

Share Farm Agreement for GAEC 7 - Terms & Conditions

1. Introduction

Share farming is an arrangement where two or more parties carry on farming under an agreed arrangement without forming a partnership or company.

All parties share the benefits and the risks of the arrangement. There is **no fixed annual payment for the land**. The agreement must at a minimum specify that all parties to the share farming arrangement are responsible (fully or partially) for both inputs and outputs.

Each of the parties to the agreement makes separate contributions to the arrangement, for example, land, machinery, labour and expertise and takes a share in the produce or gross output. The Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) will accept Share Farming Agreements in respect of GAEC 7 obligations for payment under the Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) Scheme providing that the requirements that are set out in this document are adhered to by the share farmers involved in the arrangement.

For the purpose of GAEC 7, the number and percentage of crops will be calculated using details of crops sown by all parties of the Agreement.

2. Applications

Step 1

Each member of the Agreement must submit the Share Farming Agreement(s) to the Department of

Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM),
Direct Payments Unit,
GAEC 7 section,
Government Offices,
Old Abbeyleix Rd.
Portlaoise, Co Laois.

Sample copy available on the Departments' website: www.agriculture.gov.ie

Step 2

The Primary Participant must submit a completed Share Farming application form (SFA1/24), signed by each member of the Share Farm Agreement and posted to:

Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM),

Direct Payments Unit, GAEC 7 section,
Government Offices,
Old Abbeyleix Rd.
Portlaoise, Co Laois.

SFA1/24 available on the Departments website: www.agriculture.gov.ie

Step 3

All parties must submit their individual Basic Income Support for Sustainability Scheme (BISS)

application online via www.agfood.ie by 15 May 2024, and the annual scheme closing date thereafter.

3. Requirements

As a minimum the Share Farming Agreement must provide that all share farmers must contribute to both the inputs and outputs of the arrangement and share the gross output (no fixed annual payments should be made).

4. Operation of Share Farming Arrangements

The Share Farm Arrangements must have the following details

- (i) Share Farming Arrangement,
- (ii) the individual share farmers involved,
- (iii) their herd numbers
- (iv) name and address of the Primary Participant,
- (v) the registered address for correspondence and
- (vi) land details of all the share farmers, who are participants to the agreement in the relevant scheme year.

Applicants, who are applying for the Basic Income Support for Sustainability under a Share Farm Arrangement, need to be aware of the following points which will be applicable to Share Farm applicants:

- If one of the Share Farming parties is selected for inspection, all share farmers who are parties to the Arrangement will be inspected.

- The requirements of the Crop Diversification obligations will be assessed at Share Farming Agreement level.
- The process of assessing compliance with the eligibility provisions will be assessed at the Share Farming Agreement level.
- Payments and reductions if applicable for eligibility issues will be calculated at the level of the Share Farming Arrangement and will be applied separately at farmer level based on individual entitlement values.
- A Conditionality non-compliance will be processed at Share Farm level except in cases where the reason for the non-compliance can be attributed to an individual farmer within the Agreement,
- Penalties for the late submission of the application under the Basic Income Support for Sustainability or penalties applied for GAEC 7 non-compliances will be applied at Share Farming Level
- If the Share Farming Arrangement is terminated, the parties involved are obliged to inform the Department of the termination and the date of that termination.

*** Applications in respect of 2024**

For 2024, applicants who wish to apply under a Share Farming Arrangement should lodge their fully completed Share Farming Application (SFA1/24) and Share Farming Agreement to the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine for approval and must also apply online via www.agfood.ie for the Basic Income Support for Sustainability Scheme as an individual farmer before the deadline of 15th May 2024.

Following submission of all of the parties Basic Income Support for Sustainability applications online, The Department will later join the parties to the Agreement as a Share Farming application.