

GLAS

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THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



GLAS – The Environmental Benefits



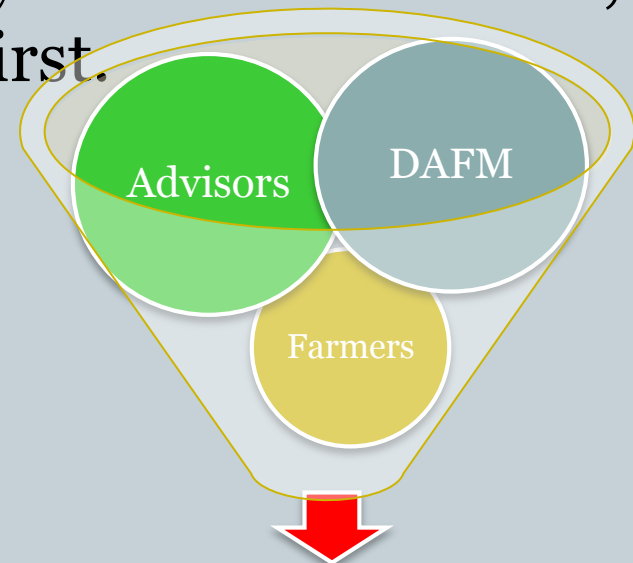
- GLAS stands for Green Low-Carbon Agri-Environment Scheme.
- It aims to improve the rural environment in 3 ways:
 - Improve water quality
 - Mitigate climate change
 - Promote biodiversity



GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd.

- GLAS is a targeted Agri-Environment scheme that pinpoints key Priority Environmental Assets and links them with farmers who possess them.
- These farmers receive priority access into GLAS, but must address these priorities first.

- GLAS depends on the interactions of Farmers, GLAS Advisors and the Department in order to be successful.



Positive Benefits to the Rural Environment

GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd



- GLAS actions that **improve water quality**:
 - **Arable Grass Margins** – when placed along a watercourse it acts as a buffer zone to intercept nutrient runoff.
 - **Riparian Margins** – stabilise river banks and act as a buffer zone to intercept livestock nutrient runoff.
 - **Protection of watercourse from bovines** – fencing watercourses off from bovines prevents direct contamination.



GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd



- GLAS actions that **improve water quality**:
 - **Low-Input Permanent Pasture/Traditional Hay Meadow** – the restriction of fertiliser/pesticide use in these actions results less chemicals entering watercourses as runoff.
 - **Minimum Tillage** – by not inverting the soil there is less chance of nutrient runoff into watercourses.
 - **Low Emission Slurry Spreading** – more controlled and more efficient slurry spreading results in less nutrient runoff.



GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd



- GLAS actions that **mitigate climate change**:
 - **Catch Crops** – protect soil during fallow periods over winter, thus preventing the loss of carbon from the soil, which is a major carbon sink.
 - **Minimum Tillage** – inverting soil releases carbon into the atmosphere. Min-till prevents this from occurring.
 - **Planting Hedgerow/Grove of native trees/ Traditional Orchard** – All these planting actions promote carbon sequestration.



GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd



- GLAS actions that **promote biodiversity**:
 - **Conservation of Farmland Birds** –increase the population of breeding farmland birds by providing suitable habitats.
 - **Environmental Management of Fallow Land** – provide habitats for ground nesting birds, fauna and insects.
 - **Bat/Bird Boxes/Conservation of Solitary Bees (boxes/sand)** – replace habitats lost as a result of farming.



GLAS - Funding



GLAS - Funding



- GLAS has funding of approx €1.4bn over its 5 year duration from 2015 – 2020.
- This funding will benefit up to 50,000 farmers – depends on average payment rate.
- GLAS is co-funded by the EU
 - Approx – 56% co-funded

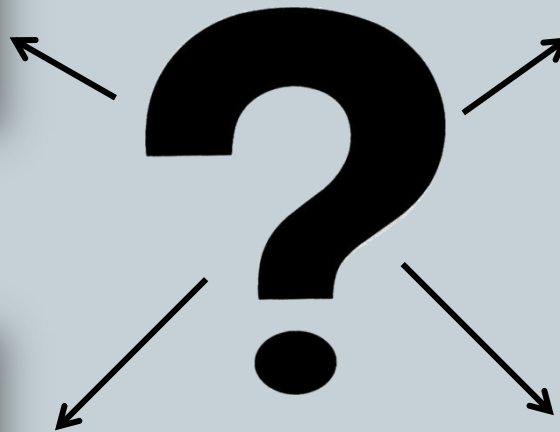


GLAS - Funding



- Farmers can receive a maximum annual payment of up to €5,000 depending on the GLAS actions they commit to.
- Farmers who undertake exceptional environmental commitment on Priority Environmental Assets (PEA) are eligible for GLAS+ and thus a maximum annual payment of €7,000.

GLAS – Who is the Scheme Targeting?



GLAS – Who is the Scheme Targeting?



- GLAS is open to **all farmers to apply**.
- The scheme will be open for, in the region of, 45,000 - 50,000 farmers.
- GLAS aims to restore, preserve and enhance ecosystems.
- The scheme operates on a 3-tier entry system.
 - Tier 1 and Tier 2 are based on Priority Environmental Assets and Actions, and if a farmer has one on their holding or chooses to do a specific action, they will gain priority access to the scheme.
 - Tier 3 is made up of more general actions. Some of which are more environmentally conscientious than others and thus are weighted to match their importance.

GLAS – How the Scheme Works



- Tier 1: Farmers with Priority Environmental Assets on their holdings are highly desirable applicants.
- The following PEA's warrant priority access to GLAS
 - Farmland Habitat (private Natura sites)
 - Farmland Birds
 - Commonages



○ High Status Water Area



○ Rare Breeds



GLAS – How The Scheme Works contd



- Tier 1 access to GLAS can still be granted if a farmer has no Priority Environmental Assets, if,
 1. Arable farmer (>30ha) or
 2. Livestock farmer who has a stocking rate >140kg livestock manure/ha/year and wishes to be considered for Tier 1 access **must** adopt one of the following practices:
 - Minimum Tillage (minimum 10 ha)
 - Catch Crops (minimum 10 ha)
 - Low Emission Slurry Spreading (all slurry)
 - Wild Bird Cover (minimum 1 ha)

GLAS – How the Scheme Works contd



- Tier 2 access is based on whether a farmer's holding includes a Vulnerable Water Area or not.
- Even in the absence of a Vulnerable Water Area, **ANY** farmers can still gain Tier 2 access if they select the following actions:
 - Minimum Tillage (minimum 10 ha)
 - Catch Crops (minimum 10 ha)
 - Low Emission Slurry Spreading (all slurry)
 - Wild Bird Cover (minimum 1 ha)

GLAS – How the Scheme Works contd



- Tier 3 applicants don't get priority access to the scheme but can still apply.
- Some actions are better for the environment than others and thus are weighted to reflect this.

Higher Environmental Benefit

- Low Input Permanent Pasture/THM
- Laying/Coppicing of Hedgerows
- Protection of watercourse from Bovines
- Riparian Margins

Lower Environmental Benefit

- Bird/Bat/Bee Boxes
- Protection of Monuments
- Traditional Stone Wall Maintenance
- Traditional Orchards



- Below are all the Tier 3 actions that can be chosen:

- Arable Grass Margins
- Bird/Bat Boxes
- Catch Crops
- Conservation of Solitary Bees
- Environmental Management of Fallow Land
- Coppicing/Laying/Planting Hedgerows
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading
- Low-Input Permanent Pasture
- Minimum Tillage
- Planting a Grove of Native Trees
- Protection of Archaeological Sites
- Protection of Watercourses from Bovines
- Riparian Margins
- Traditional hay Meadow
- Traditional Orchards
- Traditional Stone Wall Maintenance
- Wild Bird Cover

GLAS – The Timeline & the Figures



Start



Middle



End

GLAS – The Timeline & the Figures



- GLAS Tranche 1 opened on the 25th of February 2015.
- GLAS Tranche 1 closed on the 26th of May 2015.
 - The first Tranche received **26,937** farmers.
- Likely commencement date for Tranche 1, is 1 October 2015.

GLAS – The Timeline & the Figures



- For Tranche 1:
 - A nutrient management plan must be undertaken by 31 December 2016.
 - Farmer training must be undertaken by 31 December 2017.
- The second Tranche will open in Sept/October 2015, with a likely commencement date for contracts of 1 January 2016.
- For farmers drawing up a Commonage Management Plan (CMP), the closing date is currently 31 August 2015, but may change.

GLAS – The Timeline & the Figures



- Of the 26,937 GLAS applicants, there is a total of **184,124** actions being committed to.
- Below is a breakdown of the number of applicants performing GLAS actions that improve water quality:
- Arable Grass Margins
 - **142** Farmers undertaking **257 km**

GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd



- **Riparian Margins**
 - **94** farmers undertaking **31.96 km**
- **Protection of Watercourse from Bovines**
 - **9,919** farmers undertaking **8,004 km – total exclusion**
(Comparison AEOS water troughs 777 farmers)
- **Low-Input Permanent Pasture/Traditional Hay Meadow**
 - LIPP - **20,534** farmers undertaking **179,468 ha** (AEOS 61k ha)
 - THM – **4,948** farmers undertaking **18,185 ha** (AEOS 20K ha)

GLAS – The Environmental Benefits Contd



- Minimum Tillage
 - 57 farmers with 4,160 ha
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading
 - 1,302 farmer (277 Tier 1)
- Catch Crops
 - 533 farmers with 18,517ha (168 Tier 1)
- In total GLAS actions that benefit water quality equate to 84,239 actions, which is 45% of all GLAS actions chosen.

Greening



Greening



- Single Payment Scheme (SPS) has been replaced by 2 separate payments
 - Basic Payment Scheme (70%)
 - **Greening (30%)**
- Greening comprises 3 distinct parts
 - Crop Diversification
 - Ecological Focus Areas
 - Protection of Permanent Grassland

Greening



- If a farmer takes Catch Crops as part of their GLAS contract, then they have satisfied their Greening (crop diversification) requirement for Pillar 1.

The End



Thank you for listening!

