

CAP Reform Greening

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Why a new CAP reform

Member states agreed to a new reform in June 2013

Single Farm Payment Scheme will no longer exist and be replaced by

- ✓ Basic Payment Scheme
- ✓ Greening Payment
- ✓ Young Farmers' Payment

This means changes to the content of the 2015 application form.



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How will this new reform affect my payment?

With any reform there will be winners & losers, some level of payments will go up other will go down.

Entitlements below the average will increase by approx **71% of the difference** between their initial unit value in 2015 and the regional average value by 2019.

Entitlements above the average may see a similar decrease but these values will not be known until the 2015 applications are processed.

Agreed up to 2019, after this will depend on future EU CAP reform



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Active Farmer

Farmers wishing to establish entitlements in 2015 must meet the eligibility criteria which includes that they must be active farmers.

I.e. They must enjoy the decision making power, benefits and financial risks in relation to the agricultural activity on the land for which an allocation of entitlements is requested. This is commonly known as the active farmer requirement and means that in 2015 landowners who rent out their land in conacre will not be able to establish entitlements on that land.

The principle being that where land is let, then the farmer actively farming the land will be the one claiming payment on that land.



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What is the main concern for arable farmers in new CAP reform?

Greening?

What is it?

What does it mean?

How will I fulfil the requirements?



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Greening

☐ There are three elements to greening:

- **Permanent Grassland**
- **Crop Diversification**
- **Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)**

☐ Non-compliance with greening requirements will result in reductions to the Greening Payment. It is therefore important that farmers understand and comply with the greening requirements.



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Definition of Permanent Grassland

- Land used to grow grasses or other herbaceous forage (this can be self-seeded or sown).
- Land that has not been used for an arable crop in the previous five years or more. In effect, this relates to six years (2015 and the previous 5 years (2010 – 2014)).
- E.g. land declared as FR1 (grass) in 2015 which was also declared as FR1 in the previous five consecutive years (2010 – 2014) will be classified as **permanent grassland**.
- Permanent grassland ploughed and re-seeded immediately with grass or other herbaceous forage continues to be classified as permanent grassland.



Environmentally Sensitive Permanent Grassland

- ❑ There is also a requirement to designate permanent grassland in areas covered by:
 - The Birds Directive and/or
 - The Habitats Directive.

- ❑ **Farmers will not be allowed to plough or convert permanent grassland in these areas.**

- ❑ DARD has identified permanent grassland in these areas and has made this information available to the relevant farmers.



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Definition of Arable land

- Use of land to grow crops other than grass, orchards, short rotational coppice, ornamentals and nurseries, forestry and multi-annual crops.
- Forage crops such as fodder beet, fodder rape, stubble turnips or any cereal crop used for forage (e.g. maize) are regarded as an arable crop use.
- Sainfoin, clover, lucerne and forage vetches are regarded in the same way as grass and therefore are not deemed to be an arable use.
- Land used to grow an arable crop in 2015 or has been used to grow an arable crop in any of the years 2010 – 2014, will be classified as arable in 2015. Land used to grow grass in 2015 which has been used to grow an arable crop in any of the years 2010 - 2014 will be classified as arable in 2015.



Definition of Permanent Crops

- Permanent crops are non-rotational crops other than permanent grassland that occupy the land for five years or more and yield repeated harvests.
- Examples of permanent crops are orchards, short rotational coppice, ornamentals and nurseries and multi-annual crops. Further examples of permanent crops are available on the DARD website.
- DARD has provisionally classified fields as permanent grassland, arable or permanent crops and this information is available to farmers online or through local DARD Direct offices.



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Classification of fields

Field	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Classified
7/82/12 Field 1	barley	oats	grass	grass	grass	grass	Arable (temporary grass)
7/82/12 Field 2	grass	grass	grass	grass	grass	barley	Arable
7/6/6 Field 10	barley	wheat	maize	wheat	barley	wheat	Arable
7/6/6 Field 16	grass	grass	grass	grass	grass	grass	Permanent grass



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Crop Diversification



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Crop Diversification Exemptions

Farmers will be exempt from crop diversification in the following circumstances:-

1. Where they have less than 10 hectares of arable land;
2. Where more than 75% of the **arable land** is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage, is land lying fallow, or a combination of these uses, provided their remaining arable area not covered by these uses does not exceed 30 hectares;
3. Where more than 75% of the **eligible agricultural area** is permanent grassland, is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage, or a combination of these uses, provided their arable area not covered by these uses does not exceed 30 hectares;



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Crop Diversification Exemptions (continued)

4. Where more than 50% of the areas under arable land were not declared by the farmer in his/her aid application of the previous year and where all arable land is being cultivated with a different crop compared to that of the previous calendar year.
5. Land certified as being organically farmed automatically qualifies for the greening payment but double funding (receiving the greening payment for doing the same thing) is not permitted. This exemption only applies to those fields which are organically farmed.



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Crop Diversification - Requirements

Crop Diversification – Summary of Requirements		
Area of Arable Land	Number of Crops that must be grown	Further requirements
Less than 10 hectares	No crop diversification requirement	Not applicable
Between 10 and 30 hectares	Farmer must grow at least two different crops on his arable land	The main crop shall not cover more than 75% of the farmer's arable land
More than 30 hectares	Farmer must grow at least three different crops on his arable land	The main crop shall not cover more than 75% of the farmer's arable land and the two main crops together shall not cover more than 95% of his arable land

If close to the thresholds exercise caution!



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Definition of a crop

Winter and spring varieties of crops count as separate crops.

The crop must be present (or its stubble/residue present in a form which enables the original crop to be identified) during the entire period of 1 June to 31 July each year.

A seed mixture(s) will be recognised as one crop.

Different seed mixtures will not be recognised as separate crops.

Land lying fallow;

Grass or other herbaceous forage (clovers, lucerne, sainfoin and forage vetches) on arable land (temporary grass).



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Ecological Focus Areas



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Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)

Farmers with more than 15 hectares of arable land must ensure that, from 1st January 2015, an area *equivalent to* at least 5% of their arable land is used as an EFA. This may increase to 7% in 2017.

Farmers will be exempt from the requirement to have EFAs in the following circumstances:

1. Where they have less than or equal to 15 hectares of arable land.
2. Where more than 75% of the **arable land** is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage, is land lying fallow, is used for cultivation of leguminous crops (peas, beans, sweet lupins) or is subject to a combination of those uses, provided that the arable area not covered by those uses does not exceed 30 hectares;



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Ecological Focus Areas - Exemptions

3. More than 75% of the **eligible agricultural area** is permanent grassland, is used for the production of grasses or other herbaceous forage, or is subject to a combination of those uses, provided that the arable area not covered by these uses does not exceed 30 hectares.

Land certified as being organically farmed automatically qualifies for the greening payment but double funding (receiving the greening payment for doing the same thing) is not permitted. This exemption only applies to those fields which are organically farmed.



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Features and areas which can be used to meet EFA requirements

The following features and areas which can be used as EFAs:

- Land lying fallow;
- Landscape features required to be retained under cross compliance (hedges, ditches, stone walls, archaeological features and earth banks (does not include river banks));
- Areas of agro-forestry (supported under past or current RDP);
- Areas with short rotation coppice with no use of mineral fertiliser and no use of plant protection products beyond the second growing season post planting – max harvest 5 years;
- Afforested areas which were used and eligible to claim SFP in 2008;
- Areas with nitrogen fixing crops (peas, beans and sweet lupins).



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Location of EFAs

EFA Feature	Location
<p>Hedges, Ditches, Stone walls Earth banks Archaeological features</p>	<p>Must be located on or adjacent to the arable land of the holding (Adjacent is thought to mean physically touching a field of agricultural land on the longest edge of the relevant EFA)</p>
<p>Land lying fallow Agro-forestry Nitrogen fixing crops</p>	<p>Must be located on the arable land of the holding</p>
<p>Eligible afforested areas Short rotation coppice</p>	<p>No requirement to be on or adjacent to the arable land of the holding</p>



Ecological Focus Area Conversion Matrix

EFA type (unit of measurement)	Conversion factor (m to m ²)	Weighting factor	Area (m ²) of EFA (i.e. after application of both factors)
Land lying fallow (per 1m ²)	N/A	1	1m ²
Hedges (per 1m)	5	2	10m ²
Shared Hedges (per 1m)	5	1	5m ²
Ditches (per 1m)	3	2	6m ²
Traditional dry stone walls (per 1m)	1	1	1m ²
Archaeological features (per 1m ²)	N/A	1	1m ²
Earth banks (per 1m ²)	N/A	1	1m ²
Hectares of agro-forestry (per 1m ²)	N/A	1	1m ²
Areas with short rotation coppice (per 1m ²)	N/A	0.3	0.3m ²
Afforested areas (per 1m ²)	N/A	1	1m ²
Areas with nitrogen fixing crops (per 1m ²)	N/A	0.7*	0.7m ²

* To be confirmed by EC in legislation

Exercise caution when calculating EFAs



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Hedges

Hedges must consist of woody material (e.g. hawthorn, blackthorn or whins) and/or briars, bramble and have hedge like shape and characteristics. Scrub encroachment and weeds such as nettles and thistles do not constitute a hedge.

Individual gaps of no more than 5m at canopy level between hedgerow materials are considered as part of the hedge and do not need to be deducted from the measured hedge length. Individual gaps exceeding 5m must be deducted and cannot be counted as part of the hedge for EFA.



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Hedges

The minimum length for a hedge to be accepted as EFA is 5m.

Maximum width for a hedge is 2m from the centre at the base.

Newly planted hedgerows are protected under Cross Compliance and can be used for EFA provided they have been planted prior to the deadline for the submission of the scheme application (15 May in the scheme year concerned).



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Landscape features - Hedges



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Measuring Hedges

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Main Tools Advanced Tools Help

Go to my Fields Pan Zoom In Zoom Out Previous Extent Next Extent Identify A Feature? Measure Distance Measure Area Add as Drawing Erase Drawing Clear All

Measurement Info Units

Total Distance:	220.96	Meters (m) ▾
Last Segment:	200.36	

I WANT TO..... ▾

Parcel numbers visible on the map: 3/105/0117/1, 3/105/017/32, 3/105/017/31, 3/105/017/30, 3/105/017/29, 3/105/017/28, 3/105/011/5, 3/105/011/23, 3/105/077/17/D, 3/105/077/35, 3/105/077/34/C, 3/105/077/46, 3/105/077/34/A, 3/105/077/34/B, 3/105/077/37, 3/105/017/34, 3/105/017/33, 3/106/033/30.

Scale: 250ft / 50m

X: Y:

Land & Pro

Ditch / Sheugh

Must be no more than 2m wide at the base

Exclusions

- Naturally flowing streams & rivers
- Watercourses maintained by Rivers Agency

Watercourses which have been marked as ineligible on farm maps are not regarded as sheughs and cannot be used for EFA.



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Earthbanks

- A man-made linear feature usually made up of a core of stones covered with sods.
- Exclusions
 - River banks
 - Earth silo banks
 - Mounds of earth



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Dry Stonewalls

Dry stone walls must comply with the following dimensions and conditions:

Maximum height 2.30m

Minimum height 0.50m

Maximum width 4.00m

Minimum width 0.25m

Walls must be built without the use of cement/mortar with the exception of the capping layer.

Individual gaps of 3m or less within the dry stone wall will be regarded as part of the stone wall. The minimum length for a dry stone wall to be accepted as EFA is 3m.



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Archaeological Sites

- A historic or archaeological site is one identified by the Department of the Environment in the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record.



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Land Lying Fallow

To be used as EFA, fallow land must be out of production during the entire period 1 February – 31 July inclusive in the scheme year concerned.

For crop diversification the fallow period is 1 June – 31 July inclusive.

A green cover (grass) may be planted during the fallow period.

Production during the fallow period is prohibited. No crops (other than grass) may be planted during the fallow period. No fertilisers or animal manures may be applied during the fallow period. No grazing or harvesting is allowed during the fallow period.



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Land Lying Fallow

- Needs to be mapped as part of the field & ineligible features removed.
- Must be maintained in GAEC



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Overlapping EFAs

The overlap of EFA features cannot be double counted.

This will occur if a field in fallow and/or a nitrogen fixing crop is used for EFA and has boundary features, such as hedges, also used for EFA (as half of the hedge is embedded in the field). In that case, the converted area of half of the hedge must be deducted from EFA area of the fallow and/or nitrogen fixing crops.

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CAFRE Greening Calculator

B C D E F G H I J K L
or DARD announcements.

Your Farm Details (ha)

Eligible Agricultural Land	170.07 ha
<i>Of which:</i>	
Permanent Grassland area	102.18 ha
Permanent Crops area (Orchards, Short rotation coppice, etc.)	
Arable land area	67.89 ha
<i>Of which:</i>	
Used for temp grass	31.58 ha
Available for Cropping (including fallow)	36.31 ha

Instructions:

- Enter all data in White boxes
- Enter your EFA qualifying measures (if required)

The Greening Indicator will show if cropping rules or EFA applies and w compliant with the Greening requirements.

Please enter your Crop Use

Please use only **ONE** crop type per area using the drop down list located in each crop type cell

	Crop #1	Crop #2	Crop #3	Crop #4	Crop #5	Crop #6	Crop #7	Fallow	Legumes (Protein Crops)	Temp Gras
Crop type	W Barley	S Barley	F Maize	W Oats	S Wheat	S Barley	SOSR			
Area (ha)	21.91 ha	14.40 ha								31.58 ha
% cover	32%	21%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	47%

Greening Indicator

	Rule	Compliance
Cropping	Three Cro	OK
EFA	EFA applies	Not OK

An extra 3.3945 ha of EFA is needed

Declare all EFAs on Application Form!!



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Steps to Take and Tools

- ✓ Identify your field history, is it an arable field?
- ✓ What greening measures do I need to comply with? (use Greening Calculator)
- ✓ What crops will I plant.
- ✓ What EFA features are on my farm and what can be introduced to my farm to comply with the requirements?
- ✓ Attend Greening Workshops and speak to your CAFRE adviser.
- ✓ Use On-line SAF.