

Dublin conference to outline 'rivers' policy

A THREE-DAY international conference entitled Catchment Science 2011 was launched yesterday by Minister for Agriculture, Simon Coveney.

The conference will be in the Mansion House, Dublin, on September 14-16 and is aimed at scientists, policy makers, farmers and land managers.

It is jointly hosted by Teagasc, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the UK Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

There are six catchments in the Agricultural Catchments Programme, which is based on a partnership with farmers and other stakeholders, and aims to support productive agriculture

while protecting water quality.

The programme integrates advice and research and operates in small river catchments of 600-2,500ha.

The programme, funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and run by Teagasc, is implemented by a team of researchers, advisers and technicians working closely with farmers.

The advisers provide an intensive advisory and planning service to farmers in the catchments to improve the profitability of the farms and help the farmers to implement the Good Agricultural Practice measures contained in the National Action Programme.



BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE: (From left) Teagasc's Ger Shortle, Kevin Collins, Minister for Agriculture Simon Coveney and Teagasc director Professor Gerry Boyle launch this year's Catchment Science Conference, which takes place in Mansion House, Dublin, from September 14-16 O'GORMAN PHOTOGRAPHY