



SUMMARY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

IRELAND • 2014 - 2020



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas



Department of
**Agriculture,
Food and the Marine**
An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara**



Department of Rural and
Community Development
An Roinn Forbartha
Tuathí agus Pobail

This booklet is intended as a summary only of the Irish National Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2014-2020 operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other relevant Government Departments and Agencies, and has no status in law. A full copy of the RDP can be accessed at: www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/



SUMMARY OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Ireland
2014 – 2020

SEPTEMBER 2017

2ND AMENDMENT



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List of Abbreviations

| | |
|----------------|--|
| AEOS | Agri-Environment Options Scheme |
| AIM | Animal Identification and Movement |
| ANCs | Areas of Natural Constraints |
| BDGP | Beef Data and Genomics Programme |
| BPS | Basic Payment Scheme |
| BVD | Bovine Viral Diarrhoea |
| CAP | Common Agricultural Policy |
| CEDRA | Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas |
| CLLD | Community-Led Local Development |
| CMEF | Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework |
| CMES | Common Monitoring and Evaluation System |
| CPD | Continuous Professional Development |
| DAFM | Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine |
| DAS | Disadvantaged Areas Scheme |
| DRCD | Department of Rural and Community Development |
| EAFRD | European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development |
| EIP | European Innovation Partnerships |
| EU | European Union |
| FIP | Farm Improvement Plan |
| FPM | Freshwater Pearl Mussel |
| GHG | Greenhouse Gas |
| GLAS | Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme |
| Ha | Hectares |
| HNV | High Nature Value |
| LAG | Local Action Group |
| LDS | Local Development Strategy |
| LEADER | LEADER is a CLLD approach to local development funded by the RDP |
| LESS | Low Emission Slurry Spreading |
| LU | Livestock Unit |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organisation |
| NRN | National Rural Network |
| PEA | Priority Environmental Assets and Actions |
| PO | Producer Organisations |
| RDP | Rural Development Programme |
| REPS | Rural Environment Protection Scheme |
| SAC | Special Area of Conservation |
| SCC | Somatic Cell Count |
| SPA | Special Protection Area |
| SWOT | Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats |
| TAMS II | Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes II |

1. What is the Rural Development Programme?

The Rural Development Programme (RDP) is part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), a common set of objectives, principles and rules through which the European Union (EU) co-ordinates support for European agriculture. The CAP framework is comprised of two complementary pillars; Pillar 1 deals with direct payments to farmers and market measures while Pillar 2 covers rural development measures which include those that are beneficial for the environment and climate change. Previous Irish RDPs have included measures such as the Disadvantaged Areas Schemes (DAS), Agri-Environment Schemes such as the Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS), and wider community development initiatives delivered under the LEADER programme.

Arising from the most recent reform of CAP agreed under the Irish Presidency of the EU, a new suite of rural development measures has been designed to enhance the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, achieve more sustainable management of natural resources and ensure a more balanced development of rural areas. This booklet outlines the broad range of schemes and supports contained in Ireland's RDP for the period 2014-20. Ireland's RDP was formally adopted by the EU Commission on 26th May 2015. This version of the summary booklet reflects Ireland's 2014-2020 RDP following the 2nd amendment – see section 4 for more information on amendments.

2. How has the RDP been developed?

The RDP has been developed taking account of available financial resources and EU regulatory requirements. It is based on a thorough analysis of sectoral needs and priorities identified over a lengthy period of consultation with stakeholders.

Programme funding

The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is the Managing Authority for Ireland's RDP. The Programme is co-funded by the EU's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the national exchequer. EU support for the RDP via the EAFRD will average €313 million annually or an aggregate sum of €2.19 billion over the 7-year Programme lifespan. This EU funding will be supplemented by exchequer funding. The total funding for RDP measures incorporating national and EU funds is set out in table 1. The allocation of funding will be phased over the Programme period in line with the requirements of measure design and budgetary resources.

Transitional arrangements have been put in place for expenditure spanning the programming periods of the 2007-2013 RDP and the 2014-2020 RDP. Transitional funding is included in the figures above in respect of Measures 4, 10, 12 and 13. Measure 12 is programmed exclusively to provide for ongoing commitments from the 2017-2013 programme. In addition to the above figures, the RDP financial plan also includes transitional funding allocated to measures from the 2007-2013 RDP (Early Retirement Scheme payments) which does not have a corresponding measure in the 2014-2020 RDP.

Table 1: EAFRD and national funding over the RDP lifetime

| Measure | € |
|---|---------------|
| Measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions | 125,800,000 |
| Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services | 8,300,000 |
| Measure 4 - Investments in physical assets | 425,000,000 |
| Measure 7 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas | 6,000,000 |
| Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate | 1,531,005,630 |
| Measure 11 - Organic farming | 56,000,000 |
| Measure 12 - Natura | 73,250,000 |
| Measure 13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints | 1,370,000,000 |
| Measure 14 – Animal Welfare | 100,000,000 |
| Measure 16 - Co-operation | 62,000,000 |
| Measure 19 - Support for LEADER local development | 250,000,000 |
| Technical Assistance | 8,145,000 |

EU regulatory requirements

EU legislation sets out 3 overriding objectives for RDP funding:

- enhancing the competitiveness of agriculture;
- ensuring the sustainable management of natural resources and climate action;
- achieving a balanced regional development of rural economies and communities.

These general long-term goals are given more detailed expression in 6 Rural Development Priorities so that Member States adopt a common approach to the design of their RDPs. The core priorities that Member States must have regard to are:

- Fostering knowledge transfer and innovation in agriculture, forestry and rural areas;
- Enhancing the viability / competitiveness of farms and all types of agriculture;
- Promoting food chain organisation and risk management in agriculture;
- Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems dependent on agriculture and forestry;
- Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy in the agriculture, food and forestry sectors;

- Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

In turn, each rural development priority identifies specific areas for intervention known as focus areas. A specific scheme may be designed to impact over a number of focus areas.

The Irish RDP was framed in the context of national policies as well as the above EU regulatory requirements. For instance, many of the themes central to the Food Harvest 2020 strategy are coherent with the themes emerging from the wide ranging preparatory analyses underlying the development of Ireland's RDP as well as with the objectives and priorities as set out in the EU Rural Development Regulation. The 2014-20 Programme was also formulated in light of the experience and performance of the previous 2007-13 RDP and reflects the outcome of an extensive public and stakeholder consultation exercise conducted over a period of 18 months.

Analysis and consultation

Detailed analysis and preparation for Ireland's new RDP was a multi-stage process which involved:

- an open call for submissions on RDP Priorities as set out in the draft Rural Development regulation, launched in December 2012;
- a stakeholder forum in July 2013 to develop a comprehensive SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and needs assessment which underpins the programme;
- another open call for submissions and a stakeholder event following on from the announcement of proposed RDP measures in January 2014;
- an ex-ante evaluation incorporating a Strategic Environmental Analysis of the proposed measures conducted by independent, external evaluators that included further stakeholder consultation;
- Following submission of Ireland's draft RDP in July 2014, a period of intensive discussion and development followed between DAFM and the EU Commission. The content of the RDP was agreed in April, 2015 with formal adoption following in May.

3. Breakdown of Programme by Rural Development Measure

Support is delivered through measures and submeasures as set out in the EU regulations. In some instances, schemes cut across a number of submeasures while in others a particular submeasure may encompass a number of separate schemes.

3.1 Measure 1 - Knowledge transfer and information actions

- Submeasure 1.1 Knowledge Transfer Groups
- Submeasure 1.1 Training delivered in support of the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS), the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Burren Programme

3.2 Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

- Submeasure 2.3 Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Agricultural Advisors
- Submeasure 2.3 Animal Health and Welfare - Training for Advisors
- Submeasure 2.1 Animal Health and Welfare - On Farm Advice
- Submeasure 2.1 Support for the setting up of Producer Organisations

3.3 Measure 4 - Investments in physical assets

- Submeasure 4.1 Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes II (TAMS II)
- Submeasure 4.4 Non Productive Investments (delivered via GLAS)
- Submeasure 4.4 Non Productive Investments (delivered via The Burren Programme)

3.4 Measure 7 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

- Submeasure 7.6 GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings

3.5 Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate

- Submeasure 10.1 Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) and GLAS+
- Submeasure 10.1 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)
- Submeasure 10.1 The Burren Programme

3.6 Measure 11 - Organic farming

- Submeasure 11.1 and Submeasure 11.2 The Organic Farming Scheme

3.7 Measure 13 - Payments to areas facing natural or other specific constraints

- Submeasure 13.2 Areas of Natural Constraints (ANCs)
- Submeasure 13.3 Specific support for offshore island farming

3.8 Measure 14 - Animal Welfare

- Submeasure 14.1 - Animal Welfare Scheme (Sheep)

3.9 Measure 16 - Co-operation

- Submeasure 16.1 - European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) – General EIPs
- Submeasure 16.1 - European Innovation Partnerships – Locally Led Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects
- Submeasure 16.1 - European Innovation Partnerships – Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects
- Submeasure 16.3 - Support for Collaborative Farming

3.10 Measure 19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – Community-Led Local Development)

- Submeasure 19.1 LEADER preparatory support
- Submeasure 19.2 LEADER support for the implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy
- Submeasure 19.3 LEADER support for the preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Groups
- Submeasure 19.4 LEADER support for running costs and animation

3.1 Measure 1 - Knowledge Transfer and information actions

The Knowledge Transfer and information actions measure is expected to contribute to the following Focus Areas:

- 2A - Economic performance, modernisation & restructuring
- 3B - Farm risk prevention & management

- 4A - Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas
- 4B - Improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C - preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5D - Reducing GHG & ammonia emissions.

This measure consists of the following:

- Submeasure 1.1 – Knowledge Transfer Groups
- Submeasure 1.1 – Training delivered in support of Measure 10 (Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS), the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Burren Programme)

Submeasure 1.1 Knowledge Transfer Groups

General Description

Knowledge Transfer Groups will see farmer meetings facilitated by highly qualified advisors and will involve the transfer and exchange of information and best practice across a range of areas. Groups will run for a period of 3 years and farmers may participate in two Knowledge Transfer Groups in different sectors. All participating farmers will be required to develop a Farm Improvement Plan (FIP) in the initial year of participation and to update it in each of the 2nd and 3rd years of the scheme. This Plan will be developed in association with both the qualified facilitator and a qualified veterinary practitioner as appropriate. Each participating farmer will also be required to attend a minimum of 5 knowledge transfer meetings/DAFM accredited national events per year.

For each approved group a facilitator will arrange knowledge transfer meetings for participating farmers with meeting topics to be selected from a menu of topics covering farm management issues such as grassland management, pest management, herd health, breeding, risk management, health and safety, progression planning and nutrient management. Knowledge Transfer Groups will be delivered in the Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Poultry, Tillage, and Equine sectors.

Specifically, it is expected that Knowledge Transfer Groups will:

- encourage efficiency and effectiveness of work;
- help farmers to deal with complex issues;
- build capacity of individuals in a group environment;
- ensure farmers engage in a process of continuous improvement;

- encourage innovation and new ideas; and
- enhance the delivery of other related measures proposed under the RDP.

Eligibility Conditions

DAFM will identify Knowledge Transfer Groups to be provided and set a maximum number of groups to be funded by sector. Course facilitators will apply to manage and facilitate groups provided they comply with the following basic eligibility criteria:

- A minimum educational qualification to Level 8 of the National Framework of Qualifications or another specified qualification deemed eligible by DAFM;
- Indemnity insurance up to €150,000.

Type of Support and Rates

The beneficiaries of this submeasure will be the Knowledge Transfer Group facilitators. Each facilitator will be paid an annual grant of €500 per participating farmer. There will be a maximum of 18 members per group, or 12 in the case of Poultry.

Each participating farmer will be paid an annual grant of €750. This grant compensates the participating farmer for the time element (replacement farmer cost) and travel cost associated with attending knowledge transfer meetings and developing the FIP. Farmers that participate in two Knowledge Transfer Groups will receive a reduced payment rate of 50% for the second KT Group. This reduced rate will also apply to the associated KT Facilitator.

Submeasure 1.1 Training delivered in support of Measure 10 the Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS), the Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP) and the Burren Programme

Training will be provided to beneficiaries under Measure 10 schemes to optimise delivery of these schemes.

BDGP training

General Description

There are two elements to the BDGP training. The first element is general BDGP training where participating farmers will be required to attend an approved training course which will provide clear information as regards to what is required at individual farm level and will increase the participants' knowledge of genomics and breeding selection.

General BDGP training is designed to provide:

- an introduction to the BDGP, its regulatory basis, the objectives of the scheme and funding;
- information on the individual actions covering areas such as data collection, genotyping, genomic indices and the bull/heifer replacement strategy;
- information on controls, inspections and sanctions;
- training on the understanding and optimal use of breeding indices for maternal breeding strategies;
- training on the importance of data collection and maternal breeding traits, and the linkage with carbon efficiency at scheme level.

The second element of BDGP training consists of a 2 hour preparatory training course on the carbon navigator. This is a tool which estimates the potential greenhouse gas reductions and financial savings that can be made on each farm through enhanced farm efficiency. It also allows individual farmers to set future targets and make comparisons with average and best performing farmers.

General training will be delivered by a training provider to be selected following an open and transparent public procurement process while Carbon Navigator training will be delivered in a one on one setting by approved advisors.

Eligibility Conditions

Eligibility for general BDGP training will be determined by the following conditions:

- The training provider must have trainers with qualifications in relevant disciplines at National Framework of Qualifications Level 8;
- Appropriate indemnity insurance arrangements must be in place.

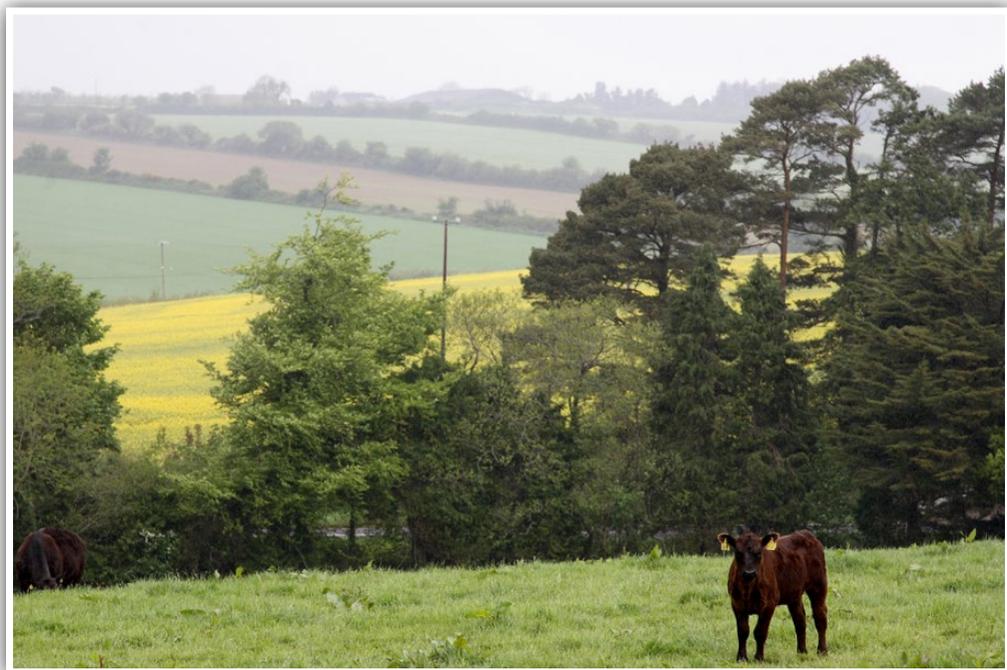
Eligibility for Carbon Navigator Training will be determined by the following conditions:

- The training provider must have a qualification in a relevant discipline at National Framework of Qualifications Level 8;
- The training provider must have attended the DAFM approved Continuous Professional Development module delivered through Measure 2 of the RDP.

Type of Support and Rates

The beneficiaries of BDGP training will be the training providers. The training provider will be selected on the basis of an open and transparent public procurement process and total payment for the general BDGP training will be as set out in the winning tender. Each one on one Carbon Navigator training support delivered corresponds to a payment at the rate of €160 to the training provider.

Each participating farmer will receive €166 for attendance at the 4 hour general BDGP training course and this aims to compensate the farmer for the time element (replacement farmer cost) and travel cost associated with attending the measure specific training.



GLAS training

General Description

Under GLAS, beneficiaries will be required to attend approved training courses. Courses will be delivered at various locations to facilitate ease of access to training for farmers and will entail 6 hours of training.

A range of courses will provide farmers with information on:

- an introduction to the GLAS scheme, its regulatory basis, the objectives of the scheme and funding;
- the individual commitments covering areas such as nutrient management, farming practices, record keeping, delivery timelines etc.;
- the controls, inspections and sanctions;
- the consequences of agricultural pollution and its avoidance (including climate change awareness, and the synergies between mitigation and adaptation);
- an appreciation of the importance and preservation of Natura 2000 sites and important bird habitats, wildlife habitats, etc.

Eligibility Conditions

Training providers must be registered professional advisors with DAFM. This entails:

- having a relevant National Framework of Qualifications Level 8 qualification;
- having received the GLAS specific training delivered for advisors by DAFM;
- being FAS registered and trained.

Type of Support and Rates

The beneficiaries of GLAS training will be the training providers and the total amount payable per attendee at the training courses is €238. €158 of this total is in respect of the farmers costs for attendance at the training.

Burren training

General Description

High Nature Value Services Ltd was selected as the Burren Team and will act as an intermediary layer between the farmer and the Department for the Burren Programme. They will also provide training and support to farmers to help them manage their lands. The Burren Team will deliver Training Workshops on Farming for Conservation every year and these Workshops will focus on practical farming for conservation issues including:

- Identifying habitats of the Burren
- Sustainable grazing regimes
- Approved feeding systems
- Best practice for wall maintenance
- Best practice for water provision
- Best practice for scrub removal
- Recognising and protecting archaeological monuments

A panel of DAFM-Approved trained Burren Farm Advisors will be drawn up for the purposes of implementing the new Burren programme. These Advisors, who must also be FAS approved, must undergo an intensive training course given by the Burren Team and must participate in annual 'refresher' courses on farming for conservation in the Burren. Farmers approved for participation in the programme must select their Farm Advisor from this panel, which will be published on DAFM's website.

Eligibility Conditions

Attendance at workshops is mandatory for all Programme participants.

Type of Support and Rates

Training will be provided by the Burren Team. The eligible costs will be included in the cost of their contract (funded under Measure 20 - Technical Assistance).

3.2 Measure 2 - Advisory services, farm management and farm relief services

This measure contributes to focus areas:

- 2A – economic performance and modernisation
- 3A – competitiveness of primary producers
- 3B – farm risk prevention and management
- 5D – greenhouse gas and ammonia emissions

This measure consists of:

- Submeasure 2.3 – Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Agricultural Advisors
- Submeasure 2.3 – Animal Health and Welfare - training for advisors
- Submeasure 2.1 – Animal Health and Welfare - On farm advice
- Submeasure 2.1 – Support for the setting up of Producer Organisations

Submeasure 2.3 Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for Agricultural Advisors.

General Description

Participation in continuing professional development activities will allow advisors to enhance their knowledge base on an on-going basis and ensure that they are familiar with the latest techniques and regulatory requirements. This scheme will promote the development of knowledgeable, professional and competent advisors, and thereby enhance the quality of service provided to farmers.

The identification of appropriate areas for skills enhancement and areas in which courses will be provided will arise from an on-going stakeholder consultation process.

Having identified a topic that qualified advisors need to be up-skilled on, the Department will advertise an open tender competition and allow qualified service providers to submit tender proposals to provide this training. The tender proposals will be evaluated based on predetermined selection criteria. The successful tenderer will then provide the training to qualified advisors based on the specifications set out in the tender proposal.

Eligibility Conditions

A National Framework of Qualifications (or another specified qualification as deemed eligible by DAFM) Level 8 educational qualification is required for eligibility.

Type of Support and Rates

Support will be based on the price set out in the tender documentation, subject to a maximum amount of €200,000 per three years per service provider. The aid intensity will be 100% of the cost specified in the successful tender.

Submeasure 2.3 Animal Health and Welfare - training for advisors

General Description

The contract for delivery of the Targeted Advisory Service on Animal Health and Welfare was awarded to Animal Health Ireland in September 2015 following an open call for proposals. This service will involve the specialist training of practitioners/veterinarians to deliver an on-farm animal health and welfare advisory service. The advice to be provided on farm will strategically target a number of core areas such as Johne's disease, BVD, SCC and significant animal health issues in the pig sector.

Eligibility Conditions

Eligible trainers will be qualified veterinary surgeons who are registered with the Irish Veterinary Council with a relevant National Framework of Qualifications Level 9 qualification.

Type of Support and Rates

Support will be based on the price set out in the tender documentation and is subject to a maximum amount of €200,000 per three years per service provider. The total support payable will be calculated on the basis of the number of disease training sessions required. It is envisaged that there will be 30 training sessions per annum with 15 veterinary participants per session with a maximum of €2,200 per session.

Submeasure 2.1 Animal Health and Welfare - On-Farm Advice

General Description

This service will involve the delivery of specialist animal health and welfare advice on a request basis at individual farm level by qualified veterinary surgeons.

Eligibility Conditions

Beneficiaries must be qualified veterinary surgeons who deliver the on-farm advice. Eligibility also requires the advisor to have undergone specialist training delivered under submeasure 2.3 and to hold a relevant National Framework of Qualifications Level 8 qualification.

Type of Support and Rates

Training will be based on a 3 hour advisory session at individual farm level, for which the professional fee will be payable, limited to a maximum rate of €80 per hour.

Submeasure 2.1 Support for the setting up of Producer Organisations

General Description

This submeasure will involve the provision of advice to prospective Producer Organisations (PO) of active beef suppliers to assist them with start-up requirements for formal recognition. Groups of farmers wishing to come together within a Producer Organisation can apply for advice from the approved list of advisors. Farmers can apply for advice under two categories:

- Advice on business planning, production planning, membership of PO;
- Advice on establishment and registration of a PO as a legal entity and drafting Statutes of a PO.

Eligibility Conditions

DAFM will identify through a public procurement exercise, in line with public procurement rules, a panel of advisors who satisfy the following eligibility conditions.

- A minimum educational qualification to level 8 of National Framework of Qualifications or another specific qualification/experience deemed eligible by DAFM.

Type of Support and Rates

The payment to an advisor will be €1500 per advice per PO or prospective PO and is based on 12.5 hours total engagement at a rate of €120/hour. Any further provision of advice, beyond one advice per category, will have to be borne by the PO themselves. As a result, the maximum support provided to each PO will be €3,000 if the prospective PO receives advice under categories 1) and 2) above.

Advisors will be paid a once-off payment following a decision by DAFM on the recognition or not of the prospective PO. The payment will reflect the following conditions:

- 100% of the total funding will be paid if the PO receives recognition;
- 80% of the total funding will be paid if the PO submitted an application for recognition but is unsuccessful;
- 47% of the total funding will be paid if no application for PO recognition is received.

3.3 Measure 4 - Investments in physical assets

This measure has been designed to contribute towards a range of focus areas as follows:

- Focus area 2A – Economic performance, modernisation & restructuring
- Focus area 2B – Facilitating the entry of farmers and generational renewal
- Focus area 3B - Farm risk prevention & management
- Focus area 4A – Restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas
- Focus area 4B – Improving Water Management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- Focus area 5B - Efficiency in Energy Use
- Focus area 5D - Reducing GHG & ammonia emissions.

This measure consists of:

- Submeasure 4.1 – Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes II (TAMS II)
- Submeasure 4.4 – support for non-productive investments (delivered via GLAS)
- Submeasure 4.4 – support for non-productive investments (delivered via The Burren Programme)

Submeasure 4.1 Targeted Agricultural Modernisation Schemes II (TAMS II)

General Description

The objective of this scheme is to encourage capital investment in a number of target areas which will promote, in particular, increased competitiveness and sustainability in those sectors in which grant-aid will be made available. TAMS II will follow a similar structure to that which was in place for TAMS under the RDP 2007-2013. The areas prioritised for investment under TAMS II will contribute to a number of central themes in the farming sector, including:

- enabling growth and competitiveness;
- environmental and climate change issues;
- supporting increased efficiency of holdings;
- improving animal health and welfare;
- supporting young farmers wishing to enter the sector or improve their holdings.

Under the new TAMS II, funding will be provided for:

a) Dairy equipment

- The purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.
- Support will be provided for grant-aid for investment in a select range of items, including important equipment for the dairy sector such as robotic milking machines, bulk milk tanks, milking equipment, storage and cooling equipment.

b) Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS) equipment

- The purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.
- Support will be provided for grant-aid for the investment in mobile slurry tanks and umbilical systems with attached low emission spreading equipment. In order to encourage the purchase by farmers of this specialised type of equipment, this strand of support under the measure will not be subject to the overall investment ceiling which will be applicable under the other strands of support introduced under TAMS II.

c) Animal Welfare, Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme

- The construction, acquisition, including leasing or improvement of immovable property and the purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.

- Support under the category Animal Welfare and Safety will be provided for grant-aid for investment in a select range of items, including sheep fencing and important safety elements such as replacement slats and safety rails/fencing, solid covers for slurry stores, handling facilities, calving and isolation facilities, aeration systems and some upgrading works including rewiring.
- Support will also be provided for grant-aid for the investment in the construction of new animal housing on Irish farms. The conversion of existing buildings will not be permitted (except in the case of organic applicants). Support will be provided for grant-aid for investment in a select range of items including loose houses for cattle, solid floor calf housing, sheep housing, goat housing, slatted houses, cubicle houses, unroofed slatted feed areas, roofing of livestock feed yards, automatic slurry scrapers, isolation boxes, calving pens, bull pens and enclosures and associated works, crushes and enclosures and associated works and rainwater harvesting and storage.
- Support under the category nutrient storage will be provided for grant-aid for the investment in the construction of farm nutrient storage facilities on farms.

d) Pig and poultry investments

- The construction, acquisition, including leasing or improvement of immovable property and the purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.
- Support will be provided for grant-aid for the upgrading of existing buildings in the pig and poultry sectors and items such as medicated feed/water dispensers, solar panels, heat recovery units, heat pumps, biomass boilers, ventilation and insulation are included for support.

e) Organic Capital Investment (organic farmers only)

- The construction, acquisition, including leasing or improvement of immovable property and the purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.
- Support will be provided for grant-aid for capital investments across a wide range of areas specifically targeted at the organic sector. These areas include animal housing and nutrient storage facilities, grain, hay, straw and farm product stores, safety elements on existing farm structures, animal handling equipment, dairy milking and storage equipment, horticulture structures, polytunnels, specialised organic machinery and equipment.

f) Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme

- The construction, acquisition, including leasing or improvement of immovable property and the purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.

- The objective of the Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme is to provide an incentive to young farmers to upgrade their agricultural buildings and equipment. Support will be provided for grant-aid for capital investments at an enhanced grant-rate of 60% in respect of investments by young farmers. In addition, support will also be provided for grant-aid for dairy buildings specifically for qualifying young farmers.

g) Tillage investments

- The construction, acquisition, including leasing or improvement of immovable property and the purchase or lease purchase of new machinery and equipment up to the market value of the asset.
- Support will be provided for grant-aid for capital investments across a wide range of areas specifically targeted at the tillage sector including precision farming equipment, grain stores and grain storage equipment, low disturbance tillage equipment, and rainwater harvesting and storage.

Eligibility Conditions

Annex 1 provides details on the eligibility criteria for each strand of TAMS II support.

Type of Support and Rates

This is a capital investment grant scheme and a general 40% rate of aid is available. However, this will be increased to 60% in the case of young farmers. In order to ensure that the available budget is respected, a super ceiling for investment of €80,000 per holding over the lifetime of the RDP is in place.

Submeasure 4.4 Non Productive Investments (delivered via GLAS)

General Description

This submeasure incorporates support for a number of non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives under GLAS (Measure 10). These non-productive investments form part of the GLAS tier 3 list of actions, and thus they will form part of GLAS applications.

The non-productive investments as set out in the GLAS tier 3 list of actions are:

- Bee boxes
- Bird boxes
- Bat boxes
- Conservation of Solitary Bees (Sand)
- Planting new hedgerow
- Traditional orchards

- Planting a grove of native trees
- Laying Hedgerows
- Coppicing Hedgerows
- Twite B
- Grey Partridge
- Riparian Margins

See Annex 2 for more details on the GLAS structure.

Eligibility Conditions

All beneficiaries must be an approved GLAS applicant.

Type of Support and Rates

Support will be paid via the payment made under GLAS. The applicable rates are as set out for the individual actions in GLAS are outlined in Annex 3.

Submeasure 4.4 Non-productive investments (delivered via The Burren Programme)

General Description

This submeasure incorporates support for a number of non-productive investments linked to the achievement of agri-environment-climate objectives under The Burren Programme (Measure 10). In particular, the farmer will be reimbursed for a proportion of the cost of capital investments in site enhancement works designed to improve the environmental dividend delivered by the holding.

The funding rate for non-productive investments varies depending on the relative environmental value of the category (75%, 50%, 25%). Non-productive investments include the following categories:

- Stone wall repair
(wall repair & drawing stones)
- Scrub removal
- Habitat restoration
- Access Tracks
- Fencing equipment
- Water equipment
- Feed equipment

The full list of eligible non-productive investments delivered via The Burren Programme and their relevant aid intensity is outlined in Annex 4.

Eligibility Conditions

All beneficiaries must be an approved Burren Programme applicant.

To avoid any possible double-funding with submeasure 4.1 TAMS, the investment items supported under Burren Intervention 2 will be ineligible for support under TAMS.

Type of Support and Rates

This is a non-productive capital investment grant scheme. The rate of grant contribution varies depending on the relative environmental value. A 75% rate is applied where the environmental benefit is considered greater than agricultural benefit; a rate of 50% applies where the environmental benefit is considered equal to agricultural benefit; a 25% rate is applied where the environmental benefit is considered less than agricultural benefit. Payment is determined based on receipts and a self-declaration of hours worked.

3.4 Measure 7 - Basic services and village renewal in rural areas

This measure will contribute to Focus Area 4A – Biodiversity, HNV farming and landscapes.

This measure consists of the following submeasure:

- Submeasure 7.6 - GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings

Submeasure 7.6 GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings

General Description

The GLAS Traditional Farm Buildings measure is administered by the Heritage Council on behalf of the DAFM and builds upon the success of the Heritage Buildings Scheme which operated under REPS 4 (2007 -2013 RDP). The objective of this measure is to ensure that small traditional farm buildings and other structures, which are of significant cultural and heritage value, are restored and conserved for renewed practical agricultural use as part of the normal working life of the farm. Domestic dwellings, currently in occupation or intended for occupation, are not included.

There are various multi-functional benefits which will arise as a result of this measure in areas such as landscape, biodiversity, climate change, enhancement of traditional skills and contribution to the broader rural economy.

Eligibility Conditions

This is a complementary measure to GLAS, intended to encourage a holistic approach which increases understanding and management of both the natural and built/cultural heritage present on individual farms. Accordingly, participation in GLAS is the prime eligibility condition.

Type of Support and Rates

Support will be by way of grants to carry out approved conservation work to small farm buildings and associated structures (historic yard surfaces, landscape features around the farmyard – walls, gate pillars, gates, millraces). Each project will be costed individually and the maximum allowable support will be 75% of total costs, up to a maximum grant of €25,000.

3.5 Measure 10 - Agri-environment-climate

The Measure will contribute to the following Focus Areas

- 4A – restoring, preserving and enhancing biodiversity, including in Natura 2000 areas
- 4B – improving water management, including fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C – preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5D – reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
- 5E – carbon conservation and sequestration.

This Measure consists of the following submeasures:

- Submeasure 10.1 – The Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) and GLAS+
- Submeasure 10.1 – The Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)
- Submeasure 10.1 – The Burren Programme

Submeasure 10.1 Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme (GLAS) and GLAS+

General Description

This scheme is designed to build on the success of REPS (Rural Environment Protection Scheme) and AEOS (Agri-Environment Options Scheme) which encouraged farmers to farm in an environmentally and climate friendly manner. GLAS promotes agricultural actions which introduce or continue to apply agricultural production methods that aim to address the issues of climate change mitigation, water quality and the preservation of priority habitats and species.

GLAS is a highly targeted scheme. Key to its design is the identification of a number of Priority Environmental Assets (PEAs) – primarily vulnerable landscapes (inc Natura and uplands), species at risk (primarily endangered birds), and high-quality watercourses. All holdings with these physical assets have been pre-identified and the areas of importance mapped at farm level. Presence of one or more of these assets on any farm guarantees priority access to the new scheme, but in return all required actions to protect and enhance these assets, as laid down by the Irish authorities, must be accepted on foot of standard payment-packages offered to the applicant. Environmental assets and actions of lesser importance have also been identified, and these can be addressed once the over-riding objective of addressing the Priority Environmental Assets has been met.

GLAS has a three tier hierarchy and this structure is designed to ensure the targeted and prioritised delivery of environmental benefits.

Tier 1 is the most important Tier, comprising in Tier 1(a) of all the Priority Environmental Assets identified for support through GLAS, targeting vulnerable landscapes, species at risk and protection of high-status watercourses. Tier 1(b) also identifies a series of Priority Environmental Actions for intensive farmers, targeting climate mitigation and farmland birds. (Intensive farmers are classified as having a whole farm stocking rate exceeding 140kg Livestock Manure Nitrogen per hectare (produced on holding) or more than 30 hectares of arable crops). Organic farmers also receive priority access to the scheme under Tier 1 in their own right.

Tier 2 is the next most important tier and focuses in Tier 2(a) on water-quality, through protection of predetermined vulnerable water-courses, while also accepting proposals under Tier 2(b) from other farmers who are prepared to take on predetermined actions again targeting climate change mitigation and supporting farmland birds.

Finally, Tier 3 is largely a feeder menu of complementary environmental actions for applicants approved into Tiers 1 and 2. It consists of actions such as the protection of traditional hay meadows, species-rich pastures, important landscape features like archaeological monuments, hedgerows and stone-walls, as well as provision of bird, bat and bee nesting facilities and the planting of small groves of native trees. Annex 2 provides full details of the Tier structure of GLAS.

As GLAS is implemented in tranches, the details of actions etc will be kept under review in order to maintain this prioritised and targeted approach.

In order to avail of GLAS, all participating farmers must comply with the following list of core requirements:

- An approved agricultural advisor must prepare the GLAS application;
- A Nutrient Management Plan for whole farm must be prepared in the first year of participation;
- Knowledge transfer by means of a training course for specific actions complemented by on-line demonstrations/advice on good environmental practices;
- Record-keeping of actions delivered.

Comprehensive GLAS Specifications outlining each GLAS action available under the different tranches of GLAS are available at: www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/glas/

Eligibility Conditions

Any active farmer, whose holding lies within the State, will be eligible to apply to join GLAS.

Type of Support and Rates

Support under GLAS will be by way of fixed-value packages for a minimum contract period of five years. A maximum payment of €5,000 per annum will apply in most cases, based on the value of the actions to be adopted, either on a compulsory basis or by selection from a menu of options, or by a combination of both.

Within budget limits, a high-value package known as GLAS+ will be offered to a limited number of farmers who take on particularly challenging actions which deliver an exceptional level of environmental benefit. This package includes an additional payment of up to €2,000 per annum, or a total package value of €7,000 in all. GLAS+ will apply in cases where the combined cost of delivering mandatory actions for a number of Priority Environmental Assets exceeds the standard package value of €5,000 per annum. However, farmers managing extensive areas of

endangered bird habitat will qualify automatically for GLAS+, without the need for a second PEA, if they manage sufficient area. The full set of GLAS actions and payment rates can be found in Annex 3.

Submeasure 10.1 Beef Data and Genomics Programme (BDGP)

General Description

The Beef Data and Genomics Programme requires participating farmers to undertake a range of actions designed to deliver accelerated genetic improvement in the quality of the beef herd and, as a result, the associated climate benefits. The establishment and maintenance of a large scale data collection system is central to the approach and this will be done through the collection of data from commercial suckler cow herds. This then feeds into a genomics based breeding index (which ranks the efficiency of animals on a star based system, with 5 star being the most efficient) which will inform farmers in selecting robust and resource efficient suckler cow and bull replacements. Collecting data centrally across all farms and breeds allows for a more rapid increase in the reliability of the index.

The BDGP requires farmers to undertake a 6 year commitment to carry out a pre-defined set of actions designed to underpin the delivery of a more climate-friendly suckler herd. These actions include:

- record keeping and event recording;
- genotyping;
- a replacement strategy (that the animals identified as being of superior genetic merit, with lower associated GHG emissions, are then utilised as replacement stock on participating herds); and
- completion of the Carbon Navigator.

Eligibility Conditions

In order to avail of the BDGP, all applicants must adhere to the following criteria:

- have a herd number and possess registered beef breed animals;
- submit a Basic Payment Scheme application form for each year of the programme on which all land parcels are declared;

- applicants will be ineligible where persistently infected Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) animals born since 1st January 2012 have not been removed from the herd with the exception of those animals which, on the date of the application, are within 7 weeks of the date of the initial test;
- all animals with a current positive or inconclusive BVD test result must be removed to the knackery on an ongoing basis and have a date of death recorded on the Animal Identification and Movement (AIM) system within 7 weeks of the date of the initial test.

Type of Support and Rates

Participants in the programme will receive a payment of €142.50 per hectare for the first 6.66 payable hectares under the scheme, and a degressive payment of €120 will apply in respect of the remaining eligible hectares. An annual payment will be made to each farmer who meets the requirements of the BDGP and each scheme participant will sign up to a six-year contract to cover the lifetime of the BDGP.

Participants under this measure will also benefit from support under Measure O1 (Knowledge Transfer) in the form of both BDGP training and initial completion of the Carbon Navigator.



Submeasure 10.1 The Burren Programme

General Description

The Burren Programme is a locally-led agri-environmental measure focussed specifically on the conservation of the unique farming landscape of the Burren in counties Clare and Galway. It aims to promote a particular farming model that couples traditional farming practices with scientific assessment of environmental health at field level and is designed to reward those farmers who deliver the highest environmental outputs. It builds on the success and experience of similar programmes for the Burren piloted under the Burren LIFE Project (2005-2010) and the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme (2010-2015).

The Programme is delivered by means of two types of interventions which participants will undertake in line with a five year plan. Intervention 1 is a performance/results-based intervention and intervention 2 is a complementary capital-investment based intervention.

The Programme will be managed on the ground by High Nature Value Services Ltd (The Burren Team), a specialist locally-based intermediary layer appointed through a competitive tender process. This Team will:

- provide training and advice to the Burren Farm Advisor;
- approve farm plans;
- review on an ongoing basis the work of the Advisor;
- conduct training workshops for participants; and
- manage, monitor and promote the Programme.

Eligibility Conditions

Beneficiaries under the scheme will be an active herd owner and the farmer's holding must include at least one grazed habitat in the Burren as per Annex 5.

Type of Support and Rates

For Intervention 1, each eligible field is scored from 1-10 on the basis of a range of criteria relating to its environmental health, with higher scores attracting higher payment. No payments will be made for scores in the range 1-4. A field score of 5 will be acceptable for payment in years 1 and 2 of the participant's plan only, and no payment will be made in the 3rd year onwards for a field score of 5 as insufficient improvement will have been shown.

For Intervention 2, the capital investment based intervention rates and items are set out in Annex 4.

3.6 Measure 11 - Organic farming

This measure is expected to contribute towards the following Focus Areas :

- 4A – Biodiversity, HNV farming and landscapes
- 4B – Water, fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C – Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management.

This measure consists of Submeasure 11.1 and Submeasure 11.2 - The Organic Farming Scheme.

Submeasure 11.1 and Submeasure 11.2 The Organic Farming Scheme

General Description

The Organic Farming Scheme aims to encourage farmers to convert from conventional farming methods and to apply organic farming methods, as well as maintain these methods after the initial period of conversion which will be a maximum period of two years. Participants in the previous Organic Farming Scheme introduced under the 2007-2013 Programme whose contracts expire in 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be offered the opportunity to extend any existing contracts by up to four years. Participants will also be allowed to bring additional land into payment for up to and including Year 3 of an existing contract, with the increased area attracting payment under the Scheme up until the expiry of the original contract period. All additional area introduced in this manner will therefore remain under contract for at least two years, consistent with the minimum period for conversion.

Eligibility Conditions

As in the previous Organic Farming Scheme a series of core requirements defines basic eligibility. Key conditions include:

- A requirement for a minimum farm area of 3 hectares, except for horticultural producers where the minimum farm area is 1 hectare;
- Registration with one of the Organic Control Bodies, possession of a valid organic licence and registration with DAFM;

Type of Support and Rates

The principal support will be an annual area-based payment over a maximum 5 years and 11 months contract period. The standard rate of payment is €220/ha for conversion with a maintenance rate of €170/ha, with higher rates of €300/ha and €200/ha applying for horticulture operations, and €260/ha and €170/ha for tillage operations. In addition, a top-up of €30/ha for red-clover is also available. The higher horticultural (including fruit) rates will apply to the first six hectares only; thereafter the standard rate applies. For tillage farmers, the higher rate ceiling is 20 ha.

3.7 Measure 13 - Payments to Areas facing Natural or other Specific Constraints (ANC)

This measure will contribute to Focus Area 4A – Biodiversity, HNV farming and landscapes.

The measure consists of the following two submeasures:

- Submeasure 13.2 - compensation payment for other areas facing significant natural constraints
- Submeasure 13.3 – specific support for offshore island farming

Submeasure 13.2 Areas of Natural Constraints (ANCs)

General Description

This scheme is based on the previous Less Favoured Areas Scheme and the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme and its objective is to compensate farmers for income foregone and additional costs linked to the disadvantage of the area concerned. However, these Less Favoured/Disadvantaged Areas (with the exception of the Islands) must, by 2018, be replaced by newly designated Areas of Natural Constraint. A scientific process is currently underway to delineate these areas in accordance with the required biophysical criteria. This process will feed into the identification of eligible areas for the 2018 scheme.

Payments to farmers in mountain areas or in other areas facing natural or other specific constraints will, by encouraging continued use of agricultural land, contribute to maintaining the countryside as well as to maintaining and promoting sustainable farming systems. In order to ensure the efficiency of such support, payments will compensate farmers for income foregone and additional costs linked to the disadvantage of the area concerned.

Eligibility Conditions

In order to avail of this scheme, beneficiaries must:

- comply with the description of 'active farmer' in Article 9 of Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013;
- occupy and farm at own risk a minimum of three hectares of forage land, situated in a recognised ANC area;
- undertake to actively farm and manage the land situated in an ANC area and applied in the given year of application;
- comply with Cross Compliance requirements under Article 92 of Regulation (EU) No 1306/2013;
- have a holding that meets the minimum stocking levels (grazing requirement).

The minimum stocking density required is 0.15 livestock units per hectare or a lower level where it is justified on environmental grounds. The minimum stocking level will be set systematically at individual farmer level using the 0.15 lu/ha normally and an established lower stocking figure for commonages and other marginal land. The calculation of the actual stocking density on a scheme-year basis will be carried out using the database on the identification and registration of animals, the sheep census data, flock registers and animal passports.

Applicants who are partners in a partnership can continue to benefit individually under the Scheme, based on the area of ANC land they contribute to the partnership. (Individual threshold limits will apply at measure level for partnership members).



Type of Support and Rates

The Areas of Natural Constraints Scheme provides for payment rates as follows:

- Mountain Type Land: €109.71 on first 10 forage hectares, or part thereof, and €95.99 per hectare on remaining hectares up to a maximum of 34 hectares.
- More Severely Handicapped Lowland: €95.99 per forage hectare up to a maximum of 30 hectares.
- Less Severely Handicapped Lowland and Coastal Areas with Specific Handicaps: €82.27 per forage hectare up to a maximum of 30 hectares.

Submeasure 13.3 Specific support for offshore island farming

General Description

A separate category of support within the structure of the ANC scheme will be made available to compensate island farmers in recognition of the specific constraints faced in these areas. The maintenance of farming on Ireland's offshore islands, including the maintenance of traditional farming methods, is vital in terms of the delivery of environmental benefits via the avoidance of land abandonment and the preservation of habitats.

Eligibility Conditions

In order to be eligible, applicants must be farming land on an offshore island and must fulfil all the eligibility conditions applying to the ANC scheme apart from the requirement related to the minimum area of 3 hectares.

Type of Support and Rates

Payments are made annually per hectare and the rates are as follows:

- The first 20 hectares of island land farmed - €250
- 20 to 34 hectares - €170
- 34 to 40 hectares - €70
- Over 40 hectares – no further payment will apply

3.8 Measure 14 – Animal Welfare Scheme (Sheep)

This measure is expected to contribute towards Focus Area 3A – Improving competitiveness of primary producers.

This measure will comprise of the following submeasure:

- Submeasure 14.1 - Sheep Welfare Scheme

General Description

The Scheme will contribute to improved welfare by introducing targeted intervention in the areas of lameness control, parasite control, flystrike control and appropriate supplementation. It will be a 1 year contract with automatic renewal unless opt-out is triggered by the beneficiary or by DAFM. The maximum duration will be 4 years.

The number of options available under the scheme are outlined in Table 2 below and applicants must choose two options (i.e. one option from Category A and one option from Category B) to carry out for the full term of the contract.

Farmers are categorised as lowland or hill flock using the following criteria:

- Applicants with greater than 50% lowland ewes must choose from the lowland options
- Applicants with greater than 50% hill type ewes must chose from the options for hill flocks.

Table 2: Sheep Welfare Scheme Options Table

| Lowland Flock | Hill Flock |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Category A | Category A |
| Lameness Control | Mineral Supplementation Ewes |
| Mineral Supplementation Ewes | Meal Feeding Lamb (post weaning)* |
| Category B | Category B |
| Parasite Control | Parasite Control |
| Scanning | Scanning |
| Flystrike Control | Mineral Supplementation Lambs* |

* Hill flocks may not choose both Mineral Supplementation of Lambs and Meal feeding of lamb post weaning.

Eligibility Conditions

All applicants must have a flock number, have breeding ewes on their holding for the duration of the scheme and have declared breeding ewes on their 2016 Sheep Census return.

Type of Support and Rates

An annual payment will be made to each farmer who meets the requirements of the scheme. The scheme will pay beneficiaries €10 per eligible ewe or €66.66 per Livestock Unit per year. The payment per ewe is based on the costs associated with carrying out the required actions (one option from category A and one option from category B). Payment will be issued when the full set of actions have been carried out.

The maximum number of eligible ewes will be based on an historic reference period (2014-2015 based on their Sheep Census return) therefore ensuring no risk to the overall budget ceiling allocated to the scheme. The maximum number of eligible ewes may be increased for individual farmers who participate in GLAS and are required, as a condition of a Commonage Management Plan or Farm Plan, to increase the number of ewes to reach their individual minimum stocking level. The scheme may also be opened to new sheep farmers.



3.9 Measure 16 - Co-operation

This measure will comprise of the following four submeasures:

- Submeasure 16.1 - European Innovation Partnerships (EIP) – General EIPs.
- Submeasure 16.1 - European Innovation Partnerships – Locally Led Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects.
- Submeasure 16.1- European Innovation Partnerships – Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects.
- Submeasure 16.3 - Support for Collaborative Farming.

General EIPs submeasure is expected to contribute towards the following Focus Areas:

- 2A – Economic performance, modernisation & restructuring,
- 2B – Entry into the agricultural sector and generational renewal
- 3A – Improving competitiveness of primary producers through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotion in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations
- 3B – Supporting farm risk prevention and management

Locally Led Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects and Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects submeasures are expected to contribute towards the following Focus Areas:

- 4A – Biodiversity, HNV farming and landscapes
- 4B – Water, fertiliser and pesticide management
- 4C – Preventing soil erosion and improving soil management
- 5A – Increasing efficiency in water use by agriculture
- 5B – Increasing efficiency in energy use in agriculture and food processing
- 5C – Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non food raw material for the purposes of the bio-economy
- 5D – Reducing green house gas and ammonia emissions from agriculture
- 5E – Fostering carbon conservation and sequestration in agriculture and forestry

Collaborative Farming submeasure is expected to contribute towards the following Focus Areas:

- 2A – Economic performance, modernisation & restructuring,
- 2B – Entry into the agricultural sector and generational renewal

Submeasure 16.1 European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) – General EIPs.

General Description

The General EIP submeasure aims to encourage innovative processes, products or practices that will contribute to the rural knowledge base, encourage competitiveness and support risk management in agriculture. The specific issues which may be addressed under this measure include lifelong learning and vocational training in agriculture and forestry, economic performance, modernisation and restructuring, entry into the agricultural sector and generational renewal, improving competitiveness of primary producers through quality schemes, adding value to agricultural products, promotions in local markets and short supply circuits, producer groups and inter-branch organisations and supporting farm risk prevention and management. It will support Operational Groups in forging links between agriculture, food production and research and innovation.

Eligibility Conditions

The recruitment of Operational Groups under this submeasure will be by means of an open call competitive tender and will focus on the identified themes.

Type of Support and Rates

Support in the form of grants will be provided in two separate stages, as follows:

- a) Support for the development of Operational Group Plans for those groups emerging from an initial call for submissions process;
- b) Support for the costs of implementing the Operational Group Plans for successful applicants. This will be based on the price set out in the successful applications.

Overall, support will be provided for feasibility studies, animation costs, running costs and promotion activities. Amounts and rates will be based on the costs set out in successful proposals and will be reimbursed on the basis of returns/receipts received from Operational Groups.

Submeasure 16.1 - European Innovation Partnerships – Locally Led Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects.

General Description

Two locally-led schemes will be developed under this submeasure targeting the conservation of (i) the Hen Harrier and (ii) the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. Both of these species have been identified as critically important and requiring urgent interventions to sustain their national populations. The focus of these EIP measures is on a subset of critical core areas, identified in consultation with the National Parks & Wildlife Service. These contain the most important populations, which are crucial to sustaining and enhancing national population levels. In the case of Hen Harrier, the Scheme will be targeted at 6 core areas (out of a total of 14 nationally important areas for the species), and containing approximately 45% of the national Hen Harrier population. For Freshwater Pearl Mussel, the Scheme will be confined initially to just 8 of the 27 Freshwater Pearl Mussel catchments, which hold approximately 80% of the national population.

In both these cases, a project team (essentially the Operational Group) will be recruited directly by DAFM, through competitive tender, to develop appropriate interventions to address these priorities. The project team will be responsible for developing and designing specific actions, costings and methodologies to be delivered in consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including local farming representatives. The actions developed will be co-ordinated and implemented via agri-environmental plans for individual farmers to follow.

The project team will provide specialist training to farmers and farm advisors, co-ordinate the input of relevant stakeholders, oversee implementation, and evaluate outputs of the Schemes. The dissemination of the project results will ensure that the lessons learned are communicated beyond local level and thereby contribute to the overall objectives of sustainable agriculture production across the EU, as well as informing the design of future agri-environment schemes under the next RDP.

Eligibility Conditions

DAFM will identify the specific requirements for the Project Teams selected to co-ordinate both Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel schemes. The Project Teams must include relevant administrative and technical experts/professionals required to deliver the Scheme, and in turn have the capacity to plan and implement relevant interventions carried out through a wider network of participants on the ground, mainly farmers, but may also involve other third parties with specialist expertise i.e. predator control officers.

Type of Support and Rates

Support will be by way of annual grant to the project team and supported projects may run over multiple years, up to a maximum of seven years. Support will be provided as follows:

- the cost of operation/administration and promotion by the project teams;
- towards the costs borne by the participants for implementing pilot conservation activities.

Submeasure 16.3- European Innovation Partnerships – Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects.

General Description

Support for EIP Operational Groups will be channelled towards the setting up of new Operational Groups structured around a competitive fund focussing on the following themes:

- Biodiversity, High Nature Value (HNV) farming and landscapes, including restoration and sustainable management in agri-ecosystems;
- Water, fertiliser and pesticide management;
- Climate change mitigation/adaptation and resource efficiency.

The goal of this submeasure is to facilitate joint approaches to environmental projects and practices focusing particularly on activities related to the preservation of agricultural landscapes for biodiversity, water quality, resource efficiency and climate mitigation/adaptation. To succeed, these operation groups will rely on fostering communication through stakeholder networking, developing partnerships and dissemination of knowledge and ideas across a wide range of stakeholders.

Within this framework, the conservation of upland peats will be highlighted as a key priority within the submeasure.

Eligibility Conditions

Following on from the consultation process, support will be channelled towards the setting up of new Operational Groups structured around a competitive fund. This will involve a call for proposals on the basis of the identified themes. Such a call for proposals, and the subsequent evaluation of proposals received, will necessarily draw on the relevant expertise and existing

research. Any proposed Operational Group must develop or examine an approach, process, practice or product that contributes to Rural Development priorities and which seeks to target an innovative approach in doing so.

Type of Support and Rates

Support in the form of grants will be provided in two separate stages:

- a) support for the development of Operational Group Plans;
- b) support for the costs of implementing the Operational Group Plans for successful applicants.

Submeasure 16.3 Support for Collaborative Farming

General Description

Collaborative approaches to farming – e.g. inter-farm arrangements, intra-farm arrangements, share farming and contract rearing – can address some of the structural, economic, and social challenges facing Irish agriculture, such as poor land availability and farm size, work/life balance issues, the development of skills sets and the knowledge base, and intergenerational transfer. This scheme will thus address a number of those issues and is specifically aimed at encouraging the formation of new farm partnerships by contributing to the legal, advisory and financial services costs incurred by farmers in the drawing up of their farm partnership agreement.

Eligibility Conditions

All farm partnership arrangements must be newly formed arrangements being entered on the Register for the first time. Existing Milk Production Partnerships, who wish to continue in partnership after 31 March 2015 and who apply for entry on to the new Register will not qualify for support under this measure.

Type of Support and Rates

Support will be by way of a grant to the value of 50% of the administrative costs involved in establishing a new Farm partnership arrangement – i.e. vouched expenses for legal, accounting and advisory costs up to a maximum of €2,500.

3.10 Measure 19 - Support for LEADER local development (CLLD – Community-Led Local Development)

This measure will contribute to 6B – Fostering local development in rural areas.

The LEADER element of the RDP will be administered under the auspices of the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). LEADER has formed part of the policy framework for rural development in Ireland since its inception in the 1990s and has proven to be an effective tool for supporting the economic and social development of rural communities by providing the resources necessary for communities to support their own development.

LEADER ensures that all members of rural communities have the opportunity to participate in decision making at a local level through the formation of Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the design and implementation of Local Development Strategies (LDS). Through these strategies Local Action Groups determine the needs in a local area and make decisions on what types of investment are best suited to address those needs. This “bottom up” or community-led local development approach will lead to a more integrated and coherent approach to local development that involves community and local government organisations in leadership roles, guiding a more integrated and coordinated approach to the delivery of all funding (both European and National) at a sub-regional level. Ireland’s LEADER programme will encompass 28 sub-regional areas and in order to ensure sufficient budgetary resources to LAGs to facilitate full and effective implementation of LDSF, Ireland will apportion the overall programme complement on the basis of these 28 sub-regional administrative areas using open and transparent criteria.

The following themes, which emerged from the preparatory analysis underlying the RDP and also include information contained in the 2014 report of the Commission on the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA), will provide the framework for the development of these Local Development Strategies:

- Rural Economic Development / Enterprise Development and Job Creation, incorporating Rural Tourism, Enterprise Development, Broadband, Rural Towns.
- Social inclusion through building community capacity, training, animation and Rural Youth initiatives.
- Rural Environment including the protection and sustainable use of water resources, the protection and improvement of local biodiversity and the development of renewable energy.

This measure consists of the following submeasures:

- Submeasure 19.1 – LEADER preparatory support.
- Submeasure 19.2 – LEADER support for the implementation of operations under the community-led local development strategy.
- Submeasure 19.3 – LEADER support for the preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Groups.
- Submeasure 19.4 – LEADER support for running costs and animation.

Submeasure 19.1 LEADER preparatory support

General Description

LEADER provides for preparatory support which will be used to build the capacity of entities that express an interest in designing and implementing LDS for their areas.

Eligibility Conditions

Ireland will conduct a two-stage process for LDS selection. The Department of Rural and Community Development will facilitate a number of collective capacity-building actions open to all interested parties. In addition to this, the initial expression of interest process will ask potential LAGs to detail the preparatory resources they feel may be necessary to support the design and development of their LDS with a view to awarding a grant to successful LAGs to carry out this work. The LAGs selected from Stage 1 will be awarded preparatory support to develop their LDS.

Type of Support and Rates

All preparatory support will be at a rate of 100% and provided to potential Local Action Groups selected following an expression of interest process. The preparatory support may reimburse eligible costs including:

- training actions for local stakeholders;
- studies of the area concerned;
- costs related to the design of the LDS, including consultancy costs and costs for actions related to consultations of stakeholders for the purposes of preparing the strategy; and
- administrative costs.

Submeasure 19.2 LEADER support for the implementation of operations under the CLLD strategy

General Description

This measure aims to deliver projects based on the design and implementation of tailored LDS that are based on identified needs at a sub-regional level. LDS will be developed on the basis of comprehensive analysis of the development needs and potential of sub-regional areas and will contain a detailed outline of how the needs are to be addressed using RDP funding.

Eligibility Conditions

Beneficiaries are eligible if they contribute to achieving the aims and objectives of the LDS and correspond to the objectives and priorities indicated for support in the RDP.

In relation to the delivery of the €15 million allocation to support collaboration between food producers, this funding will not be assigned to individual LDS budgets but will be allocated using an open call for proposals to LEADER LAGs. While implemented by LEADER LAGs, any beneficiary of this funding must be a registered food producer and propose a joint plan to improve market knowledge and insight, product quality, production sustainability and/or marketing of their food products and developing new and innovative routes to market.

Type of Support and Rates

The support provided to achieve the aims and objectives of the LDS will be in the form of grant aid. There will also be an element of co-financing of individual operations by private and/or public investors for most approved operations, in order to promote community ownership of the funded projects.

Submeasure 19.3 LEADER support for the preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the Local Action Groups

General Description

This element of the LEADER measure will support the preparation and implementation of co-operation activities of the LAGs. Support will be available for innovative and experimental approaches to promoting joint ventures addressing common issues. The types of operations

envisaged under this submeasure should contribute to the aims and objectives outlined in the LDS of all cooperating partners and the value of the co-operation itself should be in addition to the project itself.

Eligibility Conditions

A concrete project must be envisaged in order to avail of support under the co-operation element of the LEADER measure. The criteria for selection of co-operation projects to be funded both in the context of preparing and implementing a co-operation project will be detailed in the operating rules for the programme. The need to support this kind of intervention must be identified in the LDS.

Type of Support and Rates

Funding will be provided for preparatory activity, co-ordination and animation. Support will also be provided for the implementation of co-operation projects in the form of grant aid.

Submeasure 19.4 LEADER support for running costs and animation

General Description

This element of the LEADER measure relates to the operating costs of the LAGs charged with the design and implementation of the LDS.

Eligibility Conditions

Support is available to all LAGs selected to implement an LDS as part of the LEADER process.

Type of Support and Rates

The support provided for running costs and animation will be in the form of grant aid and shall not exceed 25% of the total public expenditure incurred within the LDS and will be supported at a rate of 100%. An advance of not more than 50% of the public support related to the running and animation costs may be made available to the LAGs.

4. Amendments and Modifications to the RDP

As the RDP programming period progresses, it is open to Member States to modify their RDPs subject to the conditions set out in the EU regulations. The first amendment to Ireland's RDP 2014-2020 was formally approved by the European Commission on 23rd June, 2016. It introduced:

- Measure 2: Permission to be a member of two Knowledge Transfer Groups.
- Measure 4: An amendment to TAMS II to introduce a tillage scheme, rainwater harvesting and sheep fencing.
- Measure 10: Changes to GLAS Tranche 2, on foot of a review of GLAS Tranche 1 and the introduction of "The Burren Programme" (a locally led agri-environmental scheme).
- Measure 11: Changes to the Organic Farming Scheme to allow for the extension of 'old' contracts and the inclusion of additional land.
- Measure 19: LEADER clarifications in relation to use of second-hand equipment, use of payment costs instead of simplified cost options and inclusion of reference to advance payments.

The second amendment was formally approved by the European Commission on 25th January 2017. It introduced:

- Measure 2: Support for the setting up of Producer Organisations.
- Measure 10: Changes to a number of GLAS Actions and updated dates & timelines within GLAS Tranche 3.
- Measure 14: Sheep Welfare Scheme.
- Measure 16: Support for European Innovation Partnership (EIP) Operational Groups – Locally Led Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel Projects & Locally Led Environmental and Climate Projects.

5. What are the implementation structures for the RDP?

As was the case in previous RDPs, DAFM will be the Managing Authority for the 2014 – 2020 RDP. Rural Development Division within DAFM will act as the RDP's Managing Authority. The functions of the Managing Authority include:

- Ensuring that mechanisms for the monitoring and evaluation of the programme and the collection of relevant data are in place;
- Ensuring that beneficiaries under the RDP are informed of the obligations arising from support granted;
- Ensuring that the relevant progress and evaluation reports in relation to RDP implementation are provided;
- Ensuring publicity arrangements for the RDP are in place;
- Putting in place implementation support structures for the RDP, including the establishment of a monitoring committee and National Rural Network.

The Paying Agency is made up of a number of elements, and its functions include putting in place an administrative organisation and a system of internal controls which provide sufficient guarantees that payments are legal and regular, and properly accounted for. The Paying Agency incorporates:

- Finance Division within DAFM, which manages the claims for expenditure under EAFRD;
- Implementing line divisions within DAFM. These divisions are responsible for the design, implementation and administration (including administrative checks) of RDP measures. These divisions also process payments for individual measures and report accordingly to Finance Division;
- Inspectorate and technical divisions. These divisions are responsible for many of the on-the-spot field inspections which underlie the control regime for RDP measures;
- DRCD is a delegated body of the Paying Agency in respect of LEADER.

The National Rural Network

Irish Rural Link in partnership with the Wheel, NUI Galway and Philip Farrelly and Co. has been chosen to run Ireland's National Rural Network following a competitive tender process. The running of the NRN is funded via Ireland's technical assistance budget under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme. The NRN aims to:

- increase the involvement of stakeholders in the implementation of rural development;
- improve the quality of implementation of rural development programmes;
- foster innovation in agriculture, food production, forestry and rural areas.

Interested parties can join the National Rural Network and learn more about their work programme on the website: www.nationalruralnetwork.ie.

The Monitoring Committee

A Monitoring Committee composed of various relevant stakeholders (including, for example, farm representative bodies and environmental interests) is in place for the 2014 – 2020 RDP. The Monitoring Committee will have a role in relation to monitoring the performance of the RDP and the effectiveness of its implementation.



National Rural Network

6. What controls and sanctions will apply to the RDP schemes?

Member States must take all necessary steps to ensure that their rural development measures are controllable, verifiable and properly managed.

RDP schemes administered by DAFM and DRCD are subject to a system of controls and sanctions to protect the financial interests of the EU and the State. These include appropriate administrative checks by authorising/paying divisions and on-the-spot controls. The adequacy of the controls and sanctions are open to scrutiny by internal and external auditors. Strict control measures will be in place for the implementation of the RDP and appropriate penalties will be applied where cases of non-compliance are detected.



7. How will the RDP be monitored and evaluated?

The monitoring and evaluation of RDP expenditure is critical to ensure accountability, to allow for improvements in the design and targeting of support, to demonstrate the progress and achievements of rural development policy, and to achieve value for money in the use of public funds. In the 2014-2020 programming period, the process of monitoring and evaluation will be streamlined to provide reliable and timely data that allows proper assessment, follow-up and improved implementation of RDP schemes.

DAFM will be responsible for implementing monitoring and evaluation at national level under the Common Monitoring and Evaluation System (CMES) which forms part of the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF). The CMEF measures the performance of the entire CAP and will be conducted by the European Commission. Under the CMES, DAFM will submit annual implementation reports to the Commission to measure progress on the achievement of various Programme targets. More detailed reports are required in 2017 and 2019 along with an ex-post evaluation in 2024.

8. Where can I get further information?

A complete version of the Rural Development Programme and associated documentation can be accessed on the Department's website at the following link: www.agriculture.gov.ie/ruralenvironment/ruraldevelopmentprogrammerdp2014-2020/

The Rural Development Division of DAFM is responsible for co-ordinating, managing and reporting on the RDP.

General queries on the Programme can be directed to:

Telephone: 01 – 607 2885

E-mail: RuralDevelopment@agriculture.gov.ie

For **further information** on specific schemes and supports contact:

Knowledge transfer / Continuous Professional Development for Agri Advisors

Telephone: 057 8674400

E-mail: KTInformation@agriculture.gov.ie

E-mail: CPD@agriculture.gov.ie

Animal Welfare Scheme (Sheep)

Telephone: 076 1064420

E-mail: sheepscheme@agriculture.gov.ie

TAMS II

Telephone: 076 1064452

E-mail: tams@agriculture.gov.ie

BDGP

Telephone: 076 1064423

E-mail: beefschemes@agriculture.gov.ie

GLAS

Telephone: 076 1064451

E-mail: glas@agriculture.gov.ie

Organic Farming Scheme

Telephone: 1890 200 509

E-mail: Organicunit@agriculture.gov.ie

Areas of Natural Constraints

Telephone: 076 1064426

European Innovation Partnership - Locally Led Scheme Section

Telephone: 076 1064454

E-mail: locallyled@agriculture.gov.ie

European Innovation Partnership - General EIPs Innovation Unit

Telephone: 076 1064557

E-mail: EIP@agriculture.gov.ie

LEADER

LEADER Programme Section

Department of Rural and Community Development

Telephone: 096 24200

E-mail: rdp1420@ahg.ie

Annex 1: Eligibility Conditions for TAMS

Farmers in all areas of the country will be entitled to apply for grant-aid under TAMS II, subject to meeting the eligibility criteria laid down in each individual strand of support under the measure.

The eligibility conditions are as follows for the different strands of support under TAMS II:

a) Dairy Equipment

The applicant must:

- Hold a Department identifier;
- Have ownership or lease of a development site;
- Have a minimum of 5ha land declared under BPS.

b) Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment (LESS)

The applicant must:

- Hold a Department identifier;
- Have a minimum of 5ha land declared under BPS or 60 production units for pig farming.

c) Animal Welfare Safety and Nutrient Storage

The applicant must:

- Have ownership or lease of a development site
- Have a minimum of 5ha land declared under the Basic Payment Scheme or a minimum of 20 production units from intensive enterprise
- Hold a Department identifier
- In terms of animal housing, as sector support is rolled out, the requirement to be a farmer in the relevant sector will be included in the terms and conditions.

d) Pig and Poultry Investment

The applicant must:

- Have ownership or lease of a development site;
- Have a minimum of 20 production units from pig or poultry;
- Hold a Department identifier.

e) Organic Capital Investments

The applicant must:

- Be a licensed organic producer ;
- Hold a Department identifier;
- Have ownership or lease of a development site.

In case of young farmers, the applicant must:

- Be between 18 years and not more than 40 years at age of application;
- Have not received grant-aid under a previous Installation Aid Scheme;
- Meet the requirements of set-up for the first time within five years of application.
- Have ownership or lease of a development site;
- Have a minimum of 15ha land declared under BPS, or in the case of horticulture enterprises, a minimum of 1ha;
- Meet specific Educational Qualification;
- Have effective control of holding.

f) Young Farmers' Capital Investment

The applicant must:

- Hold a Department identifier;
- Be between 18 years and not more than 40 years of age at application;
- Have not received grant-aid under a previous Installation Aid Scheme;
- Meet the requirements of set-up for the first time within five years of application;
- Have ownership or lease of a development site;
- Have a minimum of 15ha land declared under BPS or 20 production units;
- Meet specific educational qualifications;
- Have effective control of the holding.

g) Tillage investments

The applicant must:

- Hold a Department identifier
- Have ownership of or lease the development site
- Have a minimum area of 15 hectares of cereals / potatoes / field vegetable declared

Annex 2: GLAS Structure

OBJECTIVE:

GLAS aims to address the cross-cutting objectives of climate change, water quality and biodiversity.

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| CORE | <p>Core Management Requirements</p> <p>All of these requirements are compulsory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An approved agricultural planner must prepare the GLAS application • Nutrient Management Planning • Training in environmental practices and standards • Record keeping of actions delivered |
| PRIORITY | <p>TIER 1 Priority Environmental Assets and Action</p> <p>Tier 1(a) All farmers with PEAs get first priority access into the Scheme in Year One and subsequent years. If any of these Priority Assets are applicable to the holding, they must be chosen and the relevant actions planned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmland Habitat (private Natura sites) • Farmland Birds (Breeding Waders and Curlews, Chough, Corncrake, Geese/Swans, Grey Partridge, Hen Harrier, Twite). • Commonages (50% minimum participation in GLAS Commonage Plan) • High Status Water Area • Rare Breeds <p>Tier 1(b) If an applicant (whether beef, sheep or dairy) with a whole farm stocking-rate exceeding 140kg Livestock Manure Nitrogen per hectare produced on the holding, or any farmer with more than 30ha of arable crops, wishes to be considered under Tier 1, (s)he must adopt at least one of the following four mandatory actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Tillage (Arable farm ≥ 30ha) • Catch crops Established from a Sown Crop (arable farm ≥ 30ha) • Low Emission Slurry Spreading (livestock farm >140kg N/ha only) • Wild Bird Cover (livestock farm >140kg N/ha only) <p>Registered Organic farmers will qualify for priority access to the scheme under Tier 1(b), by selecting actions appropriate to the farm. However, if any of the assets listed in the first set of bullet-points above apply, they must be chosen first. Commitments under the Organic Farming Scheme will not qualify for payment under GLAS. It is not guaranteed that all eligible applicants in Tier 1(b) will get into the Scheme and a scoring matrix will apply if necessary.</p> |

| | |
|------------------|---|
| SECONDARY | <p>TIER 2 Environmental Assets and Actions</p> <p>Tier 2(a) Farmers, who do not have Priority Environmental Assets but whose lands include a Vulnerable Water Area, may apply for access to the scheme under Tier 2. In such cases, the appropriate actions relevant to Vulnerable Water Areas must be selected.</p> <p>Tier 2(b) In the absence of a Vulnerable Water Area, an applicant may still qualify for Tier 2 access provided that one of the following actions are chosen and planned for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum Tillage (arable farm <30ha) • Catch crops Establishment from a Sown Group (arable farm < 30ha) • Low Emission Slurry Spreading (livestock farm ≤140kg N/ha or arable farm <30 ha) • Wild Bird Cover (grassland farm, i.e. <30 ha of arable and more than 75% grass, <140 kg N/ha) <p>It is not guaranteed that all eligible applicants in Tier 2 will get into the Scheme and a scoring matrix will apply if necessary.</p> |
| GENERAL | <p>TIER 3 General Actions*</p> <p>These actions aim to enhance the climate change, water quality and biodiversity benefits delivered and can be chosen in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2 actions or on their own (choosing only General Actions will not guarantee entry to the Scheme):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arable margins • Nat boxes • Bird Boxes • Catch Crops • Conservation of solitary bees • Coppicing Hedgegrows • Environmental Management of Fallow Land • Laying Hedgegrows • Low-Emission Slurry Spreading • Low-input Permanent Pasture • Minimum Tillage • Planting a Grove of Native Trees • Planting New Hedgegrows • Protection of Archeological Sites • Protection of Water Courses from Bovines (not in High Status or Vulnerable Areas) • Riparian Margins • Traditional Hay Meadow • Traditional Orchards • Traditional Stone Wall Maintenance • Wild Bird Cover <p>*A scoring matrix will be used to allow farmers join GLAS by means of these actions if take-up of Tier 1 and Tier 2 actions permits.</p> |

Annex 3: GLAS Actions and Rates of Payment

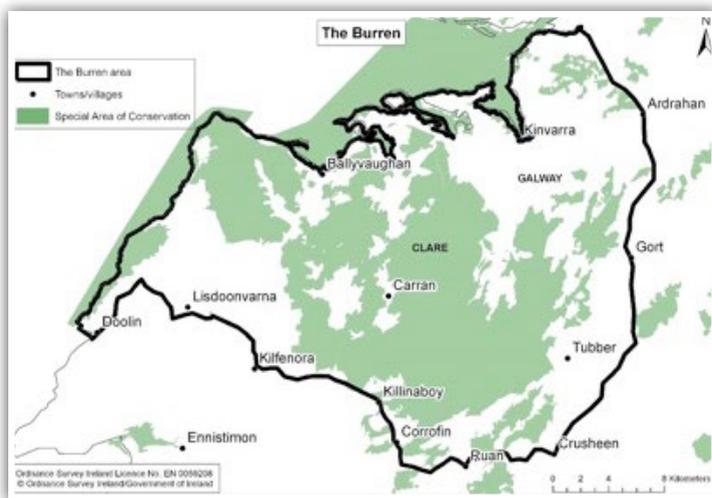
| Action | € per metre/year | € per ha/year | € per unit/year | € per m ³ /year |
|--|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Arable Grass Margins | | | | |
| a. 3 metre margin | €0.35 | | | |
| b. 4 metre margin | €0.50 | | | |
| c. 6 metre margin | €0.70 | | | |
| Bat Boxes | | | €13 | |
| Bird Boxes | | | €6 | |
| Commonages | | €120 | | |
| Conservation of Solitary Bees | | | | |
| a. Box | | | €6 | |
| b. Sand | | | €45 | |
| Coppicing Hedgerows | €2.20 | | | |
| Environmental Management of Fallow Land | | €750 | | |
| Farmland Birds | | | | |
| a. Breeding Waders | | €366 | | |
| b. Chough Farm Scheme | | €365 | | |
| c. Corncrake | | €364 | | |
| d. Geese and Swans | | €205 | | |
| e. Grey Partridge | €2.10 | | | |
| f. Hen Harrier | | €370 | | |
| g. Twite A: Semi-natural/semi-improved grassland field management option | | €375 | | |
| h. Twite B: Improved grassland field management option | €1.50 | | | |
| Farmland Habitat (Private Natura Sites) | | €79 | | |
| Green Cover Establishment from a Sown Crop | | €155 | | |
| Laying Hedgerows | €3.70 | | | |
| Low Emission Slurry Spreading (per m ³ per year) | | | | €1.20 |
| Low Input Permanent Pasture | | €314 | | |
| Minimum Tillage | | €40 | | |

| Action | € per metre/year | € per ha/year | € per unit/year | € per m ² /year |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Planting New Hedgerows (GLAS 1 Only) | €5.00 | | | |
| Protection of Archaeological Sites | | | | |
| a. Tillage Option | | | €146 | |
| b. Grassland Option | | | €120 | |
| Protection of Water Courses | €1.50 | | | |
| Rare Breeds (per L.U.) | | | €200 | |
| Riparian Margins | | | | |
| a. 3 metre margin | €0.90 | | | |
| b. 6 metre margin | €1.20 | | | |
| c. 10 metre margin | €1.60 | | | |
| d. 30 metre margin | €3.60 | | | |
| Small Woodland Establishment | | | €0.90 | |
| Traditional Hay Meadow | | €315 | | |
| Traditional Orchards (GLAS 1 Only) | | | €23.50 | |
| Traditional Stone Wall Maintenance | €0.70 | | | |
| Wild Bird Cover | | €900 | | |

Annex 4: Aid Intensity Rates and Non Productive Investments delivered via The Burren Programme

| ALLOWANCE | ITEM |
|-----------|---|
| 25% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Track • Unsurfaced Track - repair, dress • Surfaced track re-dressing • Silos (farmyard) • Winterage handling facilities (animal pens) |
| 50% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External stone wall repair • Drawing stone • Field Gate & Posts • Fence - post & wire • Solar fencer 12V • Electric fencer • Metal Stakes & Tape • Drinking troughs • Storage tank • Hydrodaire piping • Stop valves • Petrol water pump • Hydraulic Ram water pump • Pasture pump - activated by animal • Feed bins • Feed Troughs (single and double) • Chipper • Safety Personal Protection Equipment |
| 75% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burren Gate & Posts • Scrub works and associated habitat restoration Internal stone wall repair • Stone facing to field concrete interventions |

Annex 5: The Burren Region



The extent of the Burren region, as defined for the purposes of the Programme, is roughly indicated by the solid black line on the map, includes the following District Electoral Divisions:

- Abbey
- Derreen
- Kiltartan
- Ballyvaughter
- Doorus
- Kinvarra
- Beagh
- Drumacoo
- Lisdoonvarna
- Boston
- Drumcreehy
- Lurraga
- Cahermore
- Gleninagh
- Mountelva
- Carran
- Glenroe
- Muckanagh
- Castletaylor
- Kilfenora
- Noughaval
- Castletown
- Killeenavarra
- Oughtmama
- Cloghaun
- Killilagh
- Rathborney
- Corrofin
- Killinaboy
- Ruan
- Crusheen
- Killinny

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) & Special Protection Area (SPA) designations in the Burren include:

- SAC 000019 – Ballyyogan Lough
- SAC 002294 – Cahermore Turlough
- SAC 000606 – Lough Fingall Complex
- SAC 000057 – Moyree River System
- SAC 000020 – Black Head-Poulsallagh Complex
- SAC 002295 – Ballinduff Turlough
- SAC 001926 – East Burren Complex
- SAC 000238 – Caherglassaun Turlough
- SAC 000032 – Dromore Woods & Loughs
- SAC 000252 – Coole-Garryland Complex
- SAC 002244 – Ardrahan Grassland
- SPA 004107 – Coole-Garryland
- SAC 000054 – Moneen Mountain

