

Teagasc ACRES Questions

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Thursday 13th July 2023

1. Where LIG has been cut and cattle have grazed the margin – Can the Late Mown Meadow Bonus photo be taken on the day of cutting or within 5 days and conduct the scoring later?

Yes, the Late Meadow Bonus Claim and Scorecard are separate. AgriSnap requests submission on different dates.

2. Can a LIG scored for structure under A4 (a) still claim the Late Mown Meadow Bonus – provided the meadow's closed for 6 weeks?

Yes, if it still meets the eligibility requirements for Late Meadow Bonus.

3. Can you use a LIG Peat scorecard where not selected at time of ACRES FSP application?

For ACRES General the Low Input Peat Grassland can only be for the General Action Low Input Peat Grassland. It is however one of the ten scorecards that may assigned to CP Parcels by the CP Teams when they delineated the fields for CP participants.

4. Where a LIG Peat Scorecard is allocated on non-peat soil – is a LIG scorecard used?

No, For ACRES General, advisors conducted field assessments when they completed the Farm Sustainability Plan to assess the suitability of fields for the various General actions. If Low Input Peat Grassland was the action selected in the FSP then the only scorecard used is the Low Input Peat Grassland.

5. Where one scorecard comprises different habitats or management (grazing / silage), do we base the scorecard on the largest proportion? Do we average the score?

If two (or more) fields merge and are of different management regimes (grazing/silage), then select the dominant management type of the area for scoring. Then select the most appropriate 'structure' for that management type.

6. Where one scorecard has internal wire fence boundaries or partial hedged boundaries, do we ignore such internal boundaries when scoring the worst 50m?

As per existing guidance document: The quality of the external field boundary assessed, as part of the 'W' walk. If necessary, walk to ensure an accurate assessment. Where fields merge for scoring and administrative purposes, **do not include the internal field boundaries** and margins as part of the assessment.

7. I understand tillage ground including GLAS Wild Bird Cover cannot be scored in CP as they are nor grassland. Can NPIs apply on such land?

Yes, farmers will be able to apply for NPIs on this land.

8. Can a farmer with all CP land submit a record 5 rental/grazing agreement for a dairy farmer? Or does he have to have control for the full 5 years?

Yes, it's permitted, but the ACRES participant must remain in control of the management of the land.

9. For individual queries with Herd Nos who have ACRES actions in CP and on land outside CP – do such queries go to ACRESCP@agriculture.gov.ie?

For approvals in the CP Stream all queries should be forwarded to acrescp@agriculture.gov.ie and for approvals in the General Stream to acres@agriculture.gov.ie

10. Is a parcel with MEA = 0 eligible for ACRES payment?

There are a limited number of NPIs/LAs that would be available on parcels with an Eligible Hectare = 0 (2023 BISS). Barn Owl Box was only a General Action that allowed on parcels that had an MEA= 0 (2022 BPS).

11. Must a CP parcel with MEA = 0, is it scored?

All owned CP forage parcels assigned a scorecard by the CP Teams is scored in 2023.

12. Please confirm a score of 35 is rounded up to 4 and is payable?

If a **LPIS Parcel** gets a score of 35 round up to a score of 4.

13. Will there be training or guidance for advisors scoring commonages <10 ha?

The commonage parcels <=10Ha not scored by the CP teams as part of their assessments, notice should be to the applicable farm advisers in time. These will need the preparation and submission of a Commonage Farm Plan by ACRES participants own farm adviser, these will not be results based scored.

14. Where there is a problem with one scorecard not submitted as shown on GLAM when the advisor comes back to the office and the 14-day clock is ticking – does the advisor contact DAFM or the CP Team?

Advisor should contact DAFM directly, if it is an ACRES CP participant email acrecp@agriculture.gov.ie and an ACRES General participant email acres@agriculture.gov.ie with the details.

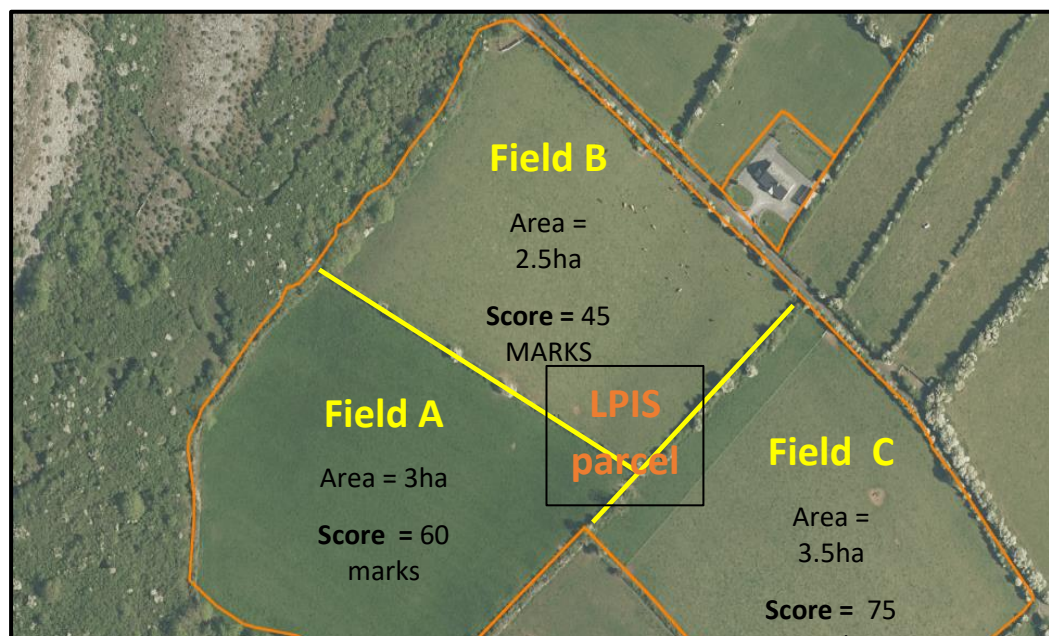
15. Is there a list of DAFM approved plant nurseries available?

No, not publicly available, however individual farmers should seek confirmation from the premises that they are purchasing plants with registered Plant Health Professional Operators. Every registered plant health operator has either a 4- or 6-digit Plant Health Registration number (PHR Number).

16. For Environmental Management of Fallow can a parcel full of thistles be sprayed off before proceeding to sow the Autumn catch crop.

Yes, if that is necessary, but the use of Pesticides is not encouraged, mechanical control should be used where feasible.

17. Example of Weighted Average Score calculation for a LPIS parcel:



LPIS parcel (9ha total parcel area; delineated into 3 separately scoreable fields) Claimed area and Eligible hectare of parcel on BISS 2023 = 8.9 ha			
	Field A	Field B	Field C
Field areas (ha)	3ha	2.5ha	3.5ha
Field scores (mark out of 100)	60	45	75
Weighted <u>area</u> (Field area ÷ LPIS scoreable area)	0.33	0.28	0.39
Area weighted marks (scorecard Marks x weighted area)	19.8	12.6	29.25

Overall LPIS parcel score (marks out of 100)	$19.8 + 12.6 + 29.25 = 61.65$ $\div 10 = 6.165$	rounds down score of 6	Payment for score 6 $= 8.9\text{ha} \times \text{€}205$ €1824.5
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