

Circular 19/2015

5th May, 2015

To: GLAS Advisors

Re: **(i) Catch Crops including equivalence**
(ii) Ecological Focus Areas

Catch Crops are a high value environmental action within GLAS and, depending on the intensity of the holding, may confer Tier 1 or Tier 2 status on an applicant.

Catch Crops may be chosen (a) for the sole purpose of partaking in the GLAS contract; (b) for the joint purpose of partaking in GLAS and meeting equivalence requirements for greening under BPS; or (c) for the joint purpose of partaking in GLAS and meeting the Ecological Focus Area (EFA) requirement for greening under BPS:

- (a) When choosing Catch Crops for the sole purpose of partaking in a GLAS contract and not for equivalence/EFA, the following GLAS conditions apply:
- Action may be delivered on a whole or part parcel.
 - Wild Bird Cover and Environment Management of Fallow Land may be delivered as part parcels on the same (original) parcel. If approved into the Scheme, these part parcels will be digitised provided that the entire (original) parcel is declared as arable in 2015;
 - Catch Crops may be rotated from year to year provided the contract area is maintained.
- (b) When choosing Catch Crops for the joint purpose of partaking in GLAS AND meeting the equivalence requirements for BPS, the following conditions apply:
- All arable land on the holding must be in Catch Crops and must be part of GLAS contract;
 - Parcels which will not be in receipt of GLAS payment, once the maximum of €5,000 is reached, must be declared as Catch Crops – Non-Payable on GLAS system;
 - The area declared in the GLAS contract must be retained for the duration of the contract i.e. Catch Crops + Catch Crops – Non-Payable = Contract Area for GLAS.
 - The GLAS payment rate per hectare will be reduced (see Table 1 below).
- (c) When choosing Catch Crops for the joint purpose of partaking in GLAS and meeting the requirement under greening for an Ecological Focus Area (EFA) the following conditions apply:
- Action may be delivered on a whole or part parcel.
 - Wild Bird Cover and Environment Management of Fallow Land may be delivered as part parcels on the same (original) parcel. If approved into the Scheme, these part parcels will be digitised provided that the entire (original) parcel is declared as arable in 2015;
 - Catch Crops may be rotated from year to year provided the contract area is maintained.
 - The GLAS payment rate per hectare will be reduced (see Table 1 below).

Other GLAS actions which may qualify as EFAs are Arable Margins, Planting of New Hedgerows, and Wild Bird Cover.

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Table 1			
Equivalence			
Action	GLAS Payment Rate	Reduction	Net payment under GLAS
Catch Crops	€155/ha	€27/ha	€128/ha
Ecological Focus Areas			
Action	GLAS Payment Rate	Reduction	Net payment under GLAS
Arable Margins			
a. 3 metre margin	€0.35/m	€0.23/m	€0.12
b. 4 metre margin	€0.50/m	€0.34/m	€0.16
c. 6 metre margin	€0.70/m	€0.45/m	€0.25
Catch Crops	€155/ha	€27/ha	€128/ha
Environmental Management of Fallow Land	€750/ha	€515/ha	€235/ha
Planting New Hedgerows	€5/m	€0.20/m	€4.80/m
Wild Bird Cover	€900/ha	€610/ha	€290/ha

Advisors should consult the GLAS Terms and Conditions, Specification, which may be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/glas/> and the BPS Greening document for further information.

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