ◆ TBC Head Stewards Meeting at HQ Hotel
- ◆ TBC Rules Committee Meeting at HQ Hotel
- All day Registration and check in The Maldron Hotel Portlaoise and The Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise
- ◆ 18.00 – 20.00 Welcome Dinner
- ◆ 20.30 Draw for Practice Plots and Competitors Briefing

Friday, 16th September 2022

- ◆ From 7.00 Breakfast
- ◆ 8.30 Departure on Official Full Group Tour

Saturday, 17th September 2022

- ◆ From 06:00 Breakfast
- ◆ From 06.45 Shuttle Buses to Marshalling Yard
- ◆ 07.00 Marshalling Yard Opens
- ◆ 08.00 Official Practice Begins
- ◆ 09.00 Departure for Visitors Tour
- ◆ 12.00 LUNCH ON FIELD
- ◆ 12.30 Lunch for WPO Board

- ◆ 13.00 WPO Board Meeting at Hotel
- ◆ 17.00 Official Practice Ends
- ◆ 17.30 Marshalling Yard Closes
Shuttle Bus back to HQ
- ◆ 18.00/20.00 Dinner
- ◆ 20.30 Competitor Briefing (if required)

Sunday, 18th September 2022

- ◆ From 06.00 Breakfast
- ◆ 06.45 Shuttle Buses to Marshalling Yard
- ◆ 07.00 Marshalling Yard Opens
- ◆ 08.00 Official Practice Begins
- ◆ 09.00 Departure on Visitors Tour
- ◆ 09.00 WPO Board Meeting
- ◆ 12.00 LUNCH ON FIELD
- ◆ 16.30 Official Practice Ends
- ◆ 17:00 Marshalling Yard Closes
- ◆ 17.00 Shuttle Buses back to Hotel
- ◆ 18.15 Depart hotels for Ecumenical Church
- ◆ 18.45 Service & Blessing of Trophies
- ◆ Followed by Social Evening & Meal
- ◆ 21.00 Competitors Briefing at Hotel (if required)

Monday, 19th September 2022

- ◆ From 06:00 Breakfast
- ◆ 06:45 Shuttle buses to ploughing fields
- ◆ 07:00 Marshalling Yard Opens
- ◆ 08:00 Official Practice Begins
- ◆ 09.00 Departure on Visitors Tour

- ◆ 09.00 Judges Meeting at HQ
Judges/Competitors Workshop on Field (TBC)
- ◆ 12.00 LUNCH ON FIELD
- ◆ 17.00 Official Practice Ends
- ◆ 17.30 Marshalling Yard Closes
- ◆ 17.30 Shuttle Buses back to Hotel
- ◆ From 18:00 Dinner
- ◆ 20.00 Briefing of Competitors (if required)

Tuesday, 20th September 2022

- ◆ From 05.30 Breakfast
- ◆ From 06:15 Shuttle buses to Ploughing Field
Strictly no private cars brought to site
- ◆ 07:00 Marshalling Yard Opens
- ◆ 08:00 Official Practice Begins
- ◆ 10.00 Visitors Tour to National Ploughing Championships
- ◆ 09.00 Judges Meeting on Field
Measuring Stewards meeting in Field (Time to be confirmed)
Plot Stewards meeting in Field (Time to be confirmed)
- ◆ 16.00 Official Practice Ends
- ◆ 16.30 Marshalling Yard Closes
- ◆ 17.00 Opening Ceremony and Raising of Country Flags in Trade Arena
Shuttle Buses to Hotel
- ◆ 17.45 Dinner
- ◆ From 18.00 Dinner
- ◆ 20.00 Official Draw for Stubble Plots and Competitor Briefing at Maldron Hotel

Wednesday, 21st September 2022

67th World Contest – Stubble Ploughing

- ◆ From 5.30 Breakfast
- ◆ From 06.00 Shuttle buses to Marshalling Yard for World Ploughing Stubble Contest
Strictly no private cars brought to site
- ◆ 07.00 Marshalling Yard Opens
- ◆ 08.30 World Competitors Parade of Tractors to Stubble Plots
- ◆ 09.15 Plot Stewards Meet at Scrutineers Office
- ◆ 09.30 Judges Meet at Scrutineers Office
- ◆ 09.45 Depth Measuring Stewards meet at Scrutineers Office
- ◆ 09.55 Flashing Yellow & Red, Get Ready
- ◆ 10.00 Flashing Green, Start Opening Split
- ◆ 10.15 Flashing Yellow & Green, 5 more minutes
- ◆ 10.20 Flashing Red, Time out, Judges inspect Opening Split
Lunches for competitors, judges, plot stewards, head stewards
- ◆ 11.15 Flashing Yellow & Red, Get Ready
- ◆ 11.20 Flashing Green, Start Ploughing
- ◆ 13.55 Flashing Yellow & Green, 5 more minutes
- ◆ 14:00 Flashing Red, Finish
- ◆ From 16.00 Shuttle buses from Marshalling Yard to hotels
- ◆ 17:00 Marshalling Yard Closed
- ◆ From 18.00 Dinner
- ◆ 20:30 World Competitors draw for grass plots at HQ World Competitors' & Officials' Briefing

Thursday 22nd September 2022

67th World Contest – Grassland Ploughing

- ◆ From 05.30 Breakfast
- ◆ From 06:00 Shuttle buses to Marshalling Yard for World Ploughing Stubble Contest
Strictly no private cars brought to site
- ◆ 07:00 Marshalling Yard Opens
- ◆ 08:00 World Competitors Parade of Tractors
- ◆ 09:15 Plot Stewards Meet at Scrutineers Office
- ◆ 09:30 Judges Meet at Scrutineers Office
- ◆ 09:45 Depth Measuring Stewards meet at Scrutineers Office
- ◆ 09:55 Flashing Yellow & Red, Get Ready
- ◆ 10:00 Flashing Green, Start Opening Split
- ◆ 10:15 Flashing Yellow & Green, 5 more minutes
- ◆ 10:20 Flashing Red, Time out, Judges inspect Opening Split
Lunches for competitors, judges, plot stewards, head stewards
- ◆ 11:15 Flashing Yellow & Red, Get Ready
- ◆ 11:20 Flashing Green, Start Ploughing
- ◆ 13.55 Flashing Yellow & Green, 5 more minutes
- ◆ 14:00 Flashing Red, Finish
- ◆ 16.00 Closing Ceremony and Lowering of Flags
- ◆ From 16.45 Shuttle Buses to hotels
- ◆ 19.00 Shuttle Buses to Gala Evening
- ◆ 19:30 Gala Evening and Prize Giving Ceremony

Friday 23rd September 2022

- ◆ From 06:00 Breakfast
- ◆ 07.00 Marshalling Yard opens, cleaning and packing of containers
- ◆ 09:00 WPO Board Meeting
Official Departure for all delegates
Shuttle Buses to Dublin Airport/Portlaoise
Train Station

10. Contact Information

National Ploughing Association of Ireland
Altona
Fallaghmore
Athy
Co. Kildare
353 5986 25125
ploughing@npa.ie

World Ploughing Organization

General Secretary: **Anna Marie McHugh**
Altona, Fallaghmore,
Athy, Co. Kildare,
Ireland.

Email: generalsecretary@worldploughing.org

www.worldploughing.org

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WorldPloughingOrganization