

Fri 18th November 2022
Tuesday 22nd November 2022
Wednesday 23rd November 2022

Applications:

1. Proof of membership for breed society i.e., a letter with herd number and owner along with membership number for 2022. Is all that we upload at application stage at final step?

Yes proof of membership issued by breed society only requirement at application stage.

2. In the case of a client who made a 2022 BPS application under a reference number as they are changing over to a company and their details appear in GLAMS under their old herd number with their 2021 lands showing (i.e. new lands acquired in 2022 are not showing on GLAMS due to they being declared under the 2022 reference number B.P.S. application) How do I enter actions for their new 2022 lands on GLAMS & how do I link their ACRES application to the reference number/new herd number when it becomes available?

Once the company is set up and the DAFM business id is available the farmer / agent must instruct BPS section at bpsref@agriculture@gov.ie to link the reference number used for the 2022 BPS to the company business id. The agent must also ensure that the client-agent link with the company is in place (DAFM online services) to allow the agent to submit the application on behalf of the new company.

3. Where the Herd No has just changed from 'Reps of' to new farmer 's name but 2021 and 2022 BPS went in as 'Reps of 'and all land is the same - can the new farmer go into ACRES in Tranche 1?

Yes. Once the case is out of the REPS of category the herd of the new owner will be linked with the BPS 2021 and 2022. This assumes that this herd owner was entitled to the estate at the point the case went into the REPS Of category.

4. When planning an RFP – do we plan under the partnership number or the original herd number? Both are open on Glams to plan.

Where a partnership exists all stages of the ACRES application (EOI, FSP and application) can only be made in the partnership number and not in the herd number.

5. Withdrawals of plots from ACRES? I assume 2023 BPS application will give us the chance to rectify where this occurs?

Once an ACRES approval issues, a request to withdrawn land from the contract must be submitted directly to the ACRES section.

6. The Forest Service in the DAFM are proposing a new Native Tree Area Scheme for areas less than 1ha. with a Grant of E6,744/ha. and a 10-year premium of E1103/ha. How compatible is this with the ACRES?
Refer to section 15 'ACRES and Forestry' in the Schemes Terms and Conditions.
7. Will it be permitted to amend a farm sustainability plan after it is submitted?
Requests to amend FSPs can be sent to acres@agriculture.gov.ie, after the closing date of ACRES. Once the ACRES application (step 3 of the process) is submitted it will not be possible to make amendments.
8. Follow on question to Answer No 2 from 1/2/7 Nov:
The existing farm partnership does not intend joining acres until 2023. The question relates to the eligibility of the partnership to apply in 2023 given that one of the partners will not have had a BPS application in 2022?
Where a second ACRES tranche is agreed by DAFM (no agreement on this yet) eligibility will be based on the BPS/BISS application submitted by the partnership for 2022.
9. In the case of an existing farm partnership (multi herd - 2 herd numbers between father and son) – another son is to apply for a herd number this November and join the existing partnership in 2023. Will the new farm partnership (now 3 herd numbers) be eligible for ACRES in the 2023 tranche with a multiplier of 3 (3 herd numbers) given that the new herd number will not have had a BPS application in 2022??
Section 10 of the Terms and Conditions of ACRES ('the Terms and Conditions') deals with treatment of partnerships as regards participation in the Scheme, with Section 10.8 stating 'A registered farm partnership (RFP) who is participating in the ACRES may dissolve for the purposes of reconstituting as a new RFP **but only where holding multipliers remain the same.**' As stated in Section 14.6 of the Terms and Conditions "Any change to the name of the farmer or legal status, which transfers control of the holding to a new entity, requires prior approval from ACRES Section of the Department for the transfer of the ACRES contract".
10. I note that the DAFM have made the decision to recategorize some from CP to General but there are many others who have rented land in the CP which will not be able to form part of a 5-year contract and they should also be moved over to General approach. I have tried to engage with the DAFM on an individual farm by farm basis on such cases. Surely these should be allowed out of the CP if it is their express wish to do so and based on their circumstances. Eligibility is based on BPS 2021. Stream determination (CP or general) based on 2021 data and land holdings.
11. Is it possible to submit an ACRES plan on one half of a farm, retire and transfer the ACRES contract to the person that is to get that section of the farm? Where a person retires from farming a request can be made to the ACRES section to transfer the contract to the person taking control of the farm. Considered on a case-by-case basis. Refer to section 14 of the Terms and Conditions.

12. Rare Breeds. The Dexter Society are informing farmers that a receipt showing membership has been paid will suffice to upload at time of Acres application. Is this correct or will actual membership cert be required at application stage? [Certificate or statement from society confirming membership.](#)
13. Farmer has an area of land in a cp zone with the remainder of the farm being non cp. Can he lease out the cp lands at any stage of the contract and remain in ACRES? [Where any ACRES contract lands are disposed on during the contract, Clawback may apply.](#)
14. Would it be possible to have the different actions as outlined on the maps appearing as different colours, currently RBZ, LIG and EGP all appear shaded purple? Also, any labels we put on the maps while mapping do not transfer to the plan – why? In REAP the labelling was mirrored in the plan. What standard of plan is proposed for giving to the farmer?
[Each participant will receive an Approval Summary in Q1 of 2023 similar to GLAS.](#)
15. Is DAFM able to give consent for any Activities Requiring Consent – as suggested in the Specifications?
[If an ACRES participant wishes to undertake Activities Requiring Consent/Notifiable Actions on an ACRES parcel, they should ensure that they obtain consent by contacting \[acres@agriculture.gov.ie\]\(mailto:acres@agriculture.gov.ie\)](#)
[There are currently no ACRES participants. It is only after a farmer is approved into the scheme that they are considered an ACRES participant.](#)
16. Rare Breeds – For Irish Draughts - Is membership of the Irish Draught Horse Society sufficient or does it have to be membership of the Irish Horse Board?
[Must be a member of The Irish Horse Board and have a letter showing proof of membership for the Irish Draft breed.](#)
17. When trying to submit soil samples with application and it won't let me select a date before the 18th of October 2022 (the soil samples in question were taken in September 2022). However, the spec says soil samples taken after the 1st of January 2022 are, ok?
[This is being investigated by our IT colleagues and will be fixed in due course.](#)
18. Please confirm that where a farmer is >130 kgs / ha OR > 30 ha of arable crops in 2021 and undertakes the appropriate action and achieved entry to ACRES based on Tier 2 status – that there is No requirement to remain >130 kgs / ha OR > 30 ha of arable crops for the duration of the ACRES contract.
[Yes, that is the case. Check is for 2021 only. They must continue to deliver the minimum for TIER 2 action selected.](#)

19. Please confirm that where a farmer is >100 kgs / ha in 2021 and undertakes the Management of Intensive Grassland next to an eligible watercourse – that there is no requirement to remain >100 kgs / ha for the duration of the ACRES contract.
This was already confirmed in previous Q&A documents.

Co-operative Approach

20. Rented CP land that we might not have in year 3 of programme - what do we do in this situation?

The applicant has the choice of whether to include rented or leased NON-COMMONAGE forage CP parcels in their ACRES contract. By submitting a scorecard in year 1 they are declaring those parcels as ACRES contract lands and committing to farm those parcels for the full period of the ACRES contract. They have the option to not submit a scorecard for those parcels in year 1 and leave them out of ACRES. All owned CP forage land that is farmed and that was declared on 2022 BPS must be scored and included in the ACRES contract.

21. What happens if a farmer is now deemed eligible for ACRES CP but will no longer have any Co-operation land in 2023?

The ring-fencing calculation is based on the 2022 BPS. If the CP forage land was farmed in 2022 then this will limit the funding available for General actions. The Applicant can apply for General Actions subject to the ring-fencing rule. They will be able to apply for additional NPIs in each year of the contract. They will have a budget of €52,500 available over the 5 years of the scheme.

22. On a CP plan, which has enough non-commonage leased land to get to €7,000 with Ring Fencing, which may or may not be leased for 2023 onwards. I understand if the CP land is on the 2023 BISS – it will be scored. If not the €7,000 and the €3,500 will be available for Actions. My question is – if actions are chosen on the non-CP land now will they count if the CP land is not leased?

Non-commonage Leased forage land is not included for ring fencing calculation. You need to read all previous Q&A docs sent to advisors and the ACRES specifications relating to ACRES CP. Ring Fencing Calculation is based on 2022 BPS not the 2023 BISS.

23. If a farmer no longer has any co-operation land in 2023, but is currently listed as co-operation due to this leased land, what happens?

Non-commonage Leased forage CP land is not included for ring fencing calculation. If the applicant had Zero commonage on 2022 BPS and they had zero owned non-commonage CP forage land on 2022 BPS then the full €7,000 is available for General actions and a further €3,500 is available for NPIs and Landscape Actions.

24. If a farmer claims/leases new land or commonage in 2022 BPS that is within CP Area – They are classed as general stream 2021 - will they be assessed as CP once submitted?

The eligibility to apply for ACRES CP is based on 2021 BPS. New lands declared on 2022 BPS have no bearing on whether a farmer is eligible to apply for the ACRES CP approach

25. I've a situation where a farmer split a parcel in 2020, A&B. A being permanent pasture and B being spring barley. In the following year, the parcel was amalgamated and associated as being Grass year one. Now I am trying to associate E.G LIG with part A of this parcel (which was untouched in 2020) and I am unable to do so as the parcel is a rocky/mountain area ideal for these actions. Any solution please?

These validations in GLAM are based on information that is received from BPS. There is nothing that can be done in GLAM to override this.

26. What actions will a farmer in a Co-operative with a river be able to complete to receive top up.

The full list of NPIs will be available at a later date.

27. If a farmer loses rented CP commonage land during the ACRES contract – is there a clawback of payments?

No

28. An existing organic farmer has approx. 100 ha of owned CP land and a 20-ha share in a nearby commonage. If he joins ACRES will he get paid 145 euro/ha for his commonage and 270/ha for 30 ha of the cp land.

Commonage payment based on results of scoring; it will only be paid €145/ha in ACRES if it gets a score of 8. Commonage is not eligible for OFS payments. The ring-fencing calculation is solely to ensure there is adequate funding available for results-based payments. It does not guarantee any farmer payments from the results-based payments. You need to read all previous Q&A docs sent to advisors and the ACRES specifications relating to ACRES CP.

29. A person who in 2021 had zero land in a cp zone leased land but both commonage and non-commonage land, in a cp zone in 2022. This individual is a general applicant on the basis of the 2021 application. Can this individual apply to acres with the cp area land leased in 2022 or must they wait until tranche 2? If applications are on the basis of the 2022 BPS application and the inclusion of commonage is mandatory, can this individual apply on their owned land outside of the cp area? What is mandatory in an application in this scenario?

They can only apply as a general applicant in 2022(Tranche 1). All commonage is mandatory whether you apply as ACRES CP applicant or as an ACRES General applicant. They have the option of waiting for Tranche 2. They can choose from the full list of general actions and select them on any of their 2022 LPIS parcels that meet the site suitability requirements. Commonage is the only mandatory action.

30. It states must ring fence Commonage in CP area. Does this also apply to the Commonage not within the CP ZONE owned by the same participant?

Yes, In ACRES CP Funding is ring fenced for all commonage land regardless of where it is located.

Area based actions:

31. How much of purple river water line must be fenced for riparian buffer zone i.e., if we go 20 metres and use riparian buffer strip for rest of it and extend it further out does this work?

The types of streams etc that RBZ's and Riparian strips can be placed alongside are stated clearly on page 89 of the specification. The minimum length for area RBZ is 0.04ha. If a RBZ is created along a stream that is an OSI waterline or water single streamline then the remainder of the stream can be selected as a Riparian Buffer Strip.

32. Riparian Buffer zones. Rectangle field with surface drain all around. If we split this parcel in 2 for example, can we have LIG on the other half i.e., have we to fence all surface drains or is it just the OSI water line and water streamlines that must be fenced all-round the parcel?

The parcel can be split in two and RBZ selected on one parcel. The fencing requirements for this action are set out in the Specifications and Q and A documents Where a Riparian buffer strip or Riparian Buffer zone – Split parcel (SP) is being created in a parcel, bovines are not permitted to access any OSI Water line or single streamline watercourse at other locations in the parcel (drinking points are not permitted).

There is no mandatory fencing requirement for drains that are not identified by the OSI waterline or water single streamline.

33. Riparian Buffer Zone - Does the farmer have to be carrying out a farming activity the other side of the buffer? e.g., a parcel away from the main farm on its own - can this be a whole parcel RBZ (e.g., whole field is 4.53ha) or would you have to leave the non RBZ in grass?

Once the parcel has an MEA of greater than zero the whole parcel can be selected as RBZ but the maximum area for payment will be 2ha.

34. Riparian Buffer Zone Grassland states that it must be 20m in width. Does the parcel have to be 20m wide at all points or will it be based on an average of the parcel width?

The RBZ must extend back at least 20m from the watercourse or boundary feature at the widest points along the zone. See Q 19 in Q and A document dated 7th November.

35. Can a parcel that is located in an SAC be split into two actions e.g., LIG and Extensive Grazing, if yes do we need to fence between the fields if no natural boundary between the split parcels.

In Natura, where erecting a new fence is listed as an activity requiring consent for that specific SAC/SPA, split parcels can only be created where an existing defined field boundary is already present.

So, if the whole parcel is Natura the advisor must check the permitted activities in the relevant site code before splitting the parcel.

36. Winter bird food - additional guidance mentions not to select sites near dwellings. As this is additional guidance and not a requirement can WBF be carried out near dwelling houses with permission of the dwelling owner.

It is not a requirement. Permission from adjacent house owner in this example is recommended.

37. Catch Crops - can the catch crops location be changed for year 1 on the 2023 BISS application or do they have to remain on the parcels that we apply on in acres for year 1?

Yes, the parcels where all 4 rotational actions will be delivered in year 1 can be changed in BISS application in 2023.

38. On page 100 of the specifications, it states (bottom of page) that max individual area where a group of trees can be planted is 1 hectare. Does that mean that we have to split this area off an LPIS parcel and show it as a separately digitised area?

See questions 28-30 on Q and A document dated 17th October and the revised Specifications.

39. Can a farmer with a 12ha parcel with 0.5ha of SAC present be divided into a split parcel extensive grazing and rest of parcel excluded from area-based actions.

Yes, if but if they want to get Tier 1 access the EGP must intersect with Natura layer. The split parcel boundary should be outside the SAC in order to erect a fence if no existing field boundary exists.

In Natura, where erecting a new fence is listed as an activity requiring consent for that specific SAC/SPA, split parcels can only be created where an existing defined field boundary is already present.

40. What happens if a 2-acre site is sold in 2023 from a LIG plot? Should it be excluded now, or will it be picked up at BPS time?

If you know 2 acres will be sold and excluded from BISS in 2023, you can split the parcel now on GLAM and only select LIG in the split parcel that will be farmed for full contract. Fence off LIG split parcel from 1st January 2023. Alternatively, Select the entire parcel for LIG and adjust the claim for that parcel and the change in parcel boundary through the BISS application.

41. Does WBC on a grassland farm count as an arable crop in 2022. If so, can it be converted to environmental management of fallow for ACRES in 2023 or should there be an arable enterprise on farm?

Yes, it is. The parcel can be chosen EMAF in ACRES.

42. Rotational Tillage Actions - Following on from confirmation (31 Oct No 33) that a farmer can apply for over winter stubble on a grass field and carry out the action on arable for the next 5 years – is it the same for catch crops, min till and brassica fodder stubble?

Yes, actions must meet the requirements for each year of contract. There is no 2022 crop code check for these actions.

43. Min Till must be delivered on the next crop establishment following approval into ACRES. Does the Min Till declared on the 2023 BISS refer to the calendar year 2023 OR autumn winter 2023 and Spring 24?

For year 1(2023) It refers to the crop that will be sown using Min Till techniques in 2023. Any crop sown in the selected parcel in 2023 must be sown using Min Till techniques. There must be at least 1 tillage crop sown using Min till techniques in the selected parcel in the relevant year of ACRES payment. Crops sown in 2022 are not relevant and contract starts 1 Jan 2023.

44. Geese and Swans - Where the full farm of 27 ha is under Geese and Swan with 15 in CP and 11 ha Non-CP, Is the Geese and Swan action calculated at 50% of 11 ha OR 50% of 27ha?

When calculating the 50% requirement, it is only the area under the mapped layer in arable or grassland LPIS parcels that should be taken into account. Commonage parcels or CP forage parcels are not included in the calculation.

45. In relation to Geese and Swans area on tillage parcels, spec says to establish a winter cereal crop by 15th October, is winter Oilseed Rape suitable?

No.

46. Can a traditional orchard be selected on an area used by free range hens, which is claimed as grazing on BPS?

The hens must be excluded from the orchard.

47. Late Meadow Bonus – I understand there is a box to be ticked if the farmer intends to apply for the Late Meadow Bonus – will there be an opportunity for farmers to choose this option next summer?

A request will be sent to all LIG and LIPG participants annually. If applicable in any year of contract, those cutting the whole parcel as a late meadow can make a claim by submitting a Geo-tagged photograph(s), via the AgriSnap App, giving a clear representation of the mown meadow. The photo must be submitted to DAFM on the **date of mowing or within 5 days after mowing** activity (but must be prior to significant grass re-growth).

48. For farmers with large areas of Natura in ACRES General – are the Maximum areas of actions similar to non-Natura? (E.g., 10 ha of LIG; 8 ha of EGP; etc.)

yes

49. On a 100 ha non commonage Organic farm in CP which will all be scored – with the ACRES payment reduced by €250 / ha for Organic farms – if all the land scored 8 will the ACRES Results Based payment be 100 ha @ €50 /ha (score 8)?

Yes

50. Can cattle use a crossing point in the river *occasionally* during the year? Where its fenced for Area Based actions while animals are in the field?

No

51. Where it is a Riparian Zone or Strip?

No

52. Does a RBZ Area need to be attached to the Waterline, Stream or drain at all points or can the RBZ be attached to the Waterline via a 20m x 20m strip and then extend into the field where an area is fenced but only touches the waterline through the 20m x 20m strip?

The area selected has to be adjacent to the watercourse/drain at some point. The parcel in which the action is selected also has to be adjacent to or include the watercourse/drain.

53. Where a proposed field for a RBZ has a stream on the boundary but a farm roadway on the field side of the stream, can the farmer put 2 gates on the roadway leading in and out of the RBZ as access is required to lands beyond the proposed RBZ? Can the farmer use this roadway for moving cattle once a fence is erected beside the stream and a fence is erected on the field side of the roadway, therefore the roadway is entirely fenced and only used for machinery/moving cattle?

This is Not allowed. See previous Q and A's.

54. The action environmental management of arable fallow to get Tier 2 access in a VWA are parcels in the VWA which have a winter crop at present eligible for this action as the spring requirement to create bare ground by shallow cultivation before the 31st of March next could not be met. Please advise.

It is not possible to fulfil the requirements for this action in 2023 with the presence of a winter crop and so the action should not be chosen on that LPIS. EMAF is not the only action that can qualify an arable area in a VWA for Tier 2.

55. Catch crop...if someone applies on catch crop now on rented land 2022 and subsequently loses it in 2023, can the farmer change/rotate it to an alternative 2023 parcel at BISS 2023 application stage as was case on GLAS?

yes

56. Do watercourses have to be fenced off on LIG or EGP, when these plots are only grazed by sheep? It states livestock but traditionally sheep do not enter watercourses. The fencing requirements for OSI Water line or single streamline watercourse in EGP are

just for Bovines. Any damage that may be done to watercourses in areas chosen for LIG will be addressed in the scorecards.

57. Rented land designated as Geese and Swans is being dropped in 2023. Does this area under mapped geese and swans still have to be included for the minimum 50% calculation?

See question 27 in the Q and A document dated 27th October. The calculation includes rented land.

58. Riparian Buffer Zone Grassland: if a farmer has a parcel with a lake in it, but the OSI water lines do not show up on that parcel. Can a farmer select this parcel for riparian buffer zone if PIP Phosphorus Focussed Delivery Flow points are showing on his map as very high?

It can be chosen as RBZ.

59. Geese & Swans - Land designated G&S has a grass gallop for horses around the perimeter which is used from November to March. No animals or machinery are on the land bar horses galloping on the gallop. Would this be still eligible for G&S?

No, as it would disturb birds. You must Close off parcels from livestock and machinery from 1 October to 31 March in each year of the contract (except for hedge cutting which can take place up until 31 October).

Can you have 10Ha of LIG Peat and 10Ha of LIG payable on a single farm? **yes**

Also, it appears both are allowed for meadow on the Specifications document, but on the GLAM system the meadow tick box is not there for LIG Peat, is meadow allowed on LIG Peat?

A request will be sent to all LIG and LIPG participants annually. If applicable in any year of contract, those cutting the whole parcel as a late meadow can make a claim by submitting a Geo-tagged photograph(s), via the AgriSnap App, giving a clear representation of the mown meadow. The photo must be submitted to DAFM on the **date of mowing or within 5 days after mowing** activity (but must be prior to significant grass re-growth).

60. LIG: 1 parcel of land and 2 fields within the parcel. Farmer intends cutting the late meadow/hay option in 1 of the fields. Do we create 2 LIG parcels on GLAMS and select the late meadow option for only the one going to be cut? There is a hedge and earthen bank between the 2 fields. Does there need to be a fence, even though both proposed actions are LIG?

No need for fence if field boundary is in place. Late meadow bonus can only be applied for during the ACRES contract if the entire LIPS parcel is eligible. The parcel would need to be split at time of completing the FSP.

61. Can we select Management of Intensive Grassland Next to a Watercourse in a parcel that's located within an SAC?

Yes

62. Will farmers be allowed use homegrown seed for the WBC and Fallow Management options?

Home grown seed is allowed for WBF but not for Catch crops.

63. Have a client who is in a geese and swan area who would also like to do a hedgerow along a ditch if he plants his hedge and fences this off and meets spec of G&S - will this be acceptable?

New hedgerow in not allowed in the same parcel/split parcel that has been selected for the Geese and Swans Action.

Linear based actions

64. Could DAFM show us an example of what rivers, surface drains have to be fenced if fields have a mix of rivers and surface drains? What has to be fenced in remainder of field if choosing strip or buffer zone? Can riparian margins be completed on surface drains? Have we to fence all on farm or parcel then?

The fencing requirements for each action are set out in the Specifications. The Q and A documents have provided further clarification. The locations where Riparian margins can be chosen are set out clearly on page 89 of Specifications.

65. You stated that a letter of consent is required for planting a hedge where the farmer requires access to one of the sides. Can a boundary hedge be coppiced or laid where a letter of consent is also obtained?

No, External farm boundaries CANNOT be entered for this action and will not be paid unless the external farm boundary adjoins a public road, watercourse or water body.

66. In stonewall maintenance in a length of stonewall e.g. 50m there is some mortar at the pier at start does that exclude the whole length or just the length with mortar in it?

Just select the length without the mortar.

67. Riparian Buffer Strip Grassland - Can a Riparian Buffer Strip Grassland be selected in a parcel of land where there is an Extensively grazed pasture split on. I know it is mandatory as part of the extensively grazed pasture to fence 1.5m from the top of the bank. Therefore, if it is fenced 3 metre from the top of the bank is it eligible for a riparian buffer strip (1.5metre width) payment?

Riparian Buffer grassland strip and EGP cannot be placed on the same Split parcel. Any LPIS parcel(s) that is split for area actions will receive a new LPIS number once digitised in the 2023 BISS application. Several split parcel actions can be selected on each existing LPIS and other actions can be selected in the remaining area. **Note:**

When splitting parcels, do not create a parcel that is less than 20 metres wide. Parcels less than 20 metres wide will not be digitised and consequently will not be deemed eligible as split parcels (all actions on the parcel may also be deemed ineligible). Participants should note that where a fence is erected to delineate the boundary of a split parcel, this fence cannot be used as part of the fencing requirements for the follow actions: Coppicing of hedgerows; Grass margins – Grassland; Laying of hedgerows; Planting a new hedgerow; Planting a traditional orchard; Riparian buffer strip– Grassland; and Tree planting.

68. GLAS Riparian strips - Has the answer to No 68 form 1/2/7 Nov been reviewed? Does the ACRES Specification requirement: The Riparian buffer strip width is measured from the top of the bank or the edge of the existing vegetation (if scrub or hedge is present) into the field? 'apply to existing GLAS Riparian strips which may contain scrub)?

This has been clarified in Revised specifications.

The Riparian buffer strip width is measured from the top of the bank or from the edge of an existing boundary (ie. hedgerow, treeline, stone wall or earthen bank) into the field. Where scrub is present, the margin width can be inclusive of scrub.

69. Fencing - Is polywire acceptable or does in need to be tensile wire?

As stated in previous Q and A documents, refer to page 20 of the specifications for fencing requirements.

70. Breeding Waders are not included in the list of actions that can be selected on the same parcel or split parcel as coppicing or laying. Is coppicing and laying allowed on Breeding Wader layers?

Yes

71. For a new hedge being planted within the 1.5 m watercourse margin on a Derogation farm (allowed in Answer 46 from 7/16 Nov) – if no grass margin action being undertaken - will one fence suffice?

Yes, REFER TO SPEC.

Where a fence has been grant aided under TAMS II or any DAFM Capital investment Scheme from 01 January 2018, this fence cannot fulfil the fencing requirement for the following ACRES actions: Coppicing of hedgerows; Grass margins – Grassland; Laying of hedgerows; Planting a new hedgerow; Planting a traditional orchard; Riparian buffer strip/zone – Grassland; Tree belts for ammonia capture from farmyards and Tree planting.

The same fence cannot be used to fulfil the fencing requirement where an applicant has chosen to select two actions in the same parcel or same location and each action incorporates a fencing element. In this case, each action is required to have its own fence.

72. Riparian Buffer Strips and calculation of Organic N/ha - A farmer with Total org N of 181kgs Org N/ha in 2021 (based on his declared BPS area)?

He had however short term rented land that was declared to DAFM Nitrates Section by record 5 before end of 2021. When this land is taken into account it reduces his N/ha to 165. He also exported slurry further reducing his figure. He is in GLAS and is now being told he doesn't qualify for fencing watercourses payment in 2022 as the 181kgs Org N/ha is the one being taken for 2021.

He now wants to undertake Riparian Buffer Strips in ACRES. While it is understood that the requirement to exclude livestock under Nitrates Regulation for over 170kgs Org N/ha is taken as the figure prior to slurry export, is the record 5 land not taken into account? If it was my client would not be part of this requirement and could avail of 2022 GLAS payment and be eligible for Riparian Strips in ACRES.

There is no stocking rate requirement for the Riparian strip/zone action in ACRES.

The Riparian buffer is in addition to any mandatory baseline requirements for applicable watercourses on the holding

73. Can a farmer create a riparian strip of 1.5m grassland on a water polygon?

A riparian strip can be placed next to small streams, surface drains, rivers, lakes or ponds. Please see page 89 of specifications.

Other actions

74. Tree planting. A new house could be built in year 3 of contract so the trees we plant now would not be more than 60metres away. Would they need a letter of permission from the daughter before we commit?

Once the trees are planted before the house is built then there is no issue.

75. In Rare Breed action in equines, when does Irish Draught breeding female become ineligible? It states that all breeding females have to be mated pure. If they produce 1 purebred offspring within 3 years but mated to a thoroughbred after does that make that breeding female ineligible? Can another breeding female replace the breeding female that had at start of the ACRES plan?

An adult female(s) (over 2 years of age) must be mated to a purebred male of the same breed at each mating. Breeding females must produce at least 1 registered offspring before the end of the contract, otherwise there will be full clawback. If the Mare is mated to a thoroughbred then that Female is deemed ineligible. This could lead to clawback and penalties.

Additional females could be eligible for payment later in the contract but in the scenario above the new Mare would not make the first Mare eligible if the first Mare was mated to a Thoroughbred.

To be eligible for the Conservation of Rare Breeds action participants must have at least 0.10 LU eligible for payment each year.

Refer to spec for full details.

List all other questions below:

76. Can a person with rare breeds just retain young stock e.g. Can an individual keep only yearling ponies and sell them before they are three-year-old?

At least one offspring must be produced that is registered with the relevant breed society before the end of year 3 of the contract. Refer to spec regarding requirements

77. Will an area planted with trees in Acres be eligible area in BISS and ANC in 2023?

These trees are not being digitised so they will be treated the same as all newly planted trees within a Parcel in BISS. There will be no specific rules because they are Acres Trees.

78. If the scheme is oversubscribed and someone gains entry as tier 2 due to choosing min 6ha catch crop and having in excess of 30ha tillage. If the farmer falls below the 30ha during the contract, will his contract be terminated due to the loss of a measure which got him into the scheme in the 1st place. In this case he would still be claiming in excess of 6ha catch crop but it would just be the 30ha which has been reduced?

No, they don't have to retain more than 30 ha of arable crops. They must continue to deliver the Minimum requirement for the Tier 2 action chosen.