



## CAP Post 2015 –DAFM/Teagasc Greening Information Meetings

October 2014

# Greening

- ▶ All farmers subject to 'greening'



- ▶ Crop Diversification
- ▶ Permanent grassland
- ▶ Ecological focus area (EFA)

# Greening Measures contd

- ▶ Payment calculated as percentage of BPS payment – approx. 45% of top-up to BPS payment.
- ▶ Greening payable on activated hectares only e.g. Farmer has declared 100 ha in 2016 but has only 50 new entitlement. Greening payment on 50 ha in 2015.



# Definitions

- Total eligible area: total agricultural area plus SPS eligible afforestation and land
- Total Agricultural area: total of all permanent grassland, arable land plus lands under permanent crops
- Total arable land: total of areas under arable crops (tillage), temporary grasslands and fallow lands (arable).
- Total tillage lands: area under arable crops (excluding catch crops).

# Crop Diversification

- ▶ Under 10ha of Arable lands
  - Exempt
- ▶ Between 10 ha– 30 ha of Arable Land
  - 2 Crops
- ▶ Over 30ha of Arable Land
  - 3 Crops





# Crop Diversification cont.

## Exemptions

- ▶ Organic Farmers – organic lands only
- ▶ 75% of agricultural area is permanent or temporary grass (max 30 ha of tillage land)
- ▶ 75% of the arable land is temporary grassland and lands lying fallow (max 30 ha of tillage land)
- ▶ 50% of arable land was declared by another applicant in the previous year by applicant – all arable land must be cultivated by a different crop in year of exemption.
- ▶ Participants in GLAS – incl. meeting the winter crop cover requirements.
- ▶ **Similar exemptions bar the fourth and fifth indent apply to EFAs**

# Crop Diversification cont.

## Definition of separate crops means

- ▶ Different Crops
- ▶ Winter and Spring of same crop  
e.g. barley, wheat etc.
- ▶ The following are also crops;
  - ▶ Land lying fallow – including Wild Bird Cover.
  - ▶ Temporary Grassland
  - ▶ Mixed cropping – classified as one crop.

Note: each hectare can only be counted once in a scheme year

# Crop Diversification cont.

## Temporary Grassland – explained

- ▶ In 2015, a land parcel would be temporary grassland if it satisfied the following conditions.

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Arable crop	Arable crop or grass	Arable crop or grass	Arable crop or grass	Arable crop or grass	Grass = Temporary grassland



# Crop Diversification cont.

- ▶ Main Crop – not more than 75% – this applies to both 2 and 3 crop requirements
- ▶ That means that the second (or a mixture of crops) must be greater than 5%
- ▶ Two main crops – not more than 95%
- ▶ That means that the third crops (or a mixture of crops) must be greater than 5%
- ▶ Landscape features that form part of the eligible area can be taken into account in the measurement of areas of separate crops – margins and hedges form part of the crop area.
- ▶ Use of total eligible area (reference area) rather than claimed area

# Crop Diversification – GLAS

- ▶ YES; There will be a GLAS Scheme in place in 2015.
- ▶ YES; Winter cover under GLAS will be equivalent to Crop Diversification.
- ▶ YES: There will be priority access for arable farmers with greater than 30 ha.
- ▶ YES: There will be a payment under GLAS for plating winter cover.
- ▶ YES; Planting winter cover under GLAS will mean that you do not have to meet the 3-crop rule.



# Crop Diversification – Advice Only

- ▶ Ensure that you have options when sowing arable crops in Spring.
- ▶ Bear in mind that field margins and hedgerows form part of the crop for the purposes of CD measurements – 75%, 95% etc.
- ▶ Be aware of consequences using equivalence under GLAS for Crop Diversification (2015 only).
- ▶ Be cautious about planting areas close to the 75% and 95% thresholds – particularly, if sowing more than one crop in the same LPIS parcel.

# Permanent Grassland

- ▶ Land, which is used for grass production for more than five years
- ▶ No ban on ploughing and reseeding
- ▶ Applied at national level
- ▶ 5% tolerance before mandatory conversion of arable land to permanent grassland is applied
- ▶ 2012 is reference year – updated to 2015



# Permanent Grassland cont.

- ▶ Ban on ploughing and reseeded and for production of arable crops of certain Natura 2000 area
- ▶ Ban applies to permanent grassland in these areas
- ▶ Natura Management Plans for habitats must provide for protection of grassland / pastures

# Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)

- ▶ Farmers with 15 ha or less of arable land exempt
- ▶ Farmers with more than 15ha of arable land must ensure that at least 5% of their arable land is an ecological focus area – known as EFAs
- ▶ Arable areas used to establish 5% includes temporary grassland but excludes permanent grassland and permanent crops.
- ▶ Also includes afforested areas (SPS eligible) and Short Rotation Coppice in the calculation of the % EFA.

# EFA cont.

## Landscape Features

- Includes hedgerows and drains/ditches
- Hedgerows: must include woody species – banks not eligible
- Gaps must be excluded
- Conversion/weighting factor: 1 meter of hedgerow =  $10^2$  meters of EFA area
- Half the hedgerow associated with each parcel
- Full hedgerow if arable parcel adjacent to permanent grassland farmed by applicant

# EFAs cont.

## Landscape Features cont'd

- Hedgerows and ditches/drains adjacent to an arable parcel can be eligible.
- Adjacent means touching arable parcel.
- Feature has to be situated in a LPIS parcel claimed by applicant.
- Features (e.g. drains/ditches) can be situated on permanent grassland.
- An ineligible feature in-between renders the landscape features not eligible – e.g. road or river (under discussion).



# EFA cont.

## Landscape Features cont'd

- Drains
- Each linear meter equivalent to 6<sup>2</sup> meters of EFA area
- A drain and hedgerow adjacent (but not overlapping) can contribute 16<sup>2</sup> meters of EFA area
- Drains must form part or be adjacent to the arable parcel.

# EFAs cont.





# EFAs cont.



# EFAs cont.





# EFA's cont.



# EFAs cont.

## Nitrogen Fixing Crops

- These are protein crops and include peas, beans, sweet lupins and red clover
- Each hectare of protein crops is equivalent to 0.7 ha of EFA area.
- Protein crops can benefit from the Coupled Protein Aid (peas, beans and sweet lupins) only

# EFAs cont.

## Buffer Strips

- ▶ Situated on arable lands along rivers/streams
- ▶ Minimum requirements: provisions applying Nitrates Directive
- ▶ Minimum width; 1 meter
- ▶ 1 meter = 9<sup>2</sup> meters for EFA requirement
- ▶ Will be mapped by Department
- ▶ Can be grazed/topped
- ▶ Crops cannot be harvested

# EFAs cont.

## Lands Lying Fallow

### Identification of arable fallow lands

- Must be arable fallow lands.
- That means the lands must have been used for arable crop production during one of the previous 5 years.
- Land declared as fallow but not cropped since 2009 will not be eligible as fallow in 2015.
- If declared as fallow in 2015 it can remain as fallow in subsequent years provided it is declared as EFA fallow.



# EFA cont.

## Lands Lying Fallow

### Management

- Lands to remain fallow for the minimum period of 1 January to 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Grass seed can be sown during this period.
- A crop cannot be harvested during this period.
- Can be grazed after 30<sup>th</sup> June.
- Lands must be maintained in good condition
- Minimum fallow land area: 0.1 ha.
- Wild bird cover; is eligible fallow land.
- 1:1 equivalent – for EFA purposes i.e. 1 hectare of fallow lands = 1 hectare of EFA

# EFA cont.

## Catch Crop/Winter Cover

- Can be under sown grass with main crop
- A mixture of seeds
- Must be sown by 1 October
- Each hectare of catch crops/winter cover is equivalent to 0.3 hectare of EFA
- The same parcel cannot be used for two EFA measures in the same year – e.g. protein crops followed by winter cover.

# EFA's cont.

## SPS Eligible Forestry

- Can be declared in 2015 as EFA area
- Existing SPS eligible forestry acceptable
- Newly planted forestry – eligible for BPS – also acceptable
- Eligibility:
  - (a) SPS Eligible lands in 2008
  - (b) declared on a SPS application in 2008
  - (c) Applicant paid SPS in 2008
  - (d) Grant aided under the Afforestation Aid Scheme Form 2015

# EFAs cont.

## Short Rotation Coppice

- Can include willow, poplar, ash etc.
- Control on use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Each hectare of short rotation coppice is equivalent to 0.3 hectare of EFA



# EFA cont.

## Summary of EFAs

- Hedgerows
  - Ditches/drains
  - Buffer Strips
- } Will be mapped by Department  
Applicants amend where necessary  
Contributes more than actual  
area to EFA requirement
- 
- Fallow land area (actual)
  - Eligible Forestry area (actual)
  - Short Rotation Coppice area – reduced to 0.3 ha for EFA
  - Protein Crops area – reduced to 0.7 ha for EFA
  - Catch crop/winter cover area – reduced to 0.3 ha for EFA

# EFA's Advice

- If in doubt, leave it out
- Aim high in relation to % EFA



# EFA cont.

## Future

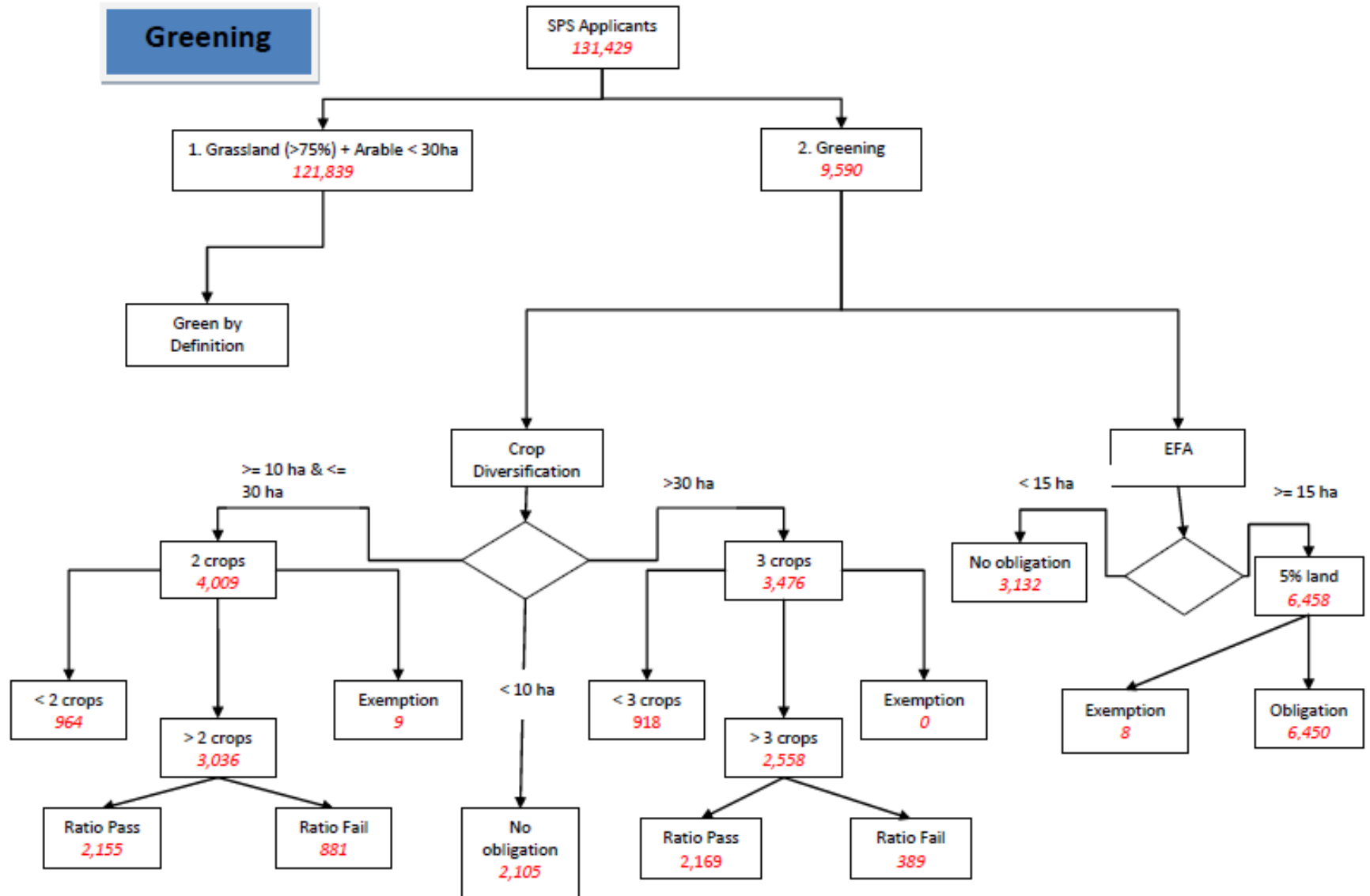
- New Commissioner will review the greening measures with a view to simplifying.
- Commission must present report evaluating the effectiveness of the measure by 31 March 2017.
- Report may be accompanied by proposals.
- Proposals may include an increase of the EFA minimum area from 5% to 7% – must be agreed by Council of Ministers and European Parliament.



# Greening Timeline

- ▶ August – Farmer Notification
- ▶ October – On-line Mapping Facility to allow EFA (hedge/drain) layer to be viewed.
- ▶ November provision for amendments by farmers/agents
- ▶ November – issue of EFA maps to farmers
- ▶ Early 2015 – BPS application with Greening element online

# Greening

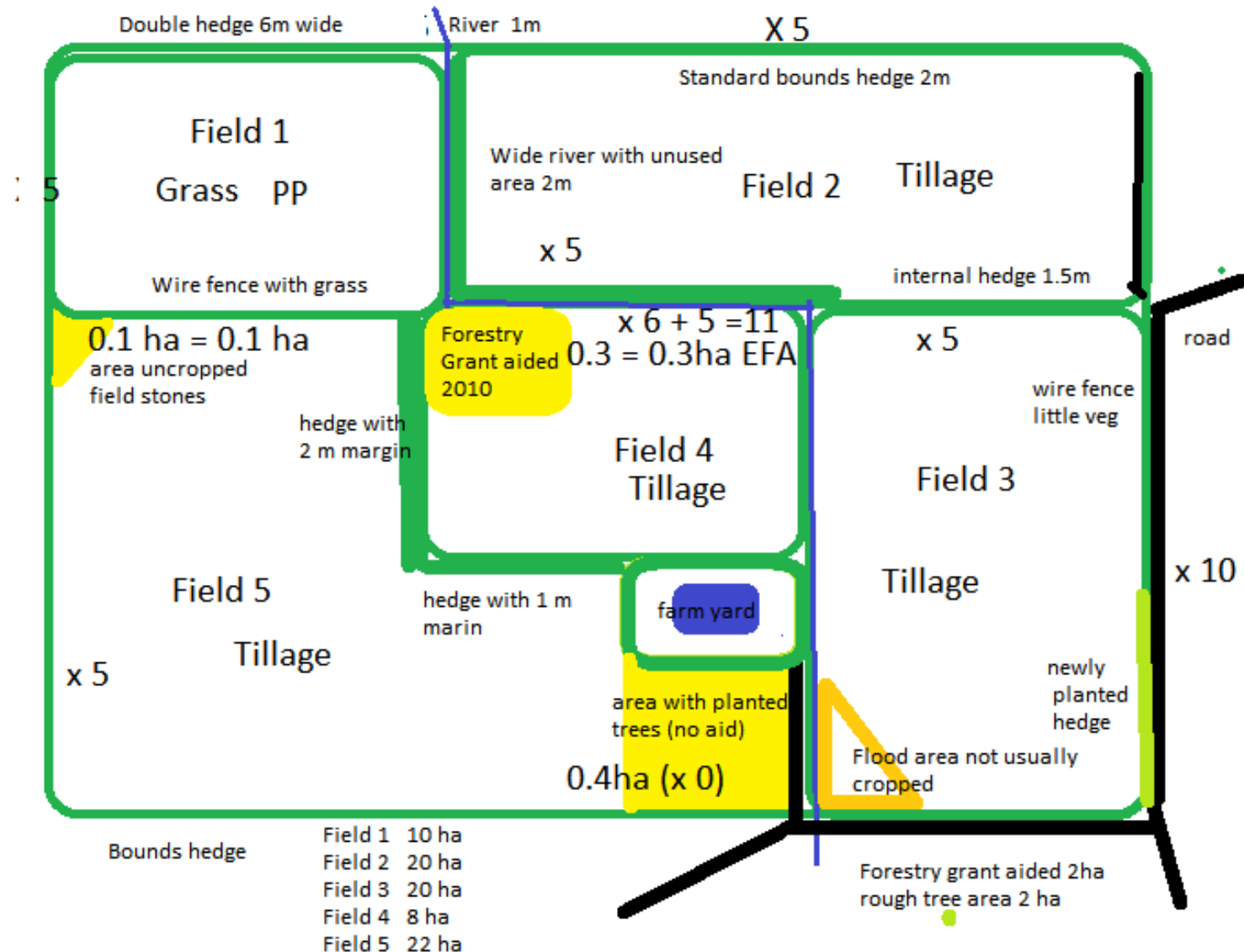


# Coupled Protein Aid

- Will be paid on Peas, Field Beans and Lupins
- Total ceiling – €3 million
- Would pay €250 per hectare on 12,000 ha
- Treble area sown in 2014
- Protein crops eligible for aid could also contribute towards meeting EFA requirement
- Some crop meets Crop Diversification requirement



# Farm Example





# Thank You