

Support for Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme

Background to Scheme

Collaborative Farming Grant scheme was introduced under the new Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 to encourage farmers, who are establishing Registered Farm Partnerships, to adopt best practice by engaging the help of experts when drawing up a Registered Farm Partnership.

Collaborative Farming Grant Scheme under the new CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027 is aimed at covering part of the legal, advisory and financial services costs incurred up to 50% to the maximum of €1,500 in the establishment of the Registered Farm Partnership.

Objectives of the Grant Scheme

The objective of the scheme is to encourage farmers to establish Registered Farm Partnerships and in doing so adopt best practice. The creation of such farm partnerships, in turn, fulfils the following objectives.

- Addresses issues of scale and efficiency within primary agricultural production by encouraging the consolidation of blocks of land held and operated by farmers not within the same family;
- Employs new skills and specialisation in primary production through the required enhanced educational qualifications of the participants in the partnerships;
- Improves the age structure of Irish agriculture by supporting arrangements that have at least one partner who qualifies as a young farmer (under 40), with priority being given to partnerships who also have a partner who is over 60 years of age; and
- Brings added value to the new arrangement, with priority being given to those partnerships that bring the stronger economic potential to the new enterprise and to the economy.

Eligibility Criteria

- The scheme is open to all 'brand new' farm partnerships who have been placed on the Department's Register of Farm Partnerships and who have been allocated a Farm Partnership Registration Number (FPRN),
- They include a Young Farmer as a partner. The young farmer is as defined in the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027.

Application Process

The scheme is operated in tranches- the current (twelfth) tranche is open for applications from Registered Farm Partnerships received by the Department since the 1st of Jan 2023.

These twelfth tranche partnerships will receive an email with the appropriate application form and the process involved.

The application and supporting documents **must** be submitted by **Fri the 29th of September**.

Failure to submit the application and supporting documents will result in your application being rejected for Tranche 12.

Please do not include VAT in your declared costs. VAT is not included under the Collaborative Farming Scheme.

Copies of detailed invoices and receipts for the legal, advisory and financial services incurred in the establishment of the Registered Farm Partnership must also be submitted by **Fri the 29th of September**.

The veracity of the payment receipts received will be checked through the relevant professional bodies.

Ranking and Selection

All applications received will be subjected to a ranking and selection criteria. Payment priority will be given to those of higher order in the event of the number of applications exceeding the funding available for the individual tranches. Applicants must, however, receive at least 40 marks in order to be considered eligible for the grant.

The selection criteria are as follows:

- Partnerships where one or more partners have the required level of agricultural qualification [40 marks]
- Partnerships with a young farmer (under 41 years of age) as a partner and a partner over 60 years of age [60 marks] (1)

1- At the time of being placed on the Register

Payment

The payment will be calculated up to 50% of vouched (VAT exclusive) cost for the total legal, advisory and financial services incurred in the establishment of the Registered Farm Partnership, up to a maximum payment of €1,500.

Farm Partnerships Section

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