



**2024 National Reserve (Young Farmer/New Farmer) and Complementary  
Income Support for Young Farmers**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

- Q. I completed the application online, how do I know it has been submitted?**
- A. Once you have submitted your application via iNet a record of the application will show under 'Correspondence' and applicants/agents are advised to access same to confirm that the application has been successfully submitted. This record is the only accepted proof of submission of an application via iNet under the 2024 National Reserve and/or Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers. Only fully completed and submitted applications will be considered.
- Q. I am not registered on agfood.ie, is it possible to submit a paper version of the application form?**
- A. There is no facility to submit hardcopy National Reserve or Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers applications. All applications must be submitted online via agfood.ie. For those not currently registered, instructions can be found on [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) or you can contact: agfood Online Services Helpdesk at 049 4368288 or email [agfood@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:agfood@agriculture.gov.ie)
- Q. Does the closing date set out in the Terms and Conditions refer to the application only?**
- A. All supporting documentation should be submitted before the stated closing date.
- Q. I have applied for my herd number/to transfer an existing herd number, but my application has not yet been approved. As such I am unable to register on agfood.ie, what options are available to me?**
- A. In the event that a herd number has not been assigned at the date of application under the National Reserve/Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers, a facility is available via iNet for submission of such applications by registered Agricultural Agents.
- Q. Can I submit hardcopies of the supporting documentation?**
- A. There is no facility for submitting hardcopies of supporting documentation. All such supporting documentation should be uploaded on agfood.ie under the relevant sections.
- Q. How will the Department correspond with me?**
- A. All correspondence from the Department relevant to an application will be online via iNet. The applicant will be notified by text message to advise that correspondence from the Department is available on iNet. The registered agent for the applicant will also receive an email to advise that correspondence is available.
- Q. I was allocated entitlements and/or a top-up to the value of existing entitlements under the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve 2015-2022; does this disqualify me from the 2023 Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) National Reserve?**
- A. If you had a successful application to the Basic Payment Scheme National Reserve from 2015-2022, you are ineligible for consideration for the Basic Income Support for Sustainability National Reserve from 2023-2027.

- Q. Do I need to be the holder of a herd number or be registered on a joint herd number in order to apply for the National Reserve/Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers?**
- A. Applicants are required to be a holder of a registered herd number in order to qualify for the National Reserve and Complementary Income Support for Young farmers. Applications for a herd number, or to be included on an existing herd number, must have been received by the local RVO/DVO by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024.
- Applicants should note the addition or removal of a name to/from an existing herd number, a change of legal entity, formation/dissolution of a registered farm partnership or any other amendment to the registration details of a herd number under which entitlements were held in 2023 requires a parallel change to the registration details of the entitlements. In such cases a transfer of entitlements application must be submitted by the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, or the entitlements will not be available to the transferee for use in 2024 and the 2024 BISS Payment shall issue to the transferor.
- Q. I am eligible New Farmer farming in a group (Partnership/Joint Herd number/Company) with farmers who do not qualify as New Farmers. Is the group eligible under the National Reserve?**
- A. No. Only groups made up entirely of applicants meeting the definition of a New Farmers will be eligible under the New Farmer category of the National Reserve.
- Q. I was successful under the Complementary Income Support for Young farmers in 2023 and I am eligible for continued participation in the scheme in 2024. Do I need to submit a 2024 application?**
- A. If no changes have been made to the herd number since 2023 you can apply for the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers by using the appropriate slider button on the 2024 BISS application. A 'thumbs up' icon will indicate an application for the new scheme.
- Q. I was successful under the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers in 2023 and I am eligible for continued participation in the scheme in 2024. However, a change has been made to the Herd number since 2023. Can I use the slider button option on the 2024 BISS Application to apply?**
- A. As a change has been made to the Herd number since 2023 the 'slider button' option will not be available, and you must use the online application facility on [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) to submit a new 2024 Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers application.
- Q. I was successful under the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers in 2022 and I am eligible for continued participation in the scheme in 2024, but I do not have the 'slider button' option on the 2024 Basic Income Support for Sustainability Application. How do I apply?**
- A. In such cases eligible applications should use the online application facility on [www.Agfood.ie](http://www.Agfood.ie) to submit a 2024 Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers application.
- Q. How do I know if my Educational Qualifications meet the required standard?**
- A. A list of acceptable educational qualifications can be found at Appendix A of the Terms and Conditions of the National Reserve/Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers. Where an applicant holds or has completed a qualification that is not included at Appendix A, a letter of equivalence from Teagasc confirming the educational qualification held by the applicant fulfils the requirements of the scheme must be submitted by the applicant.

- Q. I will not have completed an agricultural education course leading to a recognised/accepted agricultural qualification by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Am I eligible?**
- A. Applicants must have successfully completed an agricultural education course at Level 6 or its equivalent on the National Framework of Qualifications by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and must submit a copy of this qualification (or Teagasc letter of equivalence) in support of their application. If an applicant has fully completed the education course by 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 but has not yet been verified as successful or received final certification, they must complete and submit Version A of the Confirmation of Education Form which is available for downloading on the online application facility.
- Q. My educational qualification is made up of more than one certificate. Do I need to submit all certificates or is the most recent one sufficient?**
- A. In some cases, meeting the educational qualifications require a combination of two or more certificates (for example a non-agricultural award and FETAC Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Animal and Crop Production and FETAC Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Business) in those cases all three certificates are required in support of the application. Failure to submit all the certificates may result in the application being unsuccessful.
- Q. My Educational Qualification Certificate is not from a college in the Republic of Ireland, is this acceptable?**
- A. A letter of equivalence will be required, and s/he should apply to the Educational Officer in Teagasc for same.
- Q. If I receive an allocation from the Basic Income Support for Sustainability National Reserve in 2023 and acquire additional land in 2024 or subsequent year, can I apply for another allocation of entitlements on this additional land?**
- A. No, an applicant may only receive an allocation from the BISS National Reserve once. A successful application in 2023 excludes the applicant from consideration in any subsequent year.
- Q. I do not currently hold a herd number. How do I apply for one?**
- A. In order to apply for a herd number, you must complete an ER 1 form. Completed forms should be submitted to your Regional Veterinary Office along with any necessary supporting documentation.

These forms can be accessed at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f90f21-application-for-a-flockherd-number/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/>

It will also be necessary to record details of a bank account to which payments will be made with the Department. The form (link below to Authorisation to Add/Change Bank Account Details for Farmer) below should be completed and returned to Direct Credit Section, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham St, Cavan. Any queries in relation to the registration of bank details should be directed to the Direct Credit Section at 049 4368283.  
[DIR-CR-AGR-GDPR Bank & Credit Union form for Agricultural Scheme Payments](#)

- Q. I want to amend my herd number to add an eligible Young Farmer. What do I need to do?**
- A. In order to amend the registration details of a herd number you must complete an ER 1.1 form. Completed forms should be submitted to your Regional Veterinary Office along with any necessary supporting documentation. These forms can be accessed on the Departments website at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f90f21-application-for-a-flockherd-number/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/> along with an information note on the completion of these forms.

If there are entitlements associated with the herd number, it will be necessary to complete a 2024 Transfer Form transferring entitlements from the original herd number to the amended herd number that includes the Young Farmer.

It will also be necessary to amend the details of the bank account to which payments will be made with the Department as the Young Farmers name must be included on the name of the bank account. The form (link above to Authorisation to Add/Change Bank Account Details for Farmer) should be completed and returned to Direct Credit Section, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham St, Cavan. Any queries in relation to the registration of bank details should be directed to the Direct Credit Section at 049 4368283.

If you have previously benefitted from the Young Farmers Scheme, have amended your herd number and wish to transfer across to the new Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers, you should use the online application facility on [www.agfood.ie](http://www.agfood.ie) to submit a 2024 Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers application.

- Q. Does the Young Farmer have to be recorded as the herd keeper on a joint herd number/Company/Partnership?**
- A. No, the Young Farmer does not need to be recorded as the herd keeper but must be a registered owner of the herd number.
- Q. An eligible Young Farmer is registered as the herd keeper on my herd number – but s/he is not on the herd number. Will this meet the eligibility conditions of the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers?**
- A. No, the Young Farmer must be registered on the herd number.
- Q. Is the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers paid based on activated entitlements as was the case with the Young Farmers Scheme?**
- A. The Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers is paid based on eligible hectares, subject to a maximum of 50 hectares, and is not linked to the number of payment entitlements activated in the scheme year.
- Q. Do I need to hold payment entitlements in order to draw down payment under the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers?**
- A. While the payment is not based on the number of payment entitlements activated in the scheme year, you must hold a minimum of 1 payment entitlement, or part thereof in order to be eligible under the CISYF.

- Q. Is there an upper limit on the number of entitlements allocated to a successful applicant from the National Reserve?**
- A. Successful applicants to the National Reserve will be eligible for an allocation of entitlements on land for which they hold no entitlements and/or a top up to the value of existing entitlements held by them, where such entitlements have a value below the National Reserve National Average subject to a maximum allocation of 50 payment entitlements/top-ups.
- Q. Is there an off-farm income limit in place for applicants to the National Reserve and/or the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers?**
- A. There is no off-farm income limit in place for either scheme.
- Q. What will entitlements allocated from the National Reserve be valued at?**
- A. The value of entitlements allocated from the National Reserve, and the value to which existing entitlements are increased, shall be fixed at the national average value of payment entitlements in the year of allocation. In 2024 the National Average value is expected to be in the region of €155.
- Q. What is the order of allocation of National Average entitlements?**
- A. *- Owned Naked Hectare Land Parcels to receive new NR entitlements*  
*- Leased/Rented Naked Hectare Land Parcels to receive new NR entitlements*  
*- Owned BPS Entitlements to receive a top up where the value is less than the national average*  
*- Leased BPS Entitlements to receive a top up where the value is less than the national average*
- Q. What is the expected level of payment under the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers?**
- A. It is expected that over the 5-year term of the Complementary Income Support for Young Farmers, payments will average out at approximately €150 per hectare.
- Q. The land that I intend to declare in 2024 is not owned by me. Do I have to show I have a minimum term lease agreement for the land, and will I have to provide a copy of the lease?**
- A. Successful applicants may receive entitlements on owned, leased or rented land. It is not necessary for applicants to demonstrate a minimum term lease but documentary evidence relating to land farmed may be requested at a later date.
- Q. Can entitlements be transferred out from land to create naked land for the purposes of applying to the National Reserve?**
- A. The removal of entitlements from land for the purpose of creating naked land upon which a National Reserve allocation can be made is not permitted. This action is regarded as circumventing the EU Regulations governing the operation of the scheme by artificially creating the conditions required for obtaining an allocation from the National Reserve.