

## GLAS – Proposed New Agri-Environment Scheme Structure and Payment Rates

**GLAS** aims to address the cross-cutting objectives of climate change, water quality and biodiversity.

The scheme is a...

**Green** Preserves traditional hay meadows and low-input pastures

**Low-carbon** Retains the carbon stocks in soil through margins and habitat preservation

**Agri-environment  
Scheme** The proposed new agri-environment scheme as part of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

### **Core Management Requirements**

All of these requirements are compulsory:

- An approved agricultural advisor must prepare the GLAS application
- Nutrient Management Planning
- Training in environmental practices and standards
- Record keeping of actions delivered

### **Priority Environmental Assets and Actions (PEAs)**

All farmers with PEAs get first priority access to the Scheme in year one and subsequent years. It is not guaranteed that all eligible applicants in Tier 1 will get into the Scheme and a scoring matrix will apply if necessary. If any of these PEAs are applicable to the holding, they must be chosen and the relevant actions planned.

- Farmland habitat (private Natura sites);
- Farmland birds (Twite, Breeding Waders, Chough, Geese/Swans, Corncrake, Grey Partridge, Hen Harrier);
- Commonages (50% minimum participation in GLAS Commonage Management Plan);
- High status water area;
- Rare breeds.

Similarly, if an applicant (whether beef, sheep or dairy) with a whole farm stocking-rate exceeding 140kg Livestock Manure Nitrogen per hectare produced on the holding, or any farmer with more than 30 hectare of arable crops, wishes to be considered under Tier 1, (s)he must adopt at least one of the following four mandatory actions:

- Low emission slurry spreading;
- Minimum tillage;
- Green cover establishment from a sown crop;
- Wild bird cover (grassland farms only).

Registered Organic farmers will qualify for priority access to the scheme under Tier 1, by selecting actions appropriate to the farm. However, if any of the assets listed in the first set of bullet-points above apply, they must be chosen first.

### **Environmental Assets and Actions**

Farmers, who do not have Priority Environmental Assets but whose lands include a Vulnerable Water Area, may apply for access to the scheme under Tier 2. In such cases, the appropriate actions relevant to Vulnerable Water Areas must be selected. In the absence of a Vulnerable Water Area, an applicant may still qualify for Tier 2 access provided that one of the following actions are chosen and planned for:

- Low emission slurry spreading;
- Minimum tillage;
- Green cover establishment from a sown crop;
- Wild bird cover (grassland farms only).

#### **General Actions\***

These actions aim to enhance the climate change, water quality and biodiversity benefits delivered and can be chosen in addition to Tier 1 and Tier 2 actions or on their own (choosing only General Actions will not guarantee entry to the Scheme):

- Low input permanent pasture;
- Traditional hay meadow;
- Riparian margins;
- Coppicing hedgerows;
- Laying hedgerows;
- Planting new hedgerows;
- Traditional stone wall maintenance;
- Small woodland establishment;
- Environmental management of fallow land;
- Arable margins;
- Bird & boxes;
- Bat boxes;
- Conservation of solitary bees;
- Wild bird cover;
- Traditional orchards;
- Protection of water courses (not in high status or vulnerable areas);
- Protection of archaeological sites.

\*A selection process will be used to allow farmers join GLAS by means of these actions if there is a shortfall in the take-up of Tier 1 and Tier 2 actions.

## Proposed GLAS Payment Rates

Action	€ per metre/year	€ per ha/year	€ per unit/year	€ per m <sup>3</sup> /year
Arable grass margins				
a. 3 metre margin	€0.35			
b. 4 metre margin	€0.50			
c. 6 metre margin	€0.70			
Bat boxes			€13	
Bird boxes			€6	
Commonages		€120		
Conservation of solitary bees				
a. Box			€6	
b. Sand			€45	
Coppicing hedgerows	€2.20			
Environmental management of fallow land		€750		
Farmland birds				
a. Breeding Waders		€366		
b. Chough farm scheme		€365		
c. Corncrake		€364		
d. Geese and Swans		€205		
e. Grey Partridge	€2.10			
f. Hen Harrier		€370		
g. Twite A – Semi-natural/semi-improved grassland field management option		€375		
h. Twite B – Improved grassland field management option	€1.50			
Farmland habitat (private Natura sites)		€79		
Green cover establishment from a sown crop		€155		
Laying hedgerows	€3.70			
Low-emission slurry spreading (per m <sup>3</sup> per year)				€1.20
Low-input permanent pasture		€314		
Minimum tillage		€40		
Planting new hedgerows	€5.00			
Protection of archaeological sites				
a. Tillage option			€146	
b. Grassland option			€120	
Protection of water courses	€1.50			
Rare breeds (per LU)			€200	
Riparian margins				
a. 3 metre margin	€0.90			
b. 6 metre margin	€1.20			
c. 10 metre margin	€1.60			
d. 30 metre margin	€3.60			
Small woodland establishment			€0.90	
Traditional hay meadow		€315		
Traditional orchards			€23.50	
Traditional stone wall maintenance	€0.70			
Wild bird cover		€900		