

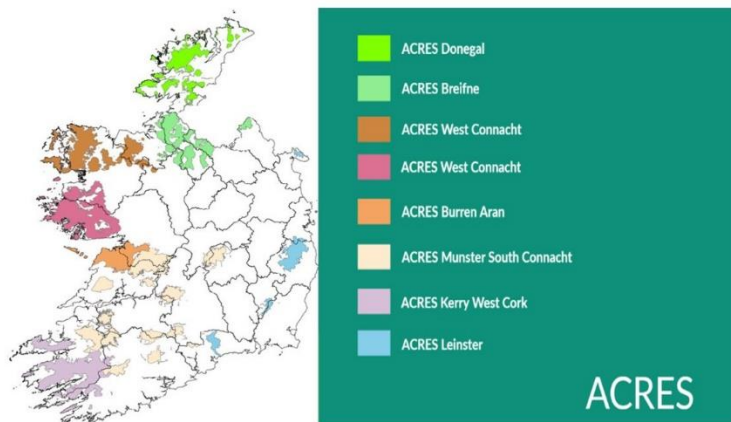


ACRES vs GLAS

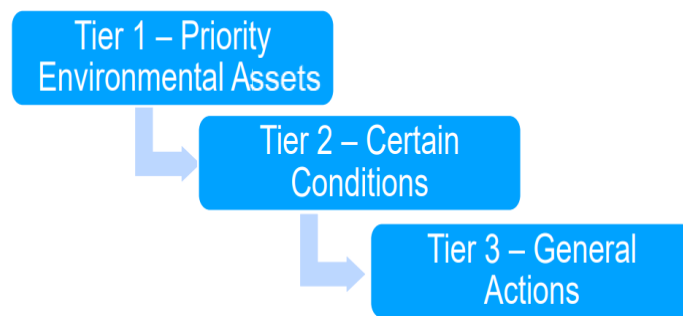


ACRES V GLAS- What's Different?

- ❖ The Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES) is the successor to the Green Low Carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS), which was available under Ireland's Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.
- ❖ ACRES builds on key learning from GLAS and the Results Based Environment Agri Pilot Programme 2021-2022 (REAP) to deliver significant long-term environmental improvement. Contracts approved under Tranche 1 are valid from 1 January 2023 for five years.
- ❖ There are two approaches within ACRES: Co-operation and General.
- ❖ Applicants eligible for the ACRES co-operation approach must be based in a high priority geographical area as seen on the map below whilst ACRES general is available nationally outside these high priority zones.



- ❖ ACRES Co-operation measures will be results-based i.e. will use score cards to assess grassland quality, and have non-productive investments e.g., invasive species control and co-operation actions e.g., fire prevention which will depend on the co-operation project zone and co-operation project team.
- ❖ The eligibility criteria for ACRES General is split into a tiering system like GLAS. The tiering system is based on high priority assets and selection of certain environmental actions.
- ❖ Tier 1 applicants have priority due to the presence of Priority Environment Assets (PEA) on their holding which offer the potential for higher environmental return. Tier 2 applications are considered as the next priority group with Tier 3 applicants choosing from a menu of general actions.



- ❖ While GLAS only offered prescription actions, ACRES offers both prescription and results-based actions, with the introduction of scorecards for results-based actions for Low Input Grassland (LIG) and Low Input Peat Grassland (LIPG) in the General approach.
- ❖ GLAS was more species specific whereas the underlying principle in ACRES is 'the right action, in the right place' with a focus on habitat quality and establishment
- ❖ A major difference between GLAS and ACRES will be the change from solely prescription-based payments to a hybrid approach combining prescription and results-based payments



ACRES PAYMENT

ACRES General offers a maximum payment of €7,311 a year to an individual farmer contract with payments to Registered Farm Partnerships determined by the number of farm holdings in the partnership. The level of payment a farmer may achieve will be determined by the payment rates for the actions selected and undertaken satisfactorily.

Co-operation offers a maximum of €10,500 a year to each participant with a maximum results-based payment of €7,000 with an extra non-productive investment and landscape action maximum of €3,500.

GLAS PAYMENT

The maximum payment under GLAS was €5,000 per year. Farmers within GLAS+ undertook particularly challenging measures and received a top-up payment of up to €2,000 per year. Payments were based on the satisfactory completion of specified tasks for each action.

For more information on ACRES follow the link:
www.gov.ie/ACRES

RESULTS-BASED vs PRESCRIPTION PAYMENTS

- ❖ Prescription Actions as undertaken in GLAS offered set payments for satisfactory completion of task(s).
- ❖ Results-based payments as offered in ACRES will depend on the score achieved and will be linked to nature quality on your farm.
- ❖ Scorecards will be used to grade habitat quality and will be based on a scale of 1-10. The higher the quality the higher the payment.
- ❖ In GLAS, for example, those with the Low Input Permanent Pasture action received a maximum payment of €314 per hectare per year whereas under the ACRES results-based system those who undertake the Low Input Grassland (LIG) action could receive up to €400 per hectare per year depending on the score achieved.

QUALITY PAYS

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WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- ❖ GLAS focused on the completion of certain set requirements rather than the quality of the delivery of the action for biodiversity. This did not reflect the contribution of the action to biodiversity or climate. The results-based approach allows for the measurement of the contribution the action makes.
- ❖ This will highlight progress as farmers generate and demonstrate environmental gain for both biodiversity and climate whilst economically gaining.

Is there an opportunity to increase payments?

- ❖ The results-based approach gives farmers an opportunity to improve scores and payments by implementing restoring actions if ecological integrity is low or to reduce threats and pressures, e.g reducing fertilizer inputs, improving the structure of the sward, improving field boundaries, control of immature spreading scrub and invasive species etc.

