

Installation of Gates

Objective

Install field gates in appropriate locations to increase farmers capacity to target grazing and implement rotational or conservation grazing regimes.

Background

The lack of investment in field boundaries, particularly internal boundaries, has led to a decrease in the capacity to target grazing within a parcel. This can lead to very uneven distributions in grazing pressure, often resulting in overgrazing at entrances, near watering points and in areas of more palatable vegetation. This in turn leads to the over dominance of rushes, brambles and rank vegetation in less favoured areas.

Site Suitability

New gates can be installed on any existing field boundary within a land parcel in a CP zone. They will not normally be supported along new boundaries dividing an existing field. The only exceptions are where the new boundary is a new hedge or is being created as part of a riparian margin, an enclosure, or a new pond.

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard.
- New gates must not be selected in a location where there is an existing functioning gate. However, new gates can be installed at a location where an existing gate has fallen into disrepair.
- This action is only available on external farm boundaries, along public roads where there is an existing entrance in place.

Requirements

1. The location for each gate must be identified on the LPIS parcel(s) and marked on the map submitted.
2. Each gate applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. The gate(s) must be purchased new and made of tubular steel or wrought iron; galvanised or suitably painted to protect it from corrosion; and a minimum of 2.4m in width. A minimum width of 1.2m is allowed on all offshore islands due to cultural and landscape constraints.
4. The gate must be fixed to a free-standing concrete, stone or block pillar, metal post or treated timber post and capable of being opened to allow livestock access in at least one direction.
5. Existing gate pillars may be re-used for this action once the new gate is fully functioning upon completion.

6. Gates on entrances from public roads must not impede the flow of traffic on the road when opened. They must be capable of opening inwards onto the field unless there is an adequate set back distance from the road.
7. All spoil, excess and waste materials (including old gate if applicable) must be removed from site and disposed of appropriately.

Additional Guidance

- Once the hanging post is in position, hang and align the gate before securely installing the latch post. Consider using closing slots rather than holes as a gate can sag over time.
- Removal of scrub/vegetation should be minimised and if prior scrub/tree removal is required to prepare the gate site, this removal may not take place during the bird nesting season (1st March-31st Aug).
- Ground clearance beneath the gate must be low enough to prevent livestock from passing underneath but high enough to clear the ground on at least one side when opened.