

# Habitat Quality– focus of Biodiversity Strategy

Traditionally – little focus on Habitat Quality in EU CAP measures  
Biodiversity needs focus on Habitat Quantity and Quality

AES  
Pillar 2

Eco-scheme  
Pillar 1

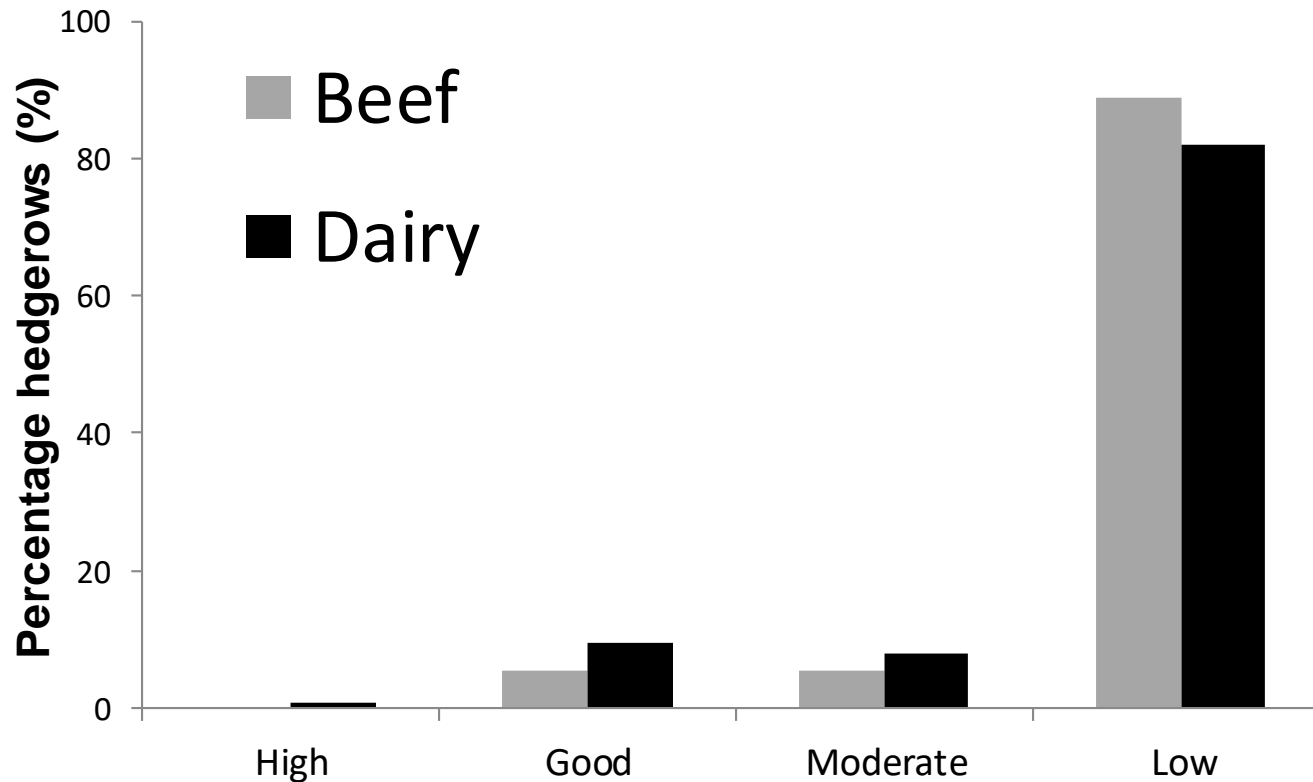
Enhanced conditionality  
Pillar 1



# Variation in habitat quality: hedgerows



# Unfavourable hedgerow quality in sample of intensive farmland (dominant habitat)



Assessment of hedgerow quality sampled from (intensive) beef and dairy systems.  
From Larkin et al. (unpubl.) using Hedgerow Appraisal System of Foulkes et al. 2013

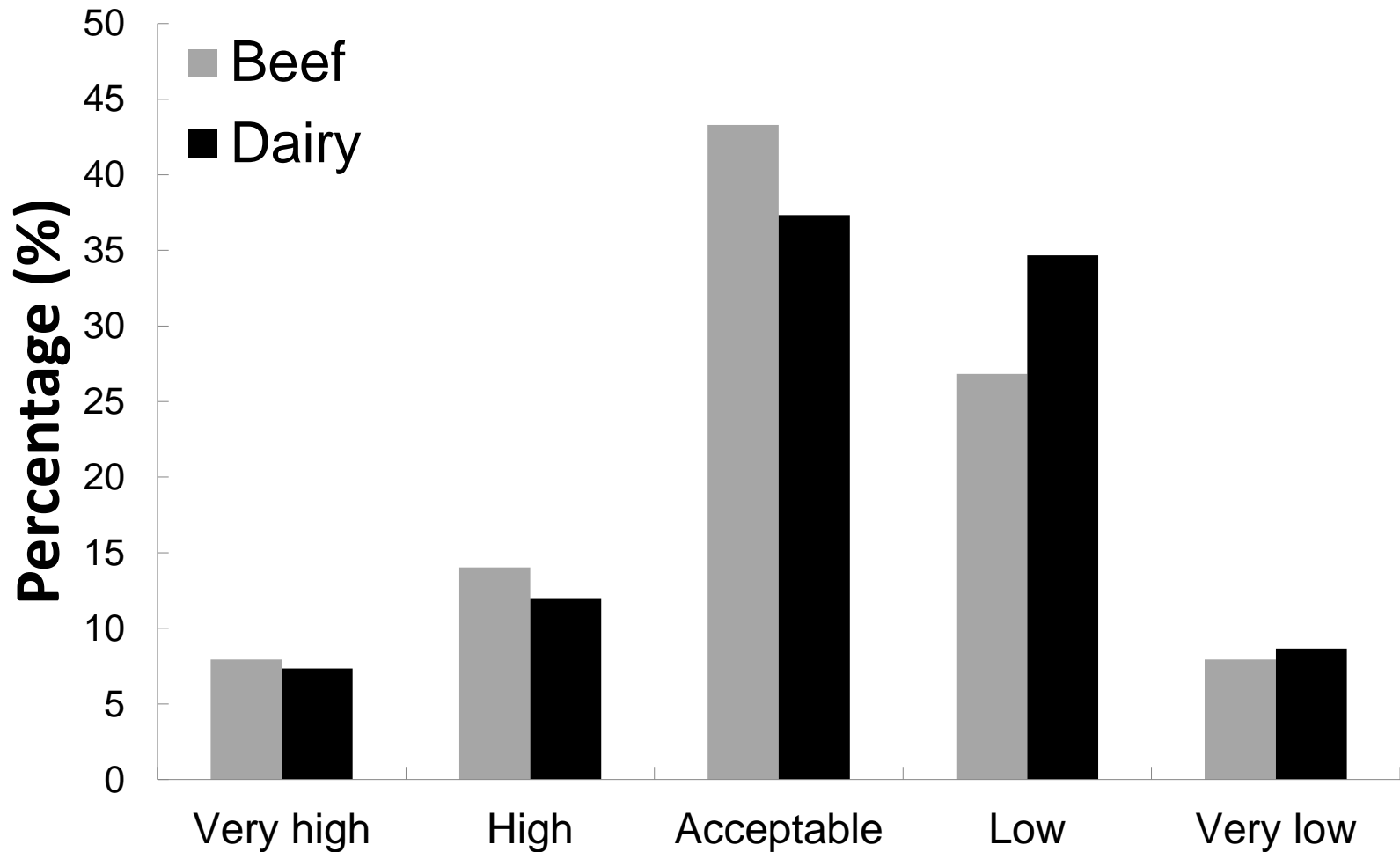


# Field margins



Results based approaches

## Quality of dominant habitat – Field margins



Assessment of field margin vegetation quality in a sample of intensive beef and dairy systems. From Larkin et al. (in review)





KerryLIFE  
control of  
sediment from  
critical source  
areas for  
conservation of  
freshwater pearl  
mussel



YEAR 1

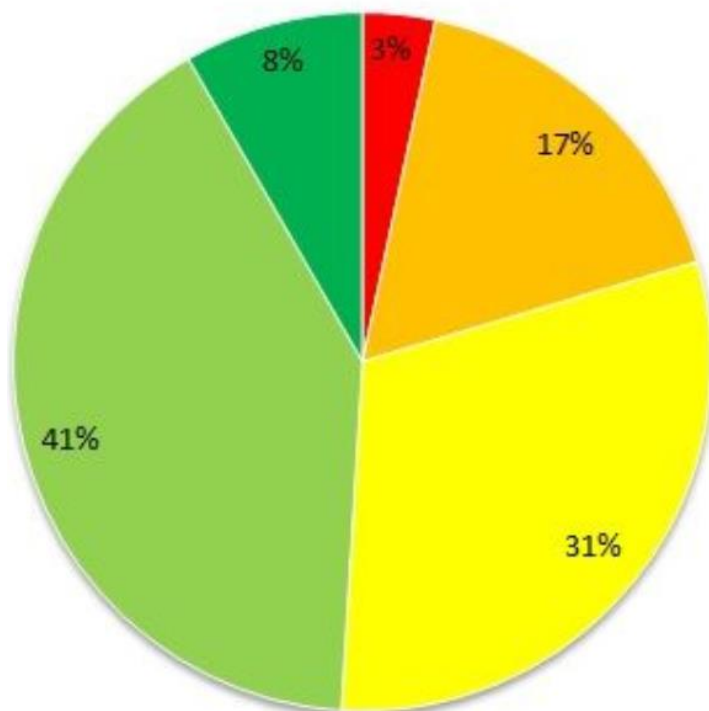


YEAR 3

## 3-year change in critical source areas (5 = target outcome)

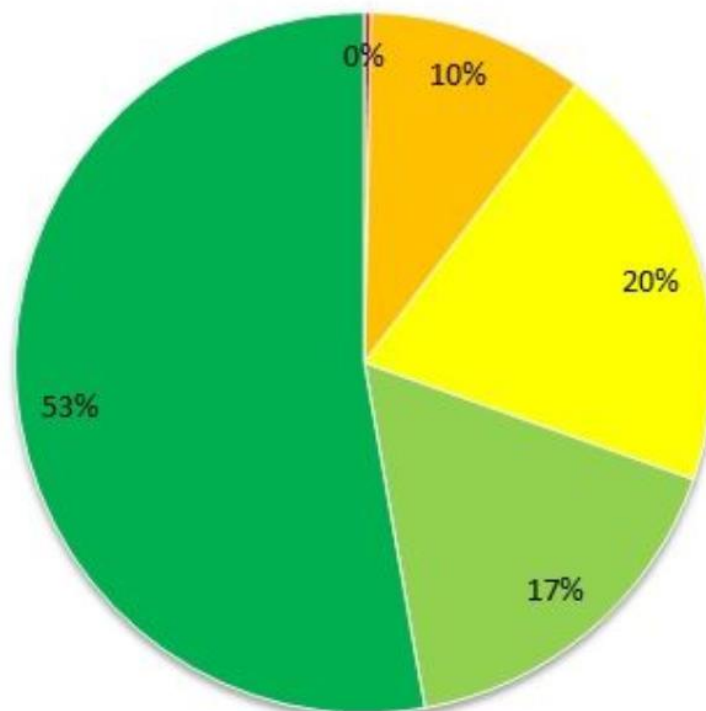
Year 1 CSA scores (434 ha)

1 2 3 4 5



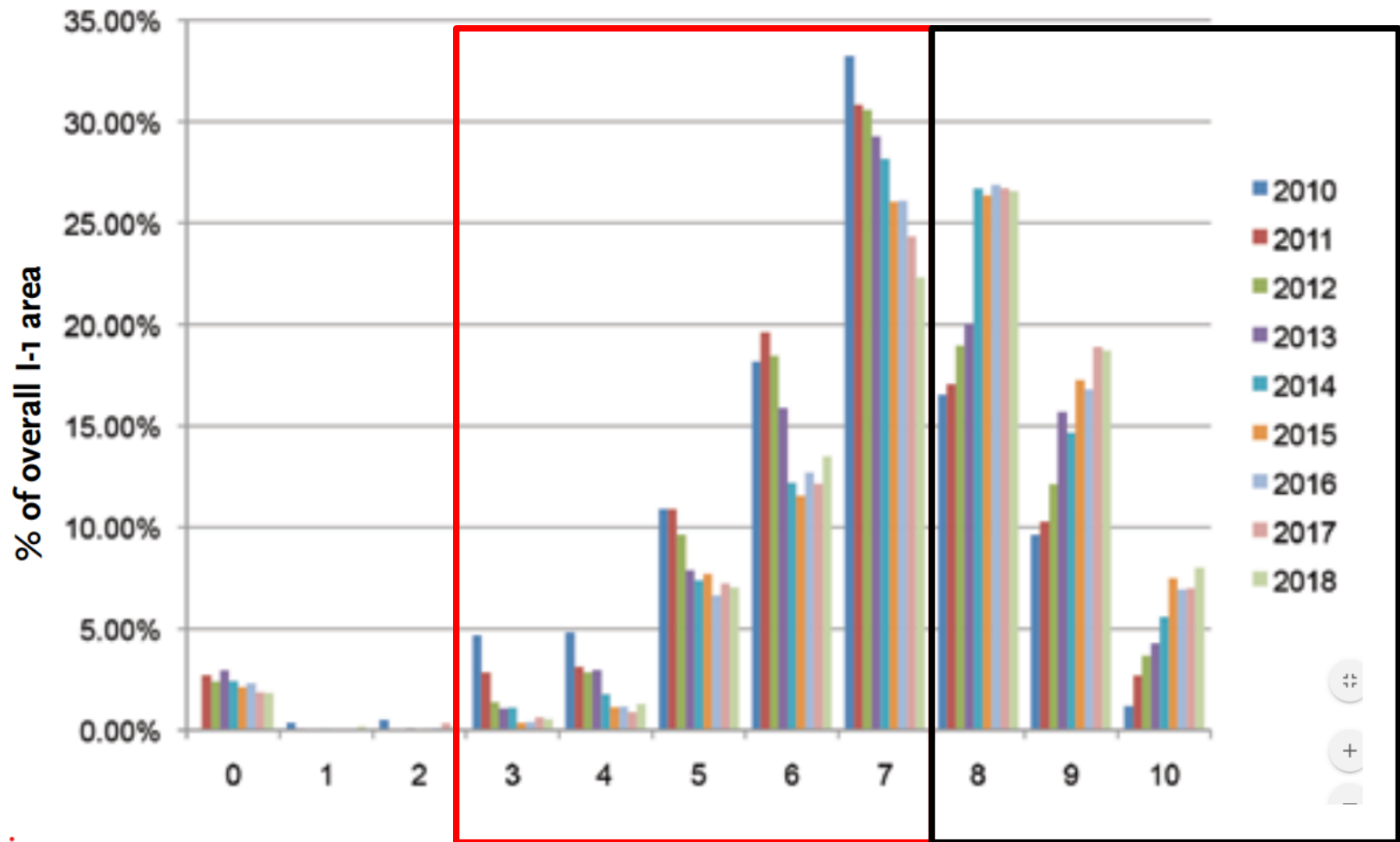
Year 3 CSA scores (434 ha)

1 2 3 4 5



# Results-based payments improved quality of species-rich grasslands

PERCENTAGE OF I-1 AREA PER SCORE, 2010 – 2018



From: Farming for Conservation in the Burren, Dunford and Parr 2020.



# *Results-based payments*

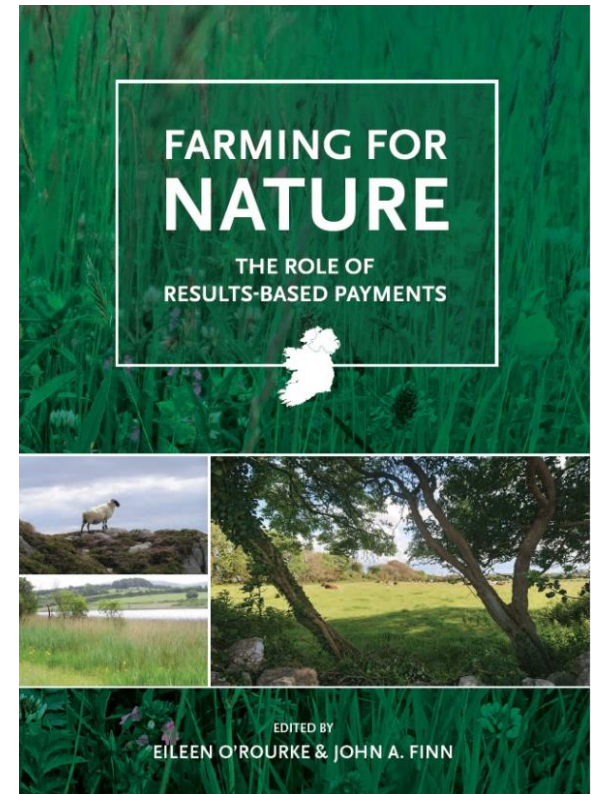
Alternative to (or complement) prescription-based payments

“Deep green” conservation approach (quality)

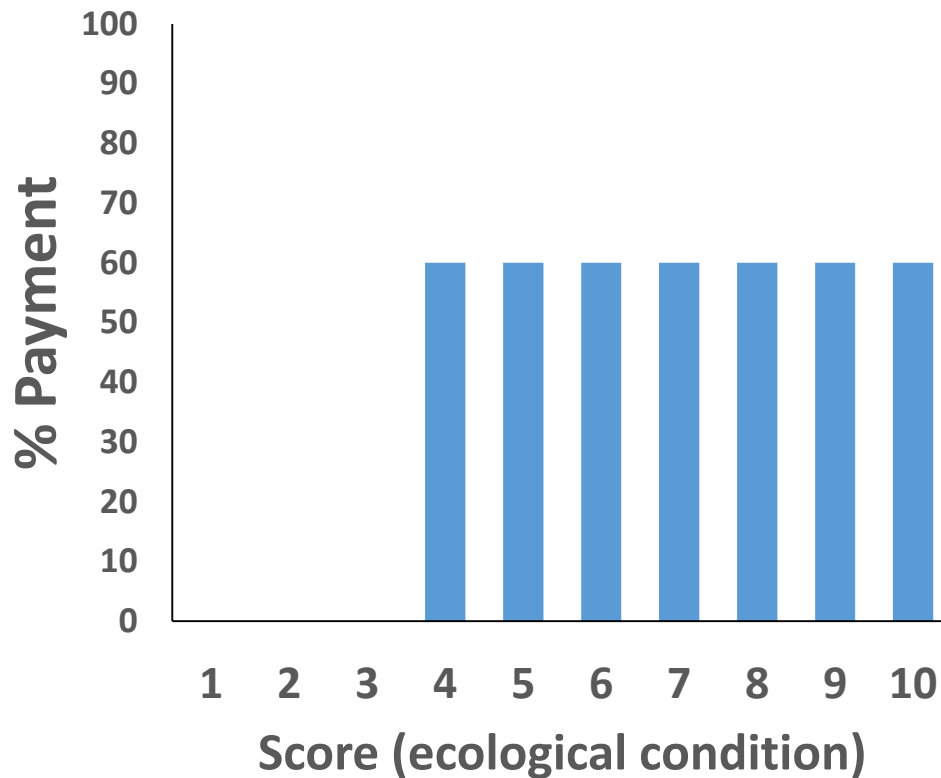
- Locally targeted and specific, evidence-based outcomes
- Specialised advice to support outcomes
- Rapid monitoring of outcomes
- Payment related to delivery of outcome

Ireland = leader in results-based approaches  
(Burren, LIFE projects, multiple EIPs)

Free download of book at: [www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature](http://www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature)



# *Prescription-based payments for biodiversity: - flat rate payments*



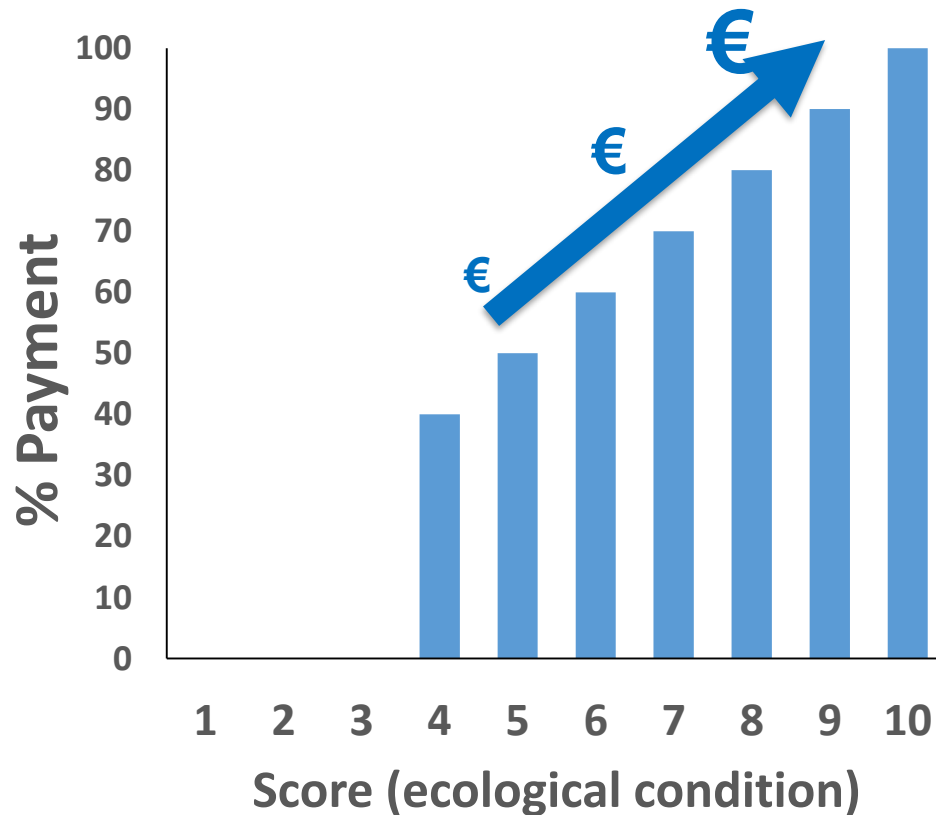
O'Rourke, E. and Finn, J.A. 2020. Farming for Nature: the Role of Results-Based Payments. Teagasc and NPWS.

Free download at: [www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature](http://www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature)



Images: James Moran

# Results-based payments for biodiversity - progressive payments



Images: James Moran

O'Rourke, E. and Finn, J.A. 2020. Farming for Nature: the Role of Results-Based Payments. Teagasc and NPWS.  
Free download at: [www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature](http://www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature)



# Market payments for public goods

...can complement and add value to public payments

...have specific criteria

...enhance public perception of farming

...are a specific aim in Farm to Fork



conservationgrade	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>home</li><li>nature friendly farming</li><li>cg licensees</li><li>cg farmers</li><li>cg people</li><li>news and publications</li><li>blog</li><li>partners</li><li>contact us</li></ul>	
Habitat Type	Required % of farmed area
Pollen & nectar mixes	4.0
Wild bird food crops	1.5
Tussocky & fine grass mixtures	2.0
Annually cultivated natural regeneration	0.5
Other habitats*	2.0
Total 10.0	

# Looking to the future: farmland biodiversity

- Biodiversity still declining, and target for CAP (largest fund). Policy choices can strongly affect biodiversity & ES
- How to credit farmers for their habitats and for improvements? (Neglected element of environmental sustainability.)
- Results-based payments for public goods (biodiv & ES)
- Market payments for public goods
- International trade and biodiversity impact (see FAO LEAP)
- Farmers will be central to biodiversity restoration
  - There are examples of effective conservation and restoration
  - Unprecedented recognition and appreciation in agri-food sector

## Further info:

- [www.teagasc.ie/environment/](http://www.teagasc.ie/environment/) #TeagascJC
- Farming for Nature: The Role of Results-Based Payments. Teagasc and NPWS. [www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature](http://www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature)
- CAP4Nature: ecological evidence base from Irish researchers
- Farming for Nature [www.farmingfornature.ie](http://www.farmingfornature.ie)
- BRIDE EIP. A Guide to Farming with nature. <https://www.thebrideproject.ie/>
- FAO LEAP 'Biodiversity and the livestock sector - Guidelines for quantitative assessment'
- 5<sup>th</sup> UN Global Biodiversity Outlook #GBO5

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