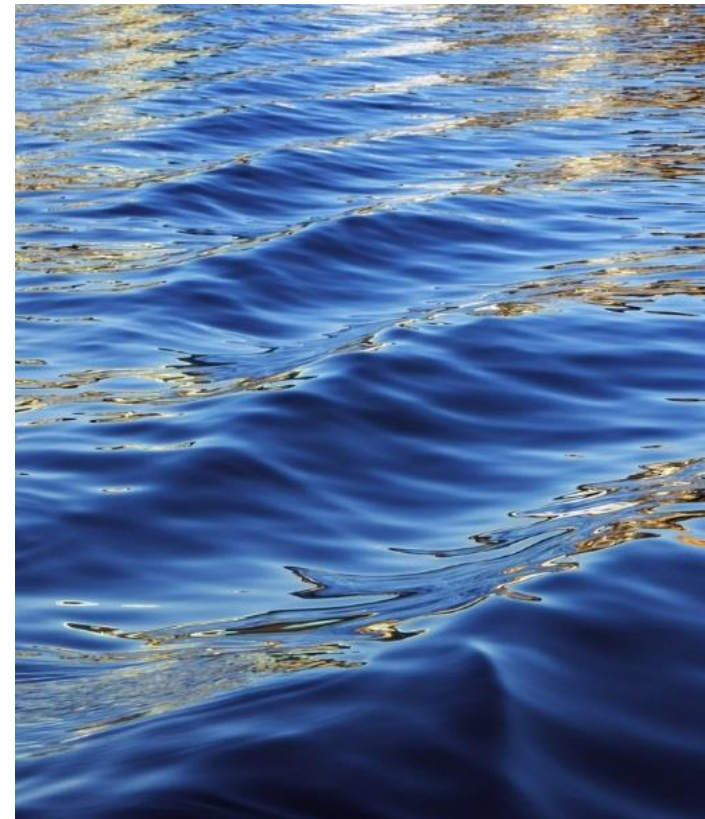




Biodiversity



National Rural Network



Biodiversity is variety of all life forms including insects, birds, fish, and plants. Biodiversity also includes habitats that feed all living organisms.

Many habitats are found on farms that contain biodiversity, including:

- Hedgerows
- Stonewalls
- Earth Banks
- Drains

Why is Biodiversity important to Agriculture?

- Pest Control- Natural pest control helps to reduce pesticide pollution.
- Soils Fertility- Earthworms aerate the soil, plants & insects improve fertility.
- Increase Yield- Nutrient recycling



Threats to Biodiversity

Many species are in decline such as farm birds, yellow hammer, corncrake.

Habitat loss as a result of agricultural intensification and urbanisation, pollution and climate change are all resulting in biodiversity decline.





How can I make my farm more biodiverse?

- Install bird, bee and bat boxes
- Maintain stone walls
- Plant catch crop. These will assist in soil conservation.
- Rotating your crop will help to build up organic material.
- Maintain buffer strips along hedgerows and streams to prevent fertiliser & pesticides reaching hedgerows & streams.
- Prevent livestock access to water courses
- Consider multispecies leys over conventional rye grass reseeds



Further Information:

National Rural Network -

<https://www.nationalruralnetwork.ie/biodiversity/>

The National Biodiversity Data Centre -

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/>

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan - <https://pollinators.ie/>

Irish Wildlife Trust - <https://iwt.ie/>