

ACRES Circular No. 1/2023

31 January 2023

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Amendments to Specification

Dear Advisor

A number of amendments have been made to the ACRES specifications as follows:

1. Certified seed

Certified seed must be used for the establishment of the actions listed below. All seed labels and receipts for these actions must be retained. Farm-saved seed is not permitted.

- Brassica fodder stubble
- Catch crops
- Environmental management of arable fallow
- Geese and Swans
- Grass margins – Arable
- Protection and maintenance of archaeological monuments - Arable
- Riparian buffer strips/zones – Arable
- Unharvested cereal headlands
- Winter bird food

2. Winter Bird Food

To ensure successful establishment of the Winter bird food crop, the minimum seed rate should be at least one third of the monoculture rate (see Table 1) for each of the chosen prescribed species for a three-way mix. For a four-way mix, the minimum seed rate should be at least one quarter of the monoculture rate for each of the chosen prescribed species. See examples in Table 2 below.

Table 1: List of prescribed species for Winter Bird Food (kg/ha)

Species	Monoculture seed rate
Spring Oats	150kg
Spring Triticale	180kg
Spring Wheat	180kg
Spring Barley	160kg
Linseed	50kg
Spring Oil-seed Rape	6kg
Phacelia	8kg
Fodder Radish	10kg
Mustard	15kg
Spring Vetch	40kg
Lucerne	25kg
Chicory	10kg
Bird's Foot Trefoil	12kg

Table 2: Examples of Winter Bird Food mixes (kg/ha)

Three-way mix		Four-way mix	
Spring Oats	50kg	Spring Triticale	45kg
Linseed	17kg	Linseed	12.5kg
Mustard	5kg	Chicory	2.5kg
		Bird's Foot Trefoil	3kg

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