

Eco-Scheme Options

The new Eco-Scheme is being launched under pillar 1 of the new CAP to incentivise farmers for undertaking actions beneficial to the climate, environment, water quality and biodiversity.

This scheme is an annual agri-environmental scheme with voluntary participation. The payment will be based on eligible hectares and will no longer be connected to entitlements. Participants can opt in and out on an annual basis and the payment will be approximately €70-€80 per eligible hectare. Farmers must take on two out of the 8 actions outlined in the table which are outside of the conditionality requirements to qualify for this scheme.

Out of the 8 actions outlined some are Enhanced Options*, which can count as two agricultural practices.

For further information visit:

www.gov.ie/CAP



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development: Europe
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ECO-SCHEME OPTIONS	
<p>1 Space for Nature*</p> <p>At least 7% of a farmer's holding must be devoted to biodiversity, habitats or landscape features, building on the 4% requirement for all farmers already set under GAEC 8 as part of Conditionality. Where the farmer commits to at least 10%, this counts as two actions under the Eco Scheme.</p>	<p>5 Use of a GPS controlled Fertiliser Spreader/Sprayer</p> <p>Application of at least 100% of chemical fertiliser (whether compound or liquid) or plant protection products to be applied with a GPS controlled fertiliser spreader and or GPS controlled sprayer.</p>
<p>2 Extensive Livestock Production*</p> <p>A minimum stocking rate of 0.10 LU/ha (same as ANC) with a maximum stocking rate of 1.4 LU/ha. Payment in 2023 will be based on the stocking rate in 2022. Where the farmer commits to a maximum stocking rate of 1.2 LU/ha, this will count as two actions under the Eco Scheme</p>	<p>6 Soil Sampling and Appropriate Liming</p> <p>Where the farmer selects this action, it could not be selected again for a further 3 years in line with Teagasc guidance relating to the frequency of taking soil samples.</p>
<p>3 Limiting Chemical Nitrogen Usage</p> <p>A farmer must not exceed a certain level of chemical nitrogen usage across the holding in the year of Eco-scheme participation based on the previous year's stocking rate, or for tillage farmers they must limit their chemical Nitrogen usage to 10% below the national average on arable crops.</p>	<p>7 Planting of a break crop(s)</p> <p>The Eco Scheme will require that at least 20% of the arable area of the holding in the year of the commitment is planted to a prescribed break crop of either Oilseed Rape, Oats, Peas and Beans or a combination of one or more of these crops.</p>
<p>4 Planting of Native Trees/Hedgerows*</p> <p>The commitment is to plant 3 native trees per eligible hectare or 1 metre of hedgerow. Where a farmer commits to plant twice that either (a) 6 native trees or (b) 2 metres of hedgerow or, a combination (c) 3 trees and 1 metre of hedgerow, per eligible hectare, this will count as two actions under the Eco Scheme.</p>	<p>8 Planting of a Multi-Species Sward</p> <p>This action involves sowing of a multi-species sward on at least 7% of eligible hectares in the year the action is selected. Where s/he selects it again in a further year, the farmer must sow down a further 7%.</p>

