

## TEAGASC ACRES QUESTIONS

### Additional Questions from the Signpost webinar on ACRES on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023

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1. Is scoring the Commonage under 10ha being done by Advisors included in the 14-day window for submission?

The commonage parcels  $\leq 10$ ha that are not scored by the CP teams as part of their assessments will be notified to the applicable ACRES Advisers in time. These will need the preparation and submission of a Commonage Farm Plan by ACRES participant's own farm Adviser. They will not be scored and will not be paid a results-based payment. Payment on these parcels will be based on a flat rate payment per hectare. These are not included in the 14-day window for submission of scorecards.

2. Is there a negative payment – if a farmer gets a negative score overall?

No results-based payment is made where the score for a LPIS is less than 4, there is no penalty for negative scores.

3. Where a parcel is covered in tall bracken – can the Scrub scorecard be used? As scrub is described as areas dominated by at least 50% cover of shrubs, stunted trees, or brambles – can this be comprised of bracken only?

Advisors should consult with the CP team for guidance as it would be dependent on the habitat/soil type and the conservation objectives of the parcel.

4. If farmers cannot cut Late Mown Meadows before the end of Aug – what happens?

The parcel is not eligible for the Late Meadow Bonus payment.

5. When will ACRES plans become available to farmers and advisors on Agfood?

All ACRES plans will be available in the Document Manager of the ACRES AgSchemes portal in due course. This is currently under development.

6. Is there a procedure for commenting on draft CP Plans?

You can contact the CP Team with any comment or feedback in relation to scorecard types assigned or delineation of fields.

7. NPIs;

- When will the application process open and close for 2023?  
Dates are yet to be confirmed but it is expected that the GLAM portal will be open to accept the submission of NPI applications in Q4 of 2023.
- Will virtual fencing be eligible?  
The draft Specifications for the Non-Productive Investments will be available in August and the draft specifications for Landscape Actions will follow at a later date. Virtual fencing is not on the current draft list of proposed Non-Productive Investments but is being considered as a possible Landscape action.
- If an invasive/problematic species is not currently listed, does that mean it won't be covered/considered?  
Contact your local CP team if there are any problematic species encountered that need to be addressed.

8. ACRES Tranche 2;

- Timeline?  
Yet to be confirmed.
- Any changes proposed?  
Yet to be confirmed.
- Number of places?  
Yet to be confirmed.

9. Is there guidance available on Safety Precautions to reduce the danger from tick bites?

See the below links for further information:

- [Lyme Disease - Health and Safety Authority \(hsa.ie\)](https://hsa.ie/)
- [Lyme disease - HSE.ie](https://www.hse.ie/en-gb/diseases/communicable/lyme-disease/)
- [Lyme disease - Teagasc | Agriculture and Food Development Authority](https://www.teagasc.ie/agriculture-and-food-development-authority/lyme-disease/)

10. Any update on the safety issues of Advisors scoring offshore Islands with no proper boat service?

Circular will issue on this.