



ACRES Circular No. 29 of 2023

24th November 2022

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) Tranche 2
Farm Sustainability Plan Submit Button Available
Application System Now Open

Dear ACRES Advisor

The Department wishes to inform you that:

- the application system for ACRES Tranche 2 is now open and
- the 'submit' button on the Department's Generic Land Management (GLAM) system for the submission of Farm Sustainability Plans is now activated.

The deadline for the submission of applications for Tranche 2 of ACRES is 5.30 pm on Wednesday, 13th December 2023.

As outlined in previous ACRES circulars and at various ACRES training sessions, you must, when submitting an application for ACRES:

1. Submit an Expression of Interest/Access Agreement.
2. Prepare and submit a Farm Sustainability Plan (FSP) on GLAM; **and**
3. Complete and submit the application to include relevant uploads (Rare Breeds and Soil sampling).

All three steps must be completed by the deadline stated above for the application to be considered as received.

The functionality to complete all 3 steps is now available for advisors and can be accessed via your AgFood account. Advisors who do not have access to the ACRES online systems should refer to ACRES Circular 5 of 2022 for guidance on how to set up as a trained ACRES Advisor. This circular is available on the ACRES page of the Department's website.

Please note that there is, however, currently a restriction on submitting Farm Sustainability Plans (FSPs) on GLAM for General and Co-operation applicants that have no mapped actions drawn. This will be rectified in advance of the closing date for submission of ACRES applications but until then submission of FSPs on GLAM which have no mapped action is not possible. The submission of a FSP is a mandatory step in the application process.

This issue will be resolved as soon as possible to allow for submission of FSPs for these clients and completion of the application process on AgSchemes before the deadline for submission of ACRES Tranche 2 applications. You will be notified when this issue is resolved.

Please note that both the application and the FSP may only be amended at draft stage. It is essential that advisors are fully satisfied that both the FSP and the application are correct before submission as it will not be possible to make changes to either of them thereafter.

As stated, once an ACRES application is submitted, it will not be possible to make further changes. You should therefore ensure, at the time of submission, that the application is submitted under the correct stream (ACRES General or ACRES Co-operation) and that the correct actions, as agreed with the applicant, have been included. Once the application is submitted, the application may not be reopened and will not be made available again to the advisor to amend the application by adding or substituting alternative actions.

Support material for the preparation of ACRES applications for Tranche 2 including the Terms and Conditions and Specifications for Tranche 2, GLAM user manual, AgriSnap guide and video guides on how to access and use the FSP on GLAM are available at gov.ie/ACRES.

As the overall intake into the Scheme is, in accordance with Ireland's CAP Strategic Plan (CSP) 2023-2027, is 50,000, the number that may be approved under Tranche 2 will be the number that brings the current number in the Scheme up to that maximum of 50,000. If the Scheme is oversubscribed, a ranking and selection process will be used. The criteria for the ranking and selection process for each of the approaches within ACRES are published in the Terms and Conditions for Tranche 2 with these criteria, as indicated, currently subject to the agreement of the CSP Monitoring Committee.

As stated above, the system for the submission of applications for Tranche 2 of ACRES, will remain open until 5.30pm on Wednesday, 13th December 2023.

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford
Y35 PN52
Phone: 053 91 63425
Email: ACRESTRanche2@agriculture.gov.ie