REAP
Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot project

2021 Multi-species Ley Scorecard

Total score /100

Date assessed: | Farmer/herd no.: | Advisor: | Field name/no.:

Q1. How many sown legume and herb species are present?

<3	3-4	5-6	>6	Score:
0	5	10	15	

Tick if present:

- ☐ Bird's foot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus)
- ☐ Red clover (Trifolium pratense)
- ☐ White clover (Trifolium repens)
- ☐ Alsike clover (Trifolium hybridum)
- ☐ Sweet clover (Melitotus officinalis)
- ☐ Lucerne (Medicago sativa)
- ☐ Sainfoin (Onobrychis sativa)
- ☐ Chicory (Cichorium intybus)
- ☐ Burnet (Sanguisorba minor)
- ☐ Ribwort plantain (Plantago lanceolata)
- ☐ Yarrow (Achillea millefolium)
- ☐ Sheep's parsley (Petroselinum crispum)
- ☐ Other - specify: _____

Other legume and herb species are also accepted but must be identified on the scorecard

Q2. What is the vegetation structure?

poor
-10

Poor: Ley of uniform height with little variation – can indicate poor diversity of legume and herb species or sward completely eaten off, few flowering plants visible.

moderate
5

Moderate: Some variation in ley structure, not overgrazed and several flowering plants visible.

good
10

Good: A diverse ley with a good variety of heights - taller, shorter and intermediate with many different flowering species.

Score:

Q3. Mark on the map all fenced field margins present and their widths (1/2/3/5m).

10 bonus points to be awarded for any field with a field margin beside a natural watercourse (& meeting min. density 50m/per ha), or drainage ditch (subject to an overall maximum of 60 points for this question).

Q4. Mark on the map field boundary features: earth banks, drainage ditches, wire/post & rail fences, watercourses, hedgerows/treelines, dry stone walls and other features.

Assess each boundary length of **hedgerow and/or stonewall** by marking on the map condition: A, B or C. *Overall maximum of 15 points for this question.*

Q5. What is the combined cover of negative indicators/invasive species throughout the field boundaries and margins?

cover:	very high >40%	high 31-40%	medium 21-30%	negligible to low <20%	Score:
	-15	-10	-5	0	

Tick if present:

☐ Docks ☐ Ragwort ☐ Nettles ☐ Thistles (Creeping & Spear)

Invasive alien species:

- ☐ Himalyan balsam
- ☐ Japanese knotweed
- ☐ Giant hogweed
- ☐ Giant rhubarb
- ☐ Other - specify: _____

Q.6 To what extent is the field poached?

cover:	very high >50%	med-high 26-50%	med-low 11-25%	negligible to low 0-10%	Score:
	-30	-20	-10	0	

Q7. Is there any evidence of any damaging activities to soil/vegetation/water?

cover:	high >50%	medium 6-50%	low 1-5%	none none	Score:
	-30	-20	-10	0	

Tick if present:

- ☐ Bare soil and erosion
- ☐ Damage to watercourses
- ☐ Inappropriate use of herbicide
- ☐ Burning
- ☐ Dumping/littering
- ☐ Fertiliser application at boundary (organic or inorganic)
- ☐ Evidence that field boundaries have been removed or damaged by machinery etc
- ☐ Extensive areas of bare or disturbed ground along field boundaries
- ☐ Other - describe: _____

Management advice Tick where appropriate:

Field options

- ☐ Control the occurrence and spread of invasive species.
- ☐ Control the spread of encroaching scrub.
- ☐ Use stock to graze the plot more evenly.
- ☐ Reduce grazing pressure to provide a more diverse sward structure.

Boundary/margin management

- ☐ Repair dry stone walls.
- ☐ Allow hedgerows to grow up.
- ☐ Control the spread of invasive species.
- ☐ Consider putting in a fenced margin between the crop and the field boundary (1/2/3/5m). Wider margins are best to allow part of the crop to flower.

Complementary action recommendations

mark location on map

- ☐ Boundary tree planting.
- ☐ New hedge planting.
- ☐ Hedge infilling of gaps.

REAP 2021 Multi-species Ley Scorecard Guidance

Q.1 Identifying sown legumes and herbs:

During the 'W' walk of the field, tick all sown legume and herb species present. Use your plant identification key to help you. Not all plants will be in flower, so look for leaves as well as flowers.

Alternatively, where field is sown recently (sown in 2021), seed labels may be used to determine legume and herb species. Submit a scan/photo of seed labels in such scenarios.

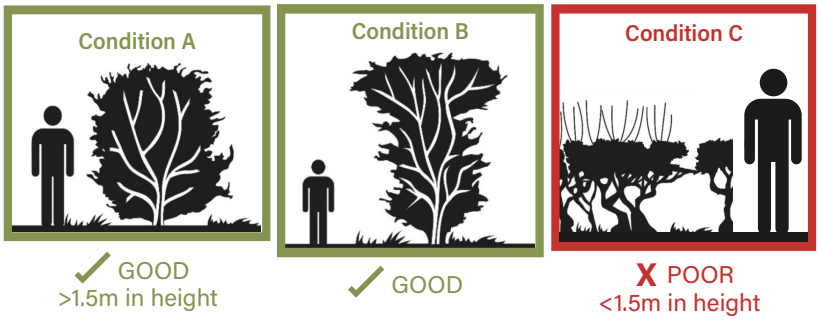
Q.3 Densities/widths of field margins per hectare:

Margin width:	Densities per hectare: 50-200m/ha	201-300m/ha	>300m/ha
5m	50	55	60
3m	30	35	40
2m	10	15	20
1m	5	10	15

Q.4 Assessment of hedgerows/treelines and stonewalls and density per hectare:

Condition / management:	Densities per hectare: 40-100m/ha	101-160m/ha	>160m/ha
A or B	5	10	15
C	0	0	0

Hedgerows/treelines:



Stonewalls:

Condition A

Stockproof and in excellent condition

Sound and stockproof with minor defects

Condition B

Signs of advancing or potential deterioration

Condition C

Not stockproof, and in early stages of dereliction

Derelict

Q.5 Estimating the cover of negative indicators throughout field boundaries and margins:

Very High: >40% Occurring in dense patches, or cover extensive areas, or very abundant throughout most/all field boundaries. Very visible throughout.

High: 31-40% Occurring in medium to large patches throughout many of the field boundaries/margins. Readily visible across boundaries.

Medium: 21-30% Occasional, limited to only a few field boundaries/margins. Occurring in small to medium patches.

Negligible to low: <20% Not present or occurring in one small patch/field boundary.

Q.6 To what extent is the field poached?:

Very High: >50% Extensive damage from poaching across most of field, including around wet features. Often extensive rutting and compaction from machinery.

Med high: 26-50% Extensive areas of bare ground noticeable, and not confined to regularly used routes. Can have medium extent of rutting and compaction from machinery. Soil disturbance around water sources extends for >3m.

Med low: 11-25% Unvegetated bare areas noticeable in wetter soils during summer. Patches of bare ground not limited to trackways/gates or thin soil. Soil disturbance around water features extending 1-3m.

Negligible to low: 0-10% Low impacts on the field. small patches of bare ground possible along well used trackways/gates. Very small areas of poaching away from routes and gates but field as a whole is well vegetated in summer. No poaching or dunging at wet features.