



ACRES Circular No. 33 of 2023

7th December 2023

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)
Update on ACRES payment schedule

Dear ACRES Advisor

The Department is currently processing advance payments on ACRES contracts in respect of 2023, which will be issued in the following sequence:

- Advance payments in respect of ACRES General contracts to commence in week beginning 18th December 2023
- Advance payments in respect of ACRES Co-operation contracts to commence in February 2024
- Payment runs will continue thereafter, for both types of ACRES contracts, as and when claims pass all payment checks and validations.

Please note that it may not be possible at this stage to make an advance payment for several reasons including:

- Non-return of declaration in respect of Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) action. As advised previously, the Annual Declaration for LESS can be completed on the online portal via Agfood by either the ACRES farmer or their advisor.
- An issue with the BISS claim – the farmer or their advisor must ensure that they respond to all BISS queries they receive as these issues will also delay the ACRES payment.
- The contract did not pass the pre-payment validation process. Issues that cause ACRES claims to fail the validation process are investigated by ACRES staff, who may contact the farmer or their ACRES advisor for further information or clarification.
- No scorecards received for results-based actions.
- A change has been made to the contract which requires intervention by ACRES staff. These cases are being held pending the processing of these changes. Once the contract has been amended, it will then be processed for payment.
- A mismatch between the ACRES contract and the information input on BISS 2023. Such mismatches are being investigated by ACRES staff. Once this is resolved, the application for payment will proceed for further processing.

If your client or you, their ACRES advisor, have been contacted regarding any of the above issues, please ensure that all responses are provided and that any information



requested by ACRES staff is provided in a timely manner to facilitate the making of the advance payment.

Answers to some other payment related questions may be found in the attached FAQ document and at the ACRES section of the Department's website at [gov.ie - Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme \(ACRES\) \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) (www.gov.ie))

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