



Mike Pearson was born in North Yorkshire England and after schooling in Middlesbrough attended Wye College, London University, Achieving an Agricultural Degree in 1981.

After several years in practical farming he accepted a job as an advisor to sheep farmers with the Meat and Livestock Commission, working initially in Yorkshire and then in East Anglia where he met his wife Judy.

In 1990 he moved to Northumberland as Senior Lecturer on a specialist shepherds training course and also managed 1500 ewes on the college farms.

January 1st 2000 saw him appointed as principal of Gurteen College. This was at the height of the Celtic tiger and Agricultural student numbers were falling dramatically. Over the last 11 years Gurteen has diversified and thrived, continually striving to provide quality practical education to a diverse variety of students including general agriculture, specialist drystock, dairy, crops/bioenergy equine and veterinary nursing.

3 years ago the college began to investigate renewable energy and over the period to date nearly a million euro has been invested in wind energy, biomass production and burning, insulation to improve energy efficiency and lighting projects. This not only saves the college money but also puts in place a teaching resource for the next group of courses.