



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

Agri Climate Rural Environment Scheme - ACRES

Tranche 1 Update

Agri-Environment and On Farm Investment Division
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
October, 2023

Current situation



- **45,650 active applications**
- **Currently matching ACRES application data with BISS 2023 data**
- **Once data is reconciled application will go through Pre Payment Validation checks**
- **Payments will issue after application successfully passes PPVs**

Circulars



- **ACRES Circular No. 8/2022 – Conservation of Rare Breeds – Circular sets out clarification in relation to Rare Breeds eligible for ACRES and also clarification in relation to the relevant recognised Breed Societies**
- **ACRES Circular No. 13/2022 – Revised Terms & Conditions and Specification – Circular sets out a number of updates on the T&Cs and also a number of changes to the Scheme Specification, as outlined in Annex 1 of the Circular**
- **ACRES Circular No. 1/2023 – Amendments to Specification – amendments made in relation to certified seed being required for the establishments of certain ACRES action. Clarification also on seed rates for Winter Bird Food**

Circulars



- **ACRES Circular No. 3/2023 – withdrawal of an action from an ACRES contract and possible financial consequences**
- **ACRES Circular No. 4/2023 – Amendment to Planting a New Hedgerow Specification**
- **ACRES Circular No. 10/2023 – Application Form to register as a sub-contractor for**
- **the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)**
- **ACRES Circular No. 11.1/2023 – Transfer of ACRES Contract**
- **ACRES Circular No. 14/2023 – Amended ACRES Penalty Schedule & Submission of Scorecards**

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f5a48-agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/#acres-circulars>



Circulars

ACRES Circular No. 8/2022 – Conservation of Rare Breeds

Circular sets out clarification in relation to Rare Breeds eligible for ACRES and also clarification in relation to the relevant recognised Breed Societies

- **There are a total of 9 types of Rare Breeds allowed in ACRES (4 cattle, 3 horses and ponies, 2 sheep and goats).**
- **The allowable list of Department recognised Breed Societies are listed on the Circular**

ACRES Circular No. 13/2022 – Revised Terms & Conditions and Specification –

Circular sets out a number of updates on the T&Cs and also a number of changes to the Scheme Specification, as outlined in Annex 1 of the Circular

- **Update on Information and Data Protection**
- **Update on Payment Rates and Clarification on Rare Breed Progeny**
- **Clarification on Ranking and Selection Criteria**
- **Clarification on splitting parcels, Natura, Monuments, Breeding Waders, eligibility requirements, catch crop seed mix, geese and swans, grass margins etc**

Circulars



ACRES Circular No. 1/2023 – Amendments to Specification

- amendments made in relation to certified seed being required for the establishments of certain ACRES actions including Catch Crops, Environmental Management of Arable Fallow, Riparian buffer strips/zones, winter bird food etc. Labels and receipts for these actions must be retained.
- Winter Bird Food – the minimum seed rate should be at least one third of the monoculture rate for each of the chosen prescribes species for a three-way mix

ACRES Circular No. 4/2023 – Amendment to Planting a New Hedgerow Specification

- Participants will be required to plant at least 5 plants per metre in a double row using species shown on the Table in the Circular
- No longer a requirement to plant at least 3 species or to have not more than 85% of one species making up the total

ACRES Circular No. 14/2023 – Amended ACRES Penalty Schedule & Submission of Scorecards

- Sets out amendments on the ACRES Penalty Schedule
- Sets out changes to the timeline for submission of scorecards



ACRES Circular No. 3/2023 - Withdrawal of Actions

A request in writing must be submitted to ACRES operations by the applicant or their representative, formally notifying the department of their intention to withdraw the action from the ACRES contract

by email to

acres@agriculture.gov.ie or acrescp@agriculture.gov.ie (depending on the stream)

or by post to

ACRES Section or ACRES CP Section (whichever is appropriate)

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Johnstown Castle Estate

Co. Wexford Y35 PN52

Depending on whether the withdrawal of the action has implications for the Tierage of the application, penalties may be incurred. The penalty for

withdrawing an action that causes the loss of Tier 1 or Tier 2 status is 100% of the ACRES payment for the year of withdrawal

The applicant may be required to pay back all money paid for the withdrawn action from the commencement of the contract up to the point of withdrawal

ACRES Circular No. 11.1/2023 Transfer of contracts- Rules



- **A participant may only hold one ACRES contract.**
- **A participant continues to be fully responsible for the implementation of the commitments entered into under the contract for the duration of the contract, unless a request to transfer the ACRES contract has been approved.**
- **Only a transfer to a Family Member is permitted.**
- **If a change in herd number is required, this must be advised at time of application for transfer.**
- **All ACRES commitments and associated land parcels must be included in any application to transfer. A scheme contract may not be divided.**

ACRES Circular No. 11.1/2023 Transfer of contracts- Rules



- **Transfer approval will only become effective, once the transferee becomes the registered Business ID owner.**
- **BPS/BISS applications must match the herd number on the ACRES contract.**
- **After the approval of an ACRES transfer no further transfer of the contract will be permitted for a year unless it is due to death of the participant or certified serious illness.**
- **Following the transfer of the ACRES contract the transferee is liable for a full clawback, including payments issued prior to the transfer, in the event of penalties, including the withdrawal of actions or the entire contract**

ACRES Circular No. 11.1/2023 Transfer of Contracts- Process



In compliance with the ACRES Terms and Conditions, all ACRES contract transfer requests must be made in advance in writing using the attached 'Request for Transfer of ACRES Contract form. The form must be signed by all parties requesting the transfer and returned by email to: ACRES@agriculture.gov.ie in the case of ACRES General contracts, or ACRESCP@agriculture.gov.ie in the case of ACRES Co-operation contracts, or by post to the address below

**ACRES Section or ACRES CP Section (whichever is appropriate)
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford Y35 PN52**

ACRES Circular No. 11.1/2023 Transfer request form



Section A – Name change

Business ID*:	New Business ID* (if applicable):
Current Name:	New Name:
Relationship between parties:	

Note: * 'Business ID' shall mean Herd Number, Registered Farm Partnership ID or Company ID registered with the Department.

I/We hereby agree to continue with the ACRES contract approved in the name of _____ and abide by the Terms and Conditions of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) and the associated Specifications for the Tranche under which the contract was approved.

I/We also hereby declare that I/we do not currently hold an ACRES contract in any other name and am/are fully aware that it is not permitted to hold two ACRES contracts at the same time. I/we understand that if it is later found that I/we made a false declaration, I/we will have to refund the Department of all monies received as a result of the false declaration.

Signature Signature Date

Section B – Deceased case:

Business ID:	New Business ID (if applicable):
Name of Deceased:	New Name:
Certified full copy of Will attached (Y/N):	
Relationship between parties:	

Note: * 'Business ID' shall mean Herd Number, Registered Farm Partnership ID or Company ID registered with the Department.

I/We hereby agree to continue with the ACRES contract approved in the name of _____ and abide by the Terms and Conditions of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) and the associated Specifications for the Tranche under which the contract was approved.

I/We also hereby declare that I/we do not currently hold an ACRES contract in any other name and am/are fully aware that it is not permitted to hold two ACRES contracts at the same time. I/we understand that if it is later found that I/we made a false declaration, I/we will have to refund the Department of all monies received as a result of the false declaration.

Signature Signature Date

Section C - Partnership case:

Business ID*:	New Farm Partnership Number:
Name on Contract:	New Names on Partnership:
Relationship between parties:	

Note: * 'Business ID' shall mean Herd Number, Registered Farm Partnership ID or Company ID registered with the Department.

I/We hereby agree to continue with the ACRES contract approved in the name of _____ and abide by the Terms and Conditions of the Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) and the associated Specifications for the Tranche under which the contract was approved.

Signature Signature Date

Low Emission Slurry Spreading



- Holdings must have a grassland stocking rate of less than 100Kg Nitrogen per hectare from grazing livestock manure prior to export of livestock manure
- All the slurry applied on the farm (produced and/or imported) must be spread by one or a combination of Band spreading, Injection systems or Trailing shoe for each year of the contract,
- Pig slurry is not eligible for payment under this action. Only slurry produced on the holding (excluding pig slurry) is eligible for payment.
- Retain and provide if requested documentary evidence to confirm; the spreading method used, and the volumes spread on the holding. slurry produced, imported, spread and/or a receipt from the contractor or other evidence as required.
- The minimum volume of slurry that must be applied on the holding each year of the contract using one of the above listed methods is 50 cubic metres.
- Farmer or their approved adviser must submit a completed annual slurry declaration return to ACRES section, DAFM, Johnstown Castle. This will be done through an online portal

LESS screen, LESS claim option will appear where the application has an approved LESS action



Home

Business Id

Access Agreement Submitted (0)


Application Draft (0)

✓ Application Submitted (1)

Business ID	Name	Status	Actions
		Application Submitted	<div><div>View Application</div><div>Manage Documents</div><div>LESS Claims</div></div>


LESS, Select Create to access LESS claim screen






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Stream

All



Client List

 Access

Business ID

Tranche 1

Tranche 2

3)

Scheme Year	Status	Submitted Date	Actions
2023	New		<div><div></div><div>Create</div></div>
			...
			...
			...
			...
			...

Items per page: 5

1 - 5 of 168

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LESS, Contractor details. Input details and select next to move on



https://agfood.icentest.agriculture.gov.ie/agsch-acres-ui/#/acres/create-less-claim

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1

Contractor Details

2

LESS Claim

Contractor Details (if applicable) :

Contractor Name

dfkjdkjflkdglkdjglkdsj

×

Contractor Address

Address

dkdksjskslsksjdmdldk9d44dfkjdkjflk

×

Town

dfjkjdkfjkdfkdfkdfkdhfkhd

×

County

asdfgasdfgasdfgasdfgasdfg

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Eircode

k8u7yy6

×

Contractor Phone No.


0123456789

×

Next


Click add new spread to begin entering details






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Home

← LESS Claim

A false or misleading statement may lead to disqualification, liability to refund any payments obtained and possible prosecution. Failure to submit this form may result in you becoming ineligible for payment for the Low-emission Slurry Spreading action and/or the Scheme itself. Please note that payment will not issue or may be delayed if all relevant fields are not completed.


1

Contractor Details

2

LESS Claim

Give details of dates; spread method; volume of slurry produced on the holding; volume imported; total volume spread and LPIS numbers where the slurry was applied.
Note: At least 50m³ of slurry must be applied annually on the holding to be eligible for this action. For calculation purposes 1m³ equals 1,000 litres (220 gallons).
Note: Imports will not be included in calculation of payable total.

LPIS Parcel	Spread Method	Date Spread	Volume Produced (m ³) A	Volume Imported (m ³) B	Actions
No New Spread added					
<div>Add New Spread </div>					

Back

Submit

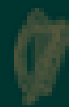
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LESS, Add spread event screen



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⚠ A false or mis
action and/o

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Note: At
Note: Im

LPIS Parcel

Back

Low-emission Slurry Spreading

2
LESS Claim

Actions

Submit

Add New Spread

×

LPIS Parcel *

*

×

Spread Method *

Band spreading (Dribble Bar)

*

Spread Date *

22/08/2023

Volume Produced A *

45.674

[Switch to gallons](#)

m³ ×

Volume Imported B *

54.002

[Switch to gallons](#)

m³ ×

Total Volume Spread (m³) A+B

99.674

*Atleast one of the Volume fields require value input. Both fields cannot be left empty.

Cancel

Submit

LESS, validations on spread screen



Only parcels with an eligible hectare > 0 claimed on BISS 2023 will be available on the drop down

Only approved spread methods; Band spreading, Injection systems, or Trailing shoe, are available on the drop down

Volume produced and Volume imported must be entered in separate fields and at least one of the fields must be filled in.

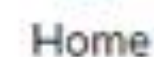
Multiple spread events on the same parcel can be input



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⚠ A false or misleading statement may lead to disqualification, liability to refund any payments obtained and possible prosecution. Failure to submit this form may result in you becoming ineligible for payment for the Low-emission Slurry Spreading action and/or the Scheme itself. Please note that payment will not issue or may be delayed if all relevant fields are not completed.

1 Contractor Details

2 LESS Claim

1 Give details of dates; spread method; volume of slurry produced on the holding; volume imported; total volume spread and LPIS numbers where the slurry was applied.
Note: At least 50m³ of slurry must be applied annually on the holding to be eligible for this action. For calculation purposes 1m³ equals 1,000 litres (220 gallons).
Note: Imports will not be included in calculation of payable total.

LPIS Parcel	Spread Method	Date Spread	Volume Produced (m ³) A	Volume Imported (m ³) B	Actions
	Trailing shoe	2023-10-03	20	50	

Add New Spread 

[Back](#)

Submit

LESS, Minimum amount 50cl



Method; volume of slurry produced on the holding; volume imported; total volume spread and LPS numbers where the slurry was applied annually on the holding to be eligible for this action. For calculation purposes 1m³ equals 1,000 litres (220 gallons). Included in calculation of payable total.

Submit LESS Claim

▲ Total Produce is less than 50m³, the minimum required for payment. Your LESS action will be rejected.

Do you wish to continue submission of claim?

X Cancel

✓ Yes, Submit

Items per page: 5

LESS, Submit claim



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LESS Claim

⚠️

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1

Contractor Details

2

LESS Claim

1

Give details of dates; spread method; volume of slurry produced on the holding; volume imported; total volume spread and LPI numbers where the slurry was applied.
Note: At least 50m³ of slurry must be applied
Note: Imports will not be included in calculation

LPI Parcel	Spread Method	Volume Imported (m ³) B	Actions
██████████	Band spreading (E	X02	<div>✎</div>
██████████	Trailing shoe		<div>✎</div>

Back

Submit

Submit LESS Claim

✕

☒ I/we hereby declare that I/we have fulfilled all the undertakings as set out in my/our Agri-Climate Rural Environmental Scheme application for scheme year and that the information outlined in this application is correct.

☒ I declare that pig slurry quantities are NOT included in my claim


Cancel

Submit

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LESS, claim submitted






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Client List

 Access

Business ID

[Redacted]

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[Redacted]

Tranche 1

Tranche 2

Scheme Year	Status	Submitted Date	Actions
2023	Submitted	2023-10-16	<div><div></div><div>View</div></div>
		Access Agreement Submitted	...
		Access Agreement Submitted	...
		Access Agreement Submitted	...

Items per page: 5 ▾

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Documents to be submitted



- **Soil sample document - deadline 15th May 2024**
- **Soil sample exemption form - deadline 15th May 2024**
- **Rare Breeds annual membership 2023 - June 2024
(exact date to be confirmed)**

This is the Document Manager. You can upload a particular document by selecting upload document from the actions tab for the particular document you want to upload



Document Manager

Documents

	Document Type	New Document Required	Year Last Document Uploaded	Year Document Created / Soil Sample Date	Actions
	Soil Sample Results	N	2022	01/09/2023	<div><div></div><div>View Documents</div></div>
	ACRES Soil Sample Exemption Form (Appendix 8)	N	-	-	<div><div></div><div>Upload Document</div></div>
	Rare Breeds Annual Membership Certification	N	-	-	...

← Cancel

Upload Soil sample document. Select date, and upload PDF file from your computer.




Document Manager

Documents

Upload Document Soil Sample Results

Document Type : Soil Sample Results 2022

Select Soil Sample Date *

Comment

Select File

No File Selected

✕ Cancel

Rare Breeds
Annual
Membership
Certification

N

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← Cancel

You must confirm the date of the document



Document Manager

Documents

Upload Document Soil Sample Results

Document Type : Soil Sample Results 2022

Select Soil Sample Date
03/10/2023

Comment

Select File

The Selected: ACRES Co-operation Approval Letter.pdf

Is this the Soil Sample Results for 03/10/2023?

No Yes


Upload Cancel

← Cancel

Rare Breeds Annual Membership Certification	N	-	-	...
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Document successfully uploaded





Document Successfully Uploaded

Close

Document Manager

Documents

Document Title	Document Type	Document Status	Document Created / Soil Sample Date	Actions
Soil Sample Results	N	2022	03/10/2023	...
ACRES Soil Sample Exemption Form (Appendix 8)	N	-	-	...
Rare Breeds Annual Membership Certification	N	-	-	...

← Cancel

ACRES Training



- **A core requirement of ACRES is that all participants must attend mandatory ACRES Training course in their first year of participation in Scheme (so for Tranche 1 participants, by 31 December 2023)**
- **Currently 513 approved ACRES Trainers**
- **For those of you who are not ACRES Trainers, please assist your clients by encouraging them to approach an ACRES Trainers, a list of whom are on Department's website, or by putting them in touch with one.**
- **Non-attendance at training course by 31 December 2023 will not impact the making of advance payment to participants in Nov 2023 as they would still have until end December 2023 to do course.**
- **Payments for those who have attended courses to date have started to issue.**



End

Thank you for listening