

ENVIRONMENT

August 2022

ACRES

The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) is the new Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) agri-environment scheme. This is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Strategic Plan awaiting approval, but the following proposed actions will help farmers to prepare. Find out more on the ACRES stand at the Open Day in Teagasc Johnstown Castle on Tuesday August 30, 2022 from 10.00am.

While many farmers will undertake grassland actions, all should consider the full suite of actions available. Please see the following:

- low-input grassland receiving up to €450/ha;
- extensive grassland: €200/ha;
- commonage: €220/ha; and,
- low-input grassland on peat: up to €450/ha.

Winter bird food plot:

- minimum 0.25ha – maximum 3ha;
 - must remain in situ until March 15; and,
 - same location for contract period.
- Payment €1,000/ha

Edited by
Catherine Keena,
Countryside Management Specialist

Winter bird food strip:

- 6m or 8m strip along a field boundary;
- only one margin width can be selected;
- works well with grass margins – arable (grey partridge); and,
- same location for contract period.

Payment: 6m €0.98/m – 8m €1.34/m

Ryegrass seed set:

- fence off a 10m ryegrass margin by June 1 until March 1 of the following year;
- same location for contract period.

Payment: €1.37/m

Grass margins – grassland:

- fence off by May 15 in year 1;
- do not cut in Year 1; and,
- in subsequent years cut between September and February over 10cm or graze in September only.

Payment: 2m €1.00/m – 3m €1.10/m – 6m €1.37/m



Grazing allowed from April 15 to September 15 on intensive grassland by a watercourse.

Intensive grassland by watercourse:

- grazing allowed from April 15 to September 15;
- no chemical or organic fertiliser; and,
- no reseeding or drainage.

Payment: €502/ha/year

Unharvested cereal headlands:

- 12m, 21m, 24m or 30m-wide headland;
- sow a cereal crop;
- only one margin width can be selected;
- retain until February 1; and,
- same location for contract period.

Payment: 12m €1.26/m – 24m €2.52/m – 21m €2.20/m – 30m €3.15/m

Brassica fodder stubble:

- establish before July 31;
- minimum 0.5ha, maximum 10ha;
- must graze after October 15;

- leave stubble undisturbed until March 1; and,
- can be rotated.

Payment: €120/ha

Over winter stubble:

- following harvest cultivate soil to encourage green cover;
- minimum 0.5ha, maximum 50ha;
- retain stubble until February 1; and,
- this measure can be rotated.

Payment: €86/ha

Catch crops:

- establish before September 15;
- minimum 0.5ha, maximum 20ha;
- retain until January 1;
- after January 1, light grazing or incorporation is permitted; and,
- can be rotated.

Payment: €173.20/ha

Grass margins arable:

- sow a grass mix in year one before May 15; and,
- cut annually after August 31 and before January 15.

Width	Payment rate
3m	€0.38
4m	€0.51
6m	€0.76
8m	€1.01

Minimum tillage:

- minimum 0.51ha, maximum 50ha.
- Payment: €40/ha

Riparian buffer strips and zones – arable:

Sow a grass mix by May 31.

Strip width	Payment rate
3m	€0.38
4m	€0.51
6m	€0.77
8m	€1.02

- Zone: area minimum 0.04ha (minimum width 10m);
- payment rate: €1,242/ha;
- no chemical or organic fertiliser; and,
- can be cut but not between March 1 and August 31.

Planting trees in a riparian buffer zone:

- plant native trees;
- minimum spacing between trees is 2m;
- not more than 200/ha; and,
- minimum 10 and maximum 200.

Payment: €3.18/tree/year



Planting hedges offers a payment of €5.29/m/year.

Hedges:

Planting: €5.29/m/year

Coppicing: €2.87/m/year

Laying: €5.47/m/year

Planting trees:

- plant in rows, groups, parkland;
- minimum 10 general and maximum 300; and,
- control vegetation.

Payment: €6.21/tree/year

Planting trees to capture carbon:

- minimum 0.18ha;
- maximum 0.5ha; and,
- maximum payment: €5,028/ha/year.

Archaeological monuments:

- grassland: €125/monument;
- tillage: €209/monument; and,
- minimum one monument and maximum 10 monuments.



FARMING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

TECHNOLOGIES FOR TODAY & TOMORROW

Tuesday, 30th August | Johnstown Castle | 10am

At this open day, get information on the latest practices and tools to improve your farming business and to support your farm in meeting future challenges

Rare breeds:

- cattle – Kerry, Dexter, Irish Maol (Moiled), and Droimeann;
- horses and ponies – Connemara Pony, Irish Draught, Kerry Bog;
- sheep and goats – Galway, Old Irish Goat, Pony;
- must be a member of a relevant Irish breeding society at application;
- payment: €200/LU/year; and,
- an additional €75 for registered progeny.

Traditional dry stone walls:

- maintain.

Payment: €0.76/m

Traditional orchards:

- one orchard (10 trees).

Payment: €27.49/tree

Barn owl box:

- indoors/outdoors.

Payment: €36.48/year

Low-emission slurry spreading:

- all slurry applied using low-emission slurry spreading (LESS) equipment.

Payment: €1.20/m³