



9<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Circular 20/2022

To Registered Foresters and other Stakeholders

**Re: Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027 Support Scheme Grants and Payments.**

Further to the recently announced Grant and Premium rates for afforestation under the new programme, DAFM would like to announce the proposed increase in grant rates for all support schemes and the introduction of Premiums for certain support schemes.

The Forestry Programme Grants and Premiums outlined below are subject to State Aid Approval. Further details on these schemes and implementation dates will be advised by circular shortly.

Joanne Adams

Assistant Principal Officer

Forestry Division

## Appendix 1

### Intervention 1: Forest Creation - Proposed Grant and Premium rates for Afforestation

	Forest Type	Proposed Grant/ha	Proposed Annual Premium/ha	Proposed Duration of Premiums for farmers	Proposed Duration of Premiums for non-farmers
FT1	Native forests	€6,744	€1,103	20	15
FT2	Forests for water*	€6,744	€1,142	20	15
FT3	Forests on Public Lands**	€10,544	n/a	n/a	n/a
FT4	NeighbourWoods***	€10,200	€1,142	20	15
FT5	Emergent Forest	€2,500	€350	20	15
FT6	Broadleaf, mainly oak	€6,744	€1,037	20	15
FT7	Other Broadleaf	€4,314	€973	20	15
FT8	Agroforestry	€8,555	€975	10	10
FT9	Seed Orchards	€10,000	€1,142	20	15
FT10	Continuous Cover Forestry	€5,421	€912	20	15
FT11	Mixed high forests: Conifer, 20% broadleaves	€4,452	€863	20	15
FT12	Mixed high forests with mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves	€3,858	€746	20	15
Native Tree Area Scheme will be paid at FT1 and FT2 rates. Premiums will be paid over 10 years rather than 20 at a rate of €2,206 per ha annually for NTA1 and €2,284 per ha annually for NTA2					

\* Additional payment of €1,000 per ha will be paid to landowner on completion of planting

\*\* Grant includes Trails, Seats & Signage Facilities payment

\*\*\* Grant includes Facilities payment

## Appendix 2

### Intervention 1: Forest Creation – Proposed Fencing Rates

Fence Type	€ per metre (IS436 rates)	€ per metre (non IS436 Rates)	IS436 (160m/ ha cap)	Non IS436 (120m/ha cap)
Stock	5.50	4.50	Max €880/ha at plantation level	Max €540/ha at plantation level
Stock/ Sheep	7.00	5.00		
Stock/ Rabbit	7.00	6.50		
Upgrade to deer	9.00	8.00	€1,440/ha	€960/ha
Deer	18.00	14.00	All deer fencing must be approved in advance. Only sites where at least 70% of the area enclosed by the deer fence of FT 1 to 11 is eligible.	
Deer/ Rabbit	18.00 New Deer fencing capped at €2,880/ha	14.00 New Deer fencing capped at €2,100/ha		
The maximum metres of fencing funded will be based on the total lengths of new fences erected to Forest Service specifications and based on the area of the forest multiplied by 160 metres, where IS436 is used exclusively, irrespective of fence type erected. Maximum fencing cap of €50,000 per forest. Where non IS436 deer fencing is used a cap of 150 metres per ha will apply to the deer fencing element and capped at €2,100 per ha.				

### Appendix 3

#### **Intervention 1: Forest Creation – Proposed Environment Report Grant (ERG)**

All afforestation projects can now avail of the ERG to help offset additional regulatory requirements in the application process.

Environment report and associated grant	<p>The aim of the Environment report and associated grant is to increase the quality of afforestation applications, in particular as they address environmental aspects, to increase the throughput of applications by DAFM and to ensure applicants and their agents are reasonably reimbursed for the additional costs associated with the required standard and scope of environmental reports.</p> <p>Reports that are required for afforestation in addition to the current mandatory application requirements may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A pre-screening report</li><li>• A Habitat description and map</li><li>• An ecology report covering non-Appropriate Assessment ecology requirements</li><li>• A Natura Impact Statement.</li><li>• Archaeology Impact Assessment</li><li>• Archaeology Monitoring Report</li></ul> <p>Other reports, such as bird surveys, archaeology reports and environmental Impact Assessment Reports may also be required.</p>	<p>Grant €450 per ha for first ha</p> <p>€400 for second ha</p> <p>€350 for third ha</p> <p>€50 per ha for subsequent hectares to a maximum of 20 hectares</p>
---	---	--

## **Intervention 2 - Creation of Agroforestry Systems**

Three categories of agroforestry will be supported under this intervention:

1. Silvopastoral systems (trees and grass).
2. Silvoarable systems (trees and crops). (Pilot)
3. Forest Gardening (establishment of small-scale food forests). (Pilot)

Grant aid for the establishment Silvopastoral Agroforestry will increase to €8,555 per hectare and the premium for Silvopastoral Agroforestry will increase to €975 per hectare for a period of 10 years.

Parcels of land afforested under Agroforestry will also be entitled to enter the Organic Farming Scheme.

## **Intervention 3 – Infrastructure and Technology**

Support for forest road construction will increase to €55 per linear metre at a density of 25 metres per ha of served forest and to €10,000 for special construction works along with new additional measures in Intervention 3 – Forest Infrastructure and Technologies.

#### Appendix 4

##### Forestry Programme 2023 – 2027 Support Scheme Grant and Premium rates

Intervention	Measure	Payment unit	Proposed Maximum Grant/Payment	Proposed Premium	Proposed No. of Premium years
2	Silvoarable Systems - Pilot	ha	€6,000	€829	10
2	Forest Gardening - Pilot	ha	€6,000	€829	10
3	Ecologically Enhanced Forest Roads	Project	€1,000	n/a	n/a
3	Forest Roads - Special Construction Works - including water attenuation	Project	€10,000	n/a	n/a
3	Engineering Design Support Measure	Project	€1,000	n/a	n/a
3	Forest Machinery Grant	Project	€50,000	n/a	n/a
3	Temporary Road Access Solutions Scheme	Project	€10,000	n/a	n/a
3	Investment Aid for Forest Tree Nursery Sector	Project	€50,000	n/a	n/a
3	Central Tyre Inflation Systems	Project	€20,000	n/a	n/a
3	Forest Technology Challenge Grant	Project	€100,000	n/a	n/a
4	Woodland Improvement Scheme - 2 payments	ha	€1,200	n/a	n/a
4	Woodland Improvement Scheme -Continuous Cover Forestry- 3 payments	ha	€1,200	€150	7
4	Woodland Improvement Scheme - Coppice and Coppice with Standards	ha	€1,200	n/a	n/a

Intervention	Measure	Payment unit	Proposed Maximum Grant/Payment	Proposed Premium	Proposed No. of Premium years
4	Woodland Improvement Scheme - Seed stand management	ha	€1,200	€500	7
4	Forest Management Plans	Plan	€1,200	n/a	n/a
4	Native Woodland Conservation Private	ha	€6,000	€500	7
4	Native Woodland Conservation Public	ha	€6,000	n/a	n/a
4	Environmental Enhancement	ha	€1,200	€150	7
4	Deer Tree Shelter Scheme - DTS	ha	€1,600	n/a	n/a
4	Deer Tree Shelter Scheme - Deer Fencing	ha	€2,880	n/a	n/a
4	Deer Tree Shelter Scheme - Upgrade Deer	ha	€1,440	n/a	n/a
4	Deer Tree Shelter Scheme - Upgrade Hare	ha	€1,120	n/a	n/a
5	Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTG) - Participant	Meeting	€80	n/a	n/a
5	Knowledge Transfer Groups (KTG) - Organiser	KTG	€7,400	n/a	n/a
6	Neighbourwood Scheme - includes facilities	Project	€10,200	€90	7
6	Heritage Forests pilot	ha	€4,200	n/a	n/a
6	Forest Classroom pilot - Facilitators	10 events annually	€7,500	n/a	n/a
7	Climate Resilient Reforestation – Continuous Cover Forestry - pilot	ha	€1,800	€150	7
7	Climate Resilient Reforestation - NW high ecological priority area- pilot	ha	€6,000	€500 + €150	7
7	Climate Resilient Reforestation - NW - pilot	ha	€2,225	€500 + €150	7

Intervention	Measure	Payment unit	Proposed Maximum Grant/Payment	Proposed Premium	Proposed No. of Premium years
7	Climate Resilient Reforestation - Water - pilot	ha	€2,500	€350	7
8	Reconstitution and Underplanting Scheme (Ash Dieback)	ha	See Afforestation grant rates for FT1, FT6, FT7, FT8, FT10, FT11 and FT 12	n/a	n/a



## Appendix 4

### Proposed Payment for Ecosystem Services

Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) premium pilot has been developed for existing forest owners. This payment is for the management of ecosystem services. Forest owners when receiving approval on certain support schemes may be able to select one (or more) options in accordance with the management practice selected. PES premiums aim to promote the longer-term sustainable management of forests, in particular encouraging forest owners of productive forests to manage their forests with a view to maximising carbon sequestration, water purification and regulation of flow, soil formation, fuel, food and forest genetic resources.

	Option	Specific conditions	Associated Support Scheme(s)	Rate per ha
PES1	Native Woodland Conservation	Only applicable to existing (non-grant aided forests) that meet specific conditions.	Native Woodland Conservation  Climate Resilient Reforestation Element 2	€500
PES 2	CCF	Continuous management of forest under CCF principles as per Forestry Standards manual and agreed FMP.	Woodland Improvement Scheme – Element 2 CCF  Climate Resilient Reforestation Element 1	€150
PES 3	Seed stand Management	Open to forest stands included as “ <i>Selected</i> ” or “ <i>Tested</i> ” on the National Register of Forest Basic Material. Oak (sessile & pedunculate) registered in the category “ <i>Source Identified</i> ” for the purposes of gene conservation may also be considered. Open to private forest holders.	Woodland Improvement Scheme Element 4 – Seed Stand Management	€500
PES 4	Environmental enhancement scheme – incl. action for archaeology and	Management of natural regenerated trees in aquatic and archaeological setbacks.	Native Woodland Conservation  Environmental Enhancement	€150

	water habitats/species (designated areas)	<p>This includes actions that will allow landowners to draw down premiums based on archaeological sites and monuments and other built heritage within or contiguous to an existing forest.</p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing the distance between the outermost extent of the archaeological site or monument and the nearest trees at the edge of a setback / exclusion zone by an early felling intervention to remove trees.</li> </ul> <p>Encourage forest owners to undertake works within existing forests and during current rotations, to achieve structural changes and to improve the environmental 'footprint' of those forests regarding impacts on (<i>inter alia</i>) water quality.</p> <p>Creation or extension of an existing setbacks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The establishment of related access paths are eligible</li> </ul>	<p>Scheme – Pilot Scheme</p> <p>Climate Resilient Reforestation Element 2</p>	
PES 5	People	Permitting public access and creation of public access, including signage.	Neighbourwood Scheme	€90
PES 6	Water protection	Options / actions that will allow landowners to draw down premiums based on water protection measures. It will also allow the management of these areas if required from a water protection perspective – riparian tree planting or removal.	Climate Resilient Reforestation Element 3	€350