

Deirdre O'Mahony

FARM: Re-Viewing Local Food Knowledge
Connemara Hill Lamb



We can't change the natural environment, and we don't want to change it. The landscape hasn't changed in hundreds of years, and we haven't changed it through our farming.

Our lamb is a natural product. The diet gives it a unique taste. It's the herbs and the heathers and the grasses that give the meat a darker texture.





We cannot plough, we cannot plant, we're NHA. We're restricted – it's either sheep or goats. We can't switch and change according to the markets.
Rearing sheep is in its rightful home in Gleantreague – it's the sheep's own environment.





You feel a little bit different every day with our lakes and mountains and heathers and bogs...

It's a totally different landscape to the rest of Ireland and most of Europe, its wilder, its very, very rugged and rough.





Our terrain is dictated by nature itself.

Other parts of the country they are open to other types of farming. We can't change.





Our lambs have long lives.

It takes 12-16 weeks for us to rear our lambs in their natural environment, while other farmers turn around their lambs in eight weeks.





It is very difficult terrain, I suppose really, in the mountains and the rocks and the bogs.
There is beauty, a certain amount of beauty in it. I suppose we don't see the beauty in it – its tough, its hard going.

