

ACRES is Ireland's main agri-environment scheme. It pays you for your nature-friendly management of your farm.



About your ACRES Co-operation payment

Your ACRES Co-operation (CP) payment over your five-year contract is made up of:

- an annual core payment for all your ACRES CP results-based payments plus your ACRES general action payments, and
- additional payments if you undertake supporting actions in the form of approved non-productive investments and/or landscape actions.

What are Non-Productive Investments?

Non-Productive Investments (NPIs) are environmental investments or supporting actions you can take, in consultation with your ACRES Farm Advisor and local CP Team, that help the environmental management of your farm.

NPIs should:

- enhance the environmental value of your farm.
- help increase your field score.
- result in an increase in your ACRES payment

What are the types of NPIs available?

There are two categories of NPIs available to you:

- NPI Habitat and Wildlife Support
- NPI Infrastructure

If you are in the Burren/Aran CP Zone, a third NPI Category is also available to you:

- NPI Scrub/Track (Burren/Aran CP Zone only)

A list of relevant Non-productive Investments (NPIs) and Landscape Actions (LAs) will be available to each CP Zone in each year of the contract.

There is a list of over fifty NPIs although not every NPI will be an option for every parcel.

How do I apply for non-productive investments?

You, the farmer, have a budget available for farm investments for each year of the scheme.

They can be used to protect or remedy threats and pressures indicated in your scorecard.

By using the right measure in the right place, you can increase the results-based field score and consequently your payment.

Your ACRES Farm Advisor will discuss and recommend NPIs and draw up an NPI plan once per year and submit it on your behalf.

Your CP Team will screen the selected NPIs for required permissions / planning (Local Authority, National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, Forest Service), environmental suitability and to ensure that objectives of the Local Action Plan are being met.

The final decision in respect of each NPI application will be communicated in writing to you by the Department..





When should I commence work on a non-productive investment?

You cannot commence works on these NPIs until you have received the relevant approval letter from the Department.

What are Landscape Actions?

Landscape Actions, or LAs, are larger scale supporting actions that will be of benefit to the local environment. Some examples include invasive species management, encroaching scrub control and water quality protection.

Landscape Actions are actions that you can apply for to help improve the habitat quality of your land to increase your score and receive a higher payment rate.

The local CP team Project Officers will work with you on recommending and applying for Landscape Actions.



How much funds are available for NPIs and LAs?

A maximum budget of €7,000 per year is available for all your ACRES CP results-based payments plus your ACRES General Action payments.

An NPI/LA fund of €17,500 is available for you if you undertake approved NPIs/LAs/Landscape Bonus over the five years of the contract.

If you do not claim up to the maximum €7,000 core payment ceiling in any year of your ACRES contract, the balance of unclaimed funds is added to the total NPI/LA/Landscape Bonus fund available to you.

Where NPIs are approved, payment will be limited to the remaining fund ceiling for that participant. The total maximum Budget of €52,500 will not be exceeded.

If you are part of Registered Farm Partnerships, your maximum ceiling is the maximum outlined above multiplied by the number of holdings, up to a maximum of three.

Find out more

Further information, including T&Cs, is available from:

- Your ACRES Farm Advisor
- Your local ACRES CP Team
- the Department's ACRES team
- gov.ie/acres



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