



ACRES Circular No. 11/2024

26 March 2024

**Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)  
Exemption to spring requirement of Environmental Management of Arable Fallow  
for ACRES Tranche 1 and ACRES Tranche 2**

Dear Advisor

Participants who selected the action, Environmental Management of Arable Fallow (EMAF), are required to create an area of bare ground by shallow cultivation on or before 31 March each year.

However, adverse weather in recent months has created difficult ground conditions in many areas to allow any cultivation to take place. Consequently, the following exemption has been granted to Requirement 9 of the specification document:

**ACRES Tranche 1**

If ground conditions don't allow participants to conduct Requirement 9, i.e., to create an area of bare ground by shallow cultivation on or before 31 March, no shallow cultivation is required this spring. All other requirements must be met including Requirement 10 (i.e., from 31 March, the selected area must be left fallow with no machine operations or grazing until after 1 July).

While an extension to the date was considered for Requirement 9 of the specification, it was concluded, based on expert ecological advice, that such a move could be potentially harmful for lapwing and other ground nesting species as some species only produce one brood per year and this can occur as early as the second week of April.

**ACRES Tranche 2**

Approval letters for ACRES Tranche 2 will be issued in the coming weeks. As participants are not obliged to establish an ACRES action before the receipt of an approval letter, those who selected Environmental Management of Arable Fallow for ACRES Tranche 2 are exempt from conducting Requirement 9 of the specification this spring. All other requirements must be met including Requirement 10 (i.e., from 31 March, the selected area must be left fallow with no machine operations or grazing until after 1 July).

It is worth pointing out that the EMAF action must be protected from livestock at all times.

Please be advised that all participants should use the crop code "EMAF" when declaring the action, Environmental Management of Arable Fallow, on their 2024 BISS application.

Please note that the exemption outlined above strictly applies to 2024 only.



Regards  
ACRES Team

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