



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

Land Eligibility Farm Advisory System Training 2023



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Eligible Hectare



2023 - Eligible Hectare will be used as the basis of payment for area based payments - BISS, CRISS, Eco Schemes, ANC etc

Eligible Hectare is an **agricultural area** that is used for an **agricultural activity** throughout the **2023 calendar year**

Agricultural Area is arable land, permanent crops or permanent grassland along with agroforestry systems

Eligible Hectare



The Applicant must have control of the declared lands throughout 2023

Lands can be owned, leased or rented

However the land must be *at the Applicants disposal*



Agricultural Area



This is broken down into arable land, permanent grassland and permanent crops, along with agro-forestry systems

- **Arable** – Wheat, Oats, Barley etc.
- **Permanent Grassland** – Permanent Pasture
- **Permanent Crops** – Willow, Miscanthus Sinensis
- **Agro-forestry** - growing trees for timber on land being used for farming

Agricultural Activity



Production of agricultural products – Livestock, Crops, Agro-forestry or maintenance of the agricultural area

Maintenance of Parcel or Landscape Features*

Topping

Mulching

Controlled Burning * (Not between 1 March and 31 August)

Spraying

*Hedge cutting**

*Ditch cleaning **

Note: Height of permanent grassland within parcel is not relevant.

Agricultural Activity (Cont.)



Activity every second year:

Limited circumstances agricultural area may be used only every second year

Only for environmental, biodiversity or climate related reasons

Predominant Activity:

Agricultural activities greater than 50% of year and not significantly hamper agricultural activities

Administrative Checks:

May be asked to provide evidence of agricultural activity -
geotag photograph, sales receipts, contractor receipts etc

Agricultural Activity (Cont.)



For the land to be eligible for payment, the agricultural activity must be carried out by the person claiming the land

The activity can be carried out by a contractor employed by the person claiming the land



Landscape Features & Beneficial Features:



Landscape Features:

Are all eligible for payment and are considered part of the eligible hectare

Hedgerows
Ponds (<0.2 ha)
National Monuments
Drains,
Trees in a line

Beneficial Features:

May occupy up to 50% of the area. Include the following:

Scrub
Woodland
Rock
Trees
Habitat
Stone walls



Beneficial Features - Reductions



Beneficial features reductions - three possible categories

Parcel Reductions		
Category	% Beneficial	Reduction to be applied
1	0 up to 50	0
2	50 up to 70	Area Identified
3	70 up to 100	100

The above applies to Permanent Grassland only

Arable lands and Permanent Crops where the percentage exceeds 50% are deemed ineligible

An exemption for Burren/Aran

Calculation of % Beneficial Area (Example 1)



Parcel Area (a)		ha 10
Ineligible features / Exclusions	Pond	0.55
	Farm Road	0.1
	Total Exclusions (b)	0.65
Adjusted Eligible Area (c)		9.35
Beneficial Features	Scrub (1.1 ha @50%)	0.55
	Scrub (0.1 ha @100%)	0.1
	Scrub (0.09ha @100%)	0.09
	Scrub (2.6 ha @50%)	1.8
	Total Beneficial Area (d)	2.54
% Beneficial Area	d/c (2.54 /9.35)	27%
Eligible Hectare		9.35

*As the total area of Beneficial Features (2.54ha) is less than 50% of the Adj. Eligible Area, NO REDUCTION.
The Eligible hectare is 9.35 ha.*



Calculation of % Beneficial Area (Example 2)



Parcel Area (a) Tillage		ha
		26.6
Ineligible features / Exclusions	None	
	Total Exclusions (b)	0.00
Adjusted Eligible Area (c)		26.6
Beneficial Features	Scrub	0.45
	Trees (3.2ha @50%)	1.60
	Total Beneficial Area (d)	2.05
% Beneficial Area	d/c (2.05/26.6)	7.73%
Eligible Hectare		26.6



*As the total area of Beneficial Features (2.05ha) is less than 50% of the Adj. Eligible Area, NO REDUCTION.
The Eligible hectare is 26.6 ha.*

Calculation of % Beneficial Area (Example 3)



Parcel Area (a)		ha
		3.65
Ineligible features / Exclusions	None	
Total Exclusions (b)		0.00
Adjusted Eligible Area (c)		3.65
Beneficial Features	Scrub (90%)	3.28
	Total Beneficial Area (d)	3.28
% Beneficial Area	d/c (3.28/3.65)	90%
Eligible Hectare		0.0



As the total area of Beneficial Features (3.28ha) is greater than 70% of the Adj. Eligible Area, 100% REDUCTION. The Eligible hectare is 0.0 ha.

Parcel Merging



Merging/Re-Parcelling is allowed

Parcels **cannot** be merged in the following cases:

- *Non-adjoining parcels*
- *No physical feature between parcels*
- *Parcels in different townlands*
- *Parcels with different ownership (owned v leased)*
- *Parcels in different ACRES measures*
- *Parcels in CP Zones in ACRES*

Land Area for Stocking Calculations (Nitrates)



Stocking Density Area is the area available for grazing and used for Nitrates calculations

Stocking Density Area is the:

Parcel area
minus

Ineligible Features -Roads, Buildings, Waterbodies

Beneficial Features -Scrub, Rock, Trees, Woodland, Habitat

May be different to Eligible Hectare value



Stocking Density Area (Nitrates) example



Parcel Area (a)

ha

10

**Ineligible features /
Exclusions (b)**

(Farm roads, Pond)

0.65

Beneficial Features (c)

(Scrub)

2.54

Stocking Density Area (a -b-c)

6.81

