



Circular 2 of 2023

6th March 2023

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)

Application to become an approved ACRES Advisor

To FAS Advisor

The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) is an environmentally ambitious agri-environment climate measure which forms part of Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023 – 2027. €1.5 billion has been allocated to this flagship agri-environment scheme which is the successor to the Green Low Carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) which was available under Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

ACRES has been designed to deliver significant long-term environmental improvements through participation by a substantial number of farmers on the most appropriate land, with each making a strong improvement on their farm. This will build on, and complement, achievements under Conditionality and the Eco-Scheme.

Two approaches are being used for ACRES, namely:

- an ACRES General approach offering a range of measures for individual farmers (both targeted and general); and
- a Co-operation Project approach, available to farmers in defined high priority geographical areas, who opt to undertake measures, as well as bespoke farm, landscape and river catchment measures. Farmers participating in this approach will have the assistance of a Local Cooperation Project (CP) Team, who will assist with implementation of the scheme at local level.

ACRES is essentially replacing the Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS), incorporating some of the EIPs and building on the learnings arising from EIPs and REAP to achieve increased environmental ambition. A more qualitative approach is being adopted through the introduction of a number of results-based actions in ACRES, thereby encouraging the adoption of results-based actions across the country. In addition, the introduction of a Farm Sustainability Plan (FSP) will help achieve the underlying principle of the new AECM framework of “the right measure in the right place”.

One of the core requirements of ACRES is that an approved agricultural advisor must prepare the ACRES application including the FSP on behalf of the applicant to ensure that the most suitable and appropriate actions for the farm are selected and submitted.



Approved advisors will also support participants throughout the contract term regarding the completion of actions in line with specifications and, in the ACRES Co-operation approach, liaise with the CP teams to support farmers selecting environmental investments within the CP areas.

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine ('the Department') is now inviting approved FAS Advisors to apply to be an approved ACRES Advisor. An Application Form for this purpose is attached.

If you wish to be considered for approval as an approved ACRES Advisor, please complete and return the attached Application Form **by Friday 24th March 2023:**

By email to acres@agriculture.gov.ie

Or

By post to:

ACRES Section
Agri-Environment Division,
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford
Y35 PN52
before 5.30 pm on 24th March 2023.

*ACRES Section
Agri-Environment Division
acres@agriculture.gov.ie*

**Application Form for advisors who wish to be approved as an
advisor for Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)**

I hereby apply to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) to be approved as an Advisor for the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) – ('ACRES Advisor')

In signing this form, I undertake to comply fully with the terms and conditions set out hereunder:

1. I understand that I cannot be an ACRES advisor without FAS approval.
2. I accept that should my approval as a FAS Advisor be revoked, my approval as an ACRES Advisor will automatically be revoked.
3. I understand that this approval does not oblige the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, hereinafter referred to as "the Minister", to accept any liability or responsibility whatsoever in relation to such advice I may give as an ACRES Advisor.
4. I agree to attend such ACRES training courses as may be organised by the Minister. I accept that the notification of any such training courses will issue by email to the email address I have provided to DAFM.
5. I accept that attendance at ACRES training does not infer approval as an ACRES Advisor.
6. I consent to having my contact details published on the DAFM website, in the event of this application for approval being successful.
7. I accept that failure to attend the required ACRES training will result in my application to be an approved ACRES Advisor being rejected, or my approval revoked, as appropriate and that attendance at such training does not infer approval as an ACRES Advisor.
8. I accept that failure to give advice, prepare and submit plans and documentation for ACRES, in accordance with the Scheme Terms and Conditions and Specifications, will result in my approval as an ACRES Advisor being revoked as appropriate.
9. I accept that the Minister may change the terms and conditions of approval as an ACRES Advisor at any time.
10. I accept that a conviction for any criminal offence for a wrongdoing found to be done in relation to and/or for the purposes of:
 - An application or a payment provided for under an Act of an institution of the European Union,
 - Including, but not limited to, an offence under Regulation 3 of S.I. No. 169/2016 European Communities (Direct Support Schemes) Offences and Control Regulations 2016, as may be amended, shall result in the revocation of my accreditation/ approval as an ACRES Advisor.

11. I agree that a breach of any of the above conditions shall result in refusal, or revocation of my accreditation/approval as an ACRES Advisor.
12. I accept that the Minister reserves the right to refuse, or revoke approval as an ACRES Advisor.

CONTACT DETAILS

(Please write clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS)

Name:	
Agency Name:	
Address:	
AGT Number	
AGY Number	
AGA/AGR Number	
Contact Phone Number	
Email Address	

I agree to the contact details given above being published on the DAFM website in the event of this application for approval being successful. I agree to notify DAFM immediately of changes to any of my contact details.

(Please ensure your current details or any changes are consistent with those recorded on the DAFM Corporate Customer Management (CCM) System and the DAFM FAS register).

Signed: _____

Date: _____

NB: This Application for Approval relates solely to ACRES. There is a separate Application for Approval as a FAS Advisor.