

# Fodder Support Scheme 2023

## Frequently Asked Questions

- **Is the Fodder Support Scheme 2023 open to new applicants?**

No, the scheme is not open to new applicants. The re-opening of the scheme is to facilitate existing 2023 Fodder Support Scheme applicants to reduce their previously declared cuts if required. For example, the area they are cutting for silage/hay in 2023 is less than what they cut in 2022.

- **Was FSS 2023 open to all farmers?**

The FSS 2023 was open to all farmers who made a valid FSS 2022 application. It was open for applications from 02/11/2022 to 05/12/2022.

- **Can I amend the cuts declared on my FSS 2023 application?**

Yes, amendments to reduce the cuts previously declared are permitted, however you cannot increase your declared cuts. A how to guide to reduce your cuts is available on [gov.ie - Fodder Support Scheme \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

- **When can I amend the cuts declared on my 2023 Fodder Support Scheme application?**

You will have the opportunity to reduce the area entered in the 2023 Fodder Support Scheme, when the online system re-opens during the period 17<sup>th</sup> July to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023.

- **What land is eligible for the scheme?**

Grassland declared on the applicant's 2023 BISS is eligible for the scheme. Grassland is defined as BISS parcels containing alfalfa, arable silage(grass), clover, extensively grazed pasture (ACRES), grass years 1-5, grass years 1-5 (MSS), grass years 1-5 (MSS Measure) grass year 1-5 (MSS Eco-Scheme), grassmeal, Low Input Grassland (ACRES), Low Input Peat Grassland (ACRES), Low Input Permanent Pasture (LIPP), Lucerne, Permanent Pasture, Permanent Pasture (MSS), Permanent Pasture (MSS Measure), Permanent Pasture (MSS Eco-Scheme), Management of Intensive grassland next to watercourse (ACRES), red clover, and traditional hay meadow. Tillage land is not eligible for the Fodder Support Scheme.

- **Do I need to list all my LPIS parcels that make up the area I am applying for in the 2023 Fodder Support Scheme?**

No, the applicant does not need to list the parcels they intend to cut for hay and/or silage in their 2023 Fodder Support Scheme application.

- **Do I need to take a photo of all parcels I am including?**

No, however, administrative and on the spot checks will take place which may include photographs submitted in a manner described by the Department.

- **Do I have to download the Agri Snap app?**

This will not be compulsory but may be used to facilitate administrative checks where possible.

- **Do I need a FAS advisor to apply?**

If you are linked to a FAS advisor/advisory agency, they can apply on your behalf if you wish to engage them, but farmers are also permitted to apply themselves through agfood.ie if they so wish.

If a farmer intends to submit their application via their registered FAS advisor, the advisor must be associated on the Department's Exceptional Aid system with the farmer. If a new association is required or the farmer is changing their advisor, this can **only** be done by using the SMS authorisation facility. Paper form authorisations will **not** be accepted.

- **Can I submit a manual application via mail or post?**

FSS 2023 applications had to be submitted online **only** through agfood.ie on or before 23.59hrs on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. Manual applications were **not** accepted.

- **Can leased land be included?**

Yes, once the land is at the applicant's disposal and is an eligible hectare declared on his/her BISS 2023 application.

- **Do I have to use the fodder conserved on my own farm or can I sell some or all of the fodder?**

You can sell some or all of the fodder produced on the holding, but you may be asked to produce evidence demonstrating the cutting and conserving of the fodder and the subsequent sale of the fodder such as receipts/bank statements etc.

- **If I am selected for an administrative check, what do I need to supply?**

The following non-exhaustive list of methods may be used by the Department as a means of assuring that the Scheme is being complied with:

- Receipts to support that fodder has been grown, cut and conserved – for example receipts from a contractor to mow, bale, wrap etc, the grassland area in hectares entered for the Scheme.
- Receipts must include sufficient details which must include supplier name and address, applicant name and address, date of purchase, quantity and type of material.
- Geo-tagged photos submitted in a manner described by the Department.

- **How can I contact the Fodder Support Scheme Section?**

You can contact FSS by phone: 0578674422, email: [fss@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:fss@agriculture.gov.ie) or in writing at Fodder Support Scheme, Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine, Government Offices, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 RPA6