

**HOME**

**BONNICONLON AGRICULTURAL SHOW LTD.  
proudly presents the**

**60<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW & GYMKHANA**

**-Bank Holiday Monday, August 3, 2009-**

Member of I.S.A. and S.J.A.I.

Rehab Award Winning Show 2006

2009 sees 200 acres of unrivalled attractions, exhibitions and show final categories taking place in Bonniclon, Mayo.

Arena (1) Ponies: 8 events – Arena (2) Horses: 6 events

**Classes for:**

Bloodstock  
Livestock  
Farm and garden produce  
Cookery  
Arts & Crafts  
Vintage  
Poultry  
Wildlife display and photography  
Flower show  
Dog show  
Horse & pony jumping competitions

**Other events include:**

Best dresses lady – Bonny Baby – Glamorous Granny – Queen of the Show –  
Children's Fancy Dress – Novelty Events – Children's Party & Disco

**Also featuring numerous All-Ireland qualifiers**

*plus*

All-Ireland Domestic Arts Competition Final  
All-Ireland Non Pedigree Male & Female Calf Finals  
Texoil All-Ireland Ewe Competitions  
Mountain Ram Championship  
All-Ireland Poultry Final  
Three-Year-Old Horse Lunging Competition  
Pony Lunging Competition  
All-Ireland Sheaf Throwing Competition

**Lots of live entertainment on the field all day including:**

Jimmy Buckley and his band

**To finish the day, join us in the Grove Ballroom at the ever enjoyable  
Show Dance**

Music by: Robert Mizzel and his band

PLEASE NOTE:

Trade stands must be booked before August 1, 2009 with Show Chairperson: John O'Hara. (Contact: 087-2942949) Please note insurance certificates must be presented.

Enquiries, entry forms and schedules from Show Secretary, Bridie Judge (Contact: 096-45187/ 096-45987 or mobile: 085-1537739)

# HISTORY

**Bonniconlon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana** celebrates 60 years this year, having commenced in November 1949. Fuelling its initial establishment were two main ideas that would ensure the development and betterment of Bonniconlon.

Since then, executive committees behind the event continued in its endeavours to achieve the two main goals set out six decades ago: firstly, to present an attractive feature event with an exhibition of all farm and garden produce, animals (including horse and pony show and jumping) and crafts.

Secondly, the concept was aimed at attracting visitors to Bonniconlon to create a meeting point for exiles and domiciled in the large urban centres, to celebrate, to gather and to see again the cultures and traditions of rural life.

From the 1950s right through to the present day, the show has, year on year, pieced together segments of its history and now celebrates a colourful jigsaw of achievements and successes.

Vast improvements have taken place in the accommodation of the event – the showgrounds and adjacent hall. In 2008, the event introduced new showgrounds at the show field and parish centre which now see the provision of 200 acres to facilitate the ever-growing number of attractions and exhibitions. It is certainly a very different spectacle today from the pioneering days of the first committees.

The quality of the stock and the various exhibits; the flower show; cookery; crafts; photography and junior section have all seen dramatic advancements – and that is to name just a few.

In recent years, the show has evolved considerably with the provision of live bands on the field and wide-ranging side shows and events that cater for all ages and interests.

The present committee has proven that it can host a show as entertaining as that of any village, town or city in the county – and maybe even in the entire country. Indeed, **Bonniconlon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana**, taking place each year on the August Bank Holiday, has earned a reputation for being one of the most successful, innovative and well-attended shows, attracting visitors from all over Ireland. It is a real, traditional Irish family day out for the thousands of attendees who return every year.

Such success truly is down to the culmination of community effort which continues to see the dreams of its predecessors advanced and expanded.

Tradition holds that the ‘show dance’ is held in its original venue, the Grove Ballroom in Bonniconlon, as has been customary down through the years. Bonniconlon now prides itself on the fact that the Grove has stood the test of time and is now the last original dance hall in existence in the west of Ireland.

Months of planning and organising have ensured that year after year, **Bonniconlon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana** not only proves every bit as successful as in the previous 12 months – but also develops and improves what the event has on offer.

Putting it simply, after 60 years of hard work, dedication and innovation, no other show in its category even comes close.

## **ABOUT US**

Bonniconlon Show & Gymkhana is held annually on August Bank Holiday Monday and boasts a prize fund of up to €45,000.

Based in north Mayo, Bonniconlon is a quintessential rural village on the outskirts of Ballina – a hospitable locality which opens its doors to over 30,000 people each year for the one-day show event.

Famed for the Bank Holiday showcase, members of each annual show committee have worked tirelessly to develop and expand its award-winning programme which since 2008, is held on 200 acres of specially-developed showgrounds.

With free parking, and free buses from parks to show, Bonniconlon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana, has a jam-packed programme and prides itself on offering something of interest to young and old.

Our show is more than just an exhibition of live-stock, farm produce, trade stands and jumping – it is a family orientated event which coincides the August holiday period to bring exiles and migratory workers back together – and in doing so, has become a calendar staple throughout the west of Ireland and beyond.

# EVENTS

**Some of the highlights taking place on show day in Bonniclon include:**

- A prize fund of €45,000
- 80 perpetual cups
- 500 show classes
- ISA event gymkhana
- Horse and pony lunging
- Dog show
- Sheepdog trials
- All-Ireland calf finals
- All-Ireland ewe finals
- Potato picking competition
- All-Ireland domestic arts final
- Rose of Bonniclon 'Queen of the Show'
- All-Ireland sheaf tossing
- Illusionist
- Most appropriately dressed lady
- Gymnastic display
- Children's party and disco
- Bonny baby
- Heritage and vintage display]
- Poultry final

**Other events include:**

- Dance show
- Old craft demonstration
- Rare breeds of animals
- Farm model display
- Dancing JCB
- Junior section

*The domestic show held in the events hall is a blaze of colours with flowers of all descriptions and pot plants, vegetables and agri produce including potatoes, turnips, cabbage, barley and oats, hay and turf, cooking and home crafts, hand-writing and photography.*

***Don't forget the Show Dance!***

Celebrate the perfect finish to the perfect day by dancing the night away at the traditional 'Show Dance' held in The Grove Ballroom in the heart of Bonniclon.

# **ALL-IRELAND FINALS**

The Irish Shows Association & Bonniclon Show Ltd present:  
**The Non-Pedigree All-Ireland Bull-Calf Championship**

**Monday August 3, 2009**  
**3pm**

Sponsored by: Thomas Archers Builders Providers, Ballina, Co. Mayo; Kiernan Milling, Longford; Stewarts Millers, Boyle, Co. Roscommon.

**Prize Fund:** €2,200

For rules and conditions, please see Irish Shows Association Yearbook or log onto [www.irishshowsassociation.ie](http://www.irishshowsassociation.ie)

## **Entry fee**

To Qualifying Show: €7 To Final: €12

**Prizes:** Champion €400; Reserve: €300; 3<sup>rd</sup>: €170; 4<sup>th</sup> : €130; 5<sup>th</sup> – end: €100

## **Qualifying shows**

Bailieborough  
Bandon  
Bonagee  
Corofin  
Crossmolina  
Dundalk  
Ennistymon  
Finn Valley  
Granard  
Grange  
Inishowen  
Manorhamilton  
Midleton  
Mullingar  
Newmarket-on-Fergus  
Ossory  
Roundfort

The Irish Shows Association & Bonniconlon Show Ltd present:  
**The Non-Pedigree All-Ireland Heifer Calf Championship**

**Monday, August 3, 2009**  
**3.30pm**

Sponsored by: Grennan & Sons Feed & Fertilizers; Nugget Feeds, Target Fertilizers;  
Archers of Ballina; Ferguson Tractor Parts

**Prize fund:** €2,200

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[www.irishshowsassociation.ie](http://www.irishshowsassociation.ie)

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**Qualifying shows**

Bailieborough  
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Dundalk  
Ennistymon  
Finn Valley  
Granard  
Grange  
Inishowen  
Lurgan  
Manorhamilton  
Mullingar  
Newmarket-on-Fergus  
Ossory  
Roundfort

The Irish Shows Association & Bonniconlon Show Ltd present:  
**The All-Ireland Ewe Final**

**Monday, August 3, 2009**

Sponsored by: TEXOIL

**Prize fund:** €2000

For rules and conditions, please see Irish Shows Association Yearbook or log onto  
[www.irishshowsassociation.ie](http://www.irishshowsassociation.ie)

**Entry fee:** €6 for each class

**Prizes:** (For each class): 1<sup>st</sup> €150 and sash; 2<sup>nd</sup> €100; 3<sup>rd</sup>: €50; 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>: €25

The Irish Shows Association & Bonniconlon Show Ltd present:  
**The All-Ireland Domestic Arts Championship**

**Monday, August 3, 2009**

Sponsored by: Bonniconlon Show Ltd and the ISA

For rules and conditions, please see Irish Shows Association Yearbook or log onto  
[www.irishshowsassociation.ie](http://www.irishshowsassociation.ie)

**Entry fee:** To qualifying show: €4 To final: €6

**Prizes:** 1<sup>st</sup>: €250; 2<sup>nd</sup>: €200; 3<sup>rd</sup>: €150; 4<sup>th</sup>: €75; 5<sup>th</sup> – end: €50 each

**Qualifying shows**

Athenry  
Ballina  
Carbery  
Corrandulla  
Crossmolina  
Dundalk  
Ennistymon  
Finn Valley  
Grange  
Inishowen  
Longford  
Manorhamilton  
Mullingar  
Newry  
Omagh  
Riverstown  
Roundfort

The Irish Shows Association & Bonniconlon Show Ltd present:  
**The All-Ireland Poultry Final**

**Monday, August 3, 2009**  
**Judging starts at 2.30pm**

Direct entry to show secretary by Friday, July 31, 2009

**Entry fee:** €3

**Prize Fund:** €2000

Waterfowl sponsors: Daybreak, Bonniconlon

**Prize fund** for all Classes 1-5 inclusive €155 per class. 1<sup>st</sup> €50; 2<sup>nd</sup> €35; 3<sup>rd</sup> €20; 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>: €10 each

Other poultry sponsors: Joe O'Reilly Plant Hire; JFK Manufacturing, Fitted Kitchens & Interior Furniture

**Prize fund** for Classes 6-10 inclusive €200 per class. 1<sup>st</sup>: €75; 2<sup>nd</sup>: €50; 3<sup>rd</sup>: €25; 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>: €10 each

# **MEDIA CENTRE**

## **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bonniclon Show**

THIS year Bonniclon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana celebrates 60 years since its establishment.

The event, now recognised as one of the most successful argi events in the country, attracts in the region of 30,000 people annually, and this year will be extra special as it marks 60 successful years.

Bonniclon Show was founded in 1949 to facilitate an exhibition event of all farm and garden produce, animals (including horse and pony show and jumping) and crafts; as well as attracting visitors to the north Mayo village to create a meeting point for exiles to gather and to see again the cultures and traditions of rural life.

## **New location huge success for Bonniclon Show**

THE 2008 Bonniclon Agricultural Show & Gymkhana saw the event move to a new location which facilitated the biggest and best show to date.

The new show-field and parish centre, approximately 500 metres along the Attymass Road sees the show extend over a 200-acre area which facilitates a host of exhibitions, classes, attractions, and live entertainment.

Four new access points also mean the location lends itself to greater entry and exit routes for exhibitors and show-goers alike.

Chairperson John O'Hara said the 2008 change of location was a huge success for the organising committee: "Making a change such as this was a big upheaval at the beginning as it involved a lot of planning and organisation, on top of the normal workload. The community and the committee worked together and I am delighted to say the new location worked fantastically well in its inaugural year. We now have more space, a greater facility and greater access for show-goers."

## **All-Ireland finals for Bonniclon**

BONNICLON Agricultural Show & Gymkhana this year presents a host of All-Ireland Finals.

In conjunction with the Irish Shows Association (ISA), the 2009 Bonniclon Show Ltd All-Irelands include:

- All-Ireland Domestic Arts Competition Final
- All-Ireland Non Pedigree Male & Female Calf Finals
- Texoil All-Ireland Ewe Competitions
- Mountain Ram Championship
- All-Ireland Poultry Final
- Three-Year-Old Horse Lunging Competition
- Pony Lunging Competition
- All-Ireland Sheaf Throwing Competition