



**Isle of Man
Government**

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme

Agri-Environment Initiatives

Guidelines for Applicants

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CONTENTS

LEGAL DISCLAIMER	3
1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. WHO CAN APPLY	4
3. WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR	5
4. COMPLETING APPLICATION FORMS.....	5
5. HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED	6
6. HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL	6
7. HOW DO I CLAIM?.....	6
8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS.....	7
9. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAID	7
10. RIGHT TO APPEAL.....	7
11. COSTS OF AN APPEAL.....	8
APPENDIX I: INFORMATION AND RATES OF SUPPORT FOR EACH SCHEDULE	9
5/01a: THE CREATION OF DESIRABLE PERMANENT HABITATS	10
5/01a(i): Woodland Planting Scheme	10
5/01a(ii): Dubs, ponds, scrapes and wetland habitats	11
5/01a(iii): New Hedge Planting	12
5/01a(iv): Farmer Initiatives.....	13
5/01b: THE CREATION OF TRANSIENT PERMANENT HABITATS	14
5/01b(i): Winter Stubble	14
5/01b(ii): Winter Fodder Crops	15
5/01b(iii): Traditional Spring Cropping.....	15
5/01b(iv): Conservation Headlands	16
5/01b(v): Unharvested Cereal Headlands.....	17
5/01b(vi): Biennial Wild Bird Seed Mix Strips.....	18
5/01b(vii): Supplementary Winter Feeding for Farmland Birds.....	18
5/01b(viii): Farmer Initiatives	19
5/02: THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING HABITATS	21
5/02a: Hedge Enhancement	21
5/02b: Hedge Management.....	22
5/02c: Dry-stone Walling, Repairing or Rebuilding	22
5/02d: Manx Sod Hedge Building, Repairing or Rebuilding	23
5/03: PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS	25
5/03a: Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species.....	25
5/04: CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT	26
5/04a: Wide Water or ASSI buffer zones (20-50m).....	26
5/04b: Water Protection Zones	27
5/05: DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION MANAGEMENT	29

5/05a: Crop Nutrient Management Plan.....	29
5/05b: Manure Management Plan	29
5/05c: Infield Grass Strips	30
5/06: AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVES	32
5/06a: Winter Cover Crops	32
5/06b: Soil Fertility – Soil Sampling	32
5/06c: Soil Fertility – Imported Lime	33
5/06d: Legumes Combined/Harvested as Forage.....	34
5/06e: The Creation of Legume Rich Swards (in grazing situation).....	35
5/06f: Organic Scheme Conversion and Management	36
5/06g: Plant and Animal Health – Integrated Pest Management	37
5/06h: Animal Health – Herd/Flock Health Plan	37
5/06i: Dairy Productivity Recording KPI’s	38
5/06j: Beef Productivity KPI’s	39
5/06k: Sheep KPI’s	40
5/06l: Other Livestock KPI’s.....	40
5/06m: Arable Cost of Production	41
5/07: WILDLIFE BOXES.....	43
5/08: EDUCATIONAL VISITS.....	44
5/09: UPLAND STEWARDSHIP SCHEME	45

LEGAL DISCLAIMER

The information contained in these guidelines is intended to assist applicants in assessing their eligibility when completing an application for financial assistance. Completion of an application does not contractually bind the Department to grant assistance. The scheme is discretionary and any decision to provide assistance for a specific application will be based on its merits. The Department, in consultation with the industry, will undertake regular reviews of this guidance.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Agri-Environment Initiatives Grant section of the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme (AFGS) is a scheme to provide targeted support for active farmers towards protecting and enhancing the environment and improving the efficiency and sustainability of their farming business.

These Guidelines for Applicants provide information on the Scheme for potential applicants and cover the types of work eligible for support, the range of initiatives for which financial assistance is available and the rates of grant applying. Information is also provided on the application and claim processes.

Key Objectives



Where to find the information

For further information on all aspects of the Scheme, please visit the following website:
www.gov.im/afgs/aes

On the website you will find the following:

- Agri-Environment Initiatives Grants Handbook
- Agri-Environment Initiatives Grants Guidelines for Applicants
- A downloadable Intention to Apply/Application Form
- Supporting Information

2. WHO CAN APPLY

Applications will be accepted from agricultural and horticultural production businesses which are individuals, partnerships, companies or limited companies who meet the criteria of being:

- an individual resident on the Island for tax purposes
- who undertakes agricultural or horticultural activity on the Island
- who meets the Agricultural Development Scheme Active Farmer criteria, the definition of which can be found on our website here: www.gov.im/activefarmer

An Agricultural and Horticultural production businesses are defined as

- **Agricultural production business:** Agriculture is currently defined by GC 65/08 as the production, rearing or growing of agricultural products including harvesting, milking, breeding animals and keeping animals for farming purposes or maintaining land in good agricultural and environmental condition. These activities should represent the core business activity;
- **Horticultural production business** is defined as a commercial business involved in the primary growing of horticultural produce and its storage and preparation for market and occupies an area of at least two acres of land which has been used for the purposes of horticultural production for at least two years (areas under glasshouses may be multiplied by 20 for determining the size of the area). It must not be involved in selling by retail such that it forms a major part of the business, unless such business has an annual turnover lower than £100,000;

Please note that for initiatives which involve altering the physical nature of the land ie tree planting, dub creation and hedge creation, tenants may require permission from their landlords to ensure they are not in breach of their tenancy agreements.

3. WHAT CAN YOU APPLY FOR

The rate of grant support depends on which Agri-Environment Initiative is being applied for, which are referred to as Schedules in the document. All the Schedules are all listed in Appendix I which provides information on the application and claim processes for each one.

The maximum grant available under the AFGS is £200,000 per applicant in any rolling 5 year period.

4. COMPLETING APPLICATION FORMS

Please refer to Appendix I for the application process for each Schedule as they do vary.

Applications to the Scheme, is, in the first instance, by completing the intention to apply form which can be found as a downloadable document on our website [here](#) paper copies are also available from Thie Slieau Whallian, St John's.

The intention to apply form is an application form for:

- 5/01b: Winter stubble
- 5/05a: Crop nutrient management plan
- 5/05b: Manure management plan
- 5/06g: Plant and Animal Health - Integrated Pest Management
- 5/06h: Animal Health - Herd/Flock Health Plan

And the KPI based initiatives

- 5/06i: Dairy productivity recording KPI's
- 5/06j: Beef productivity KPI's
- 5/06k: Sheep KPI's
- 5/06l: Other Livestock KPI's
- 5/06m: Arable cost of production

Selecting these initiatives on the form is all that is needed to apply, these applications will be processed and you will receive an approval letter and a claim form.

The **intention to apply** form is the only form that will be accepted for the initiatives detailed above.

For all the other Schedules indicating an interest on the intention form will trigger a response from the Agri Environment Delivery Partner. They will contact you to discuss your proposals and assist with you with the further details that will be needed to progress the applications, these details are outlined in appendix 1

By signing the intention to apply/application form you are declaring your agreement to the full terms and conditions of the Scheme. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure forms are completed accurately.

WARNING: if you deliberately or recklessly provide any inaccurate information on your application, you could render yourself liable to prosecution.

5. HOW APPLICATIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

DEFA reserves the right to approve applications on the basis that they meet the Management Conditions as discussed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner and detailed in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

The available budget may determine the number of applications that are approved.

6. HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL

The Department will endeavour to notify applicants within 4 weeks of the receipt of the application:

- Successful applicants will receive an approval notification and a Claim Form which will detail the agreed timescale for support from the Department.
- Unsuccessful applicants will be informed of the reasons for that decision by email or letter (please see the 'Right of Appeal' section).

7. HOW DO I CLAIM?

Please refer to Appendix I for the claim process for each Schedule as they do vary.

To streamline the administration of the Scheme email will be the primary method of communication used by the Department and Claim Forms will be sent to the applicants at the time they are notified of their approval. However, paper copies will be made available by contacting DEFA on 685844.

Once you come to submit your claim, you will need to provide all the relevant supporting documentation, as outlined in Appendix I before the expiry date as detailed on your Claim Form. It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

If you wish to extend your approval, please contact us BEFORE the expiry date. No further reminder will be issued once the original approval is given.

8. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applications are subject to the Scheme conditions at the date of receipt of the application. Once a formal approval has been received by the applicant, the offer of assistance is valid for one year and claims must be submitted within that time. Once a formal approval has been received the applicant may make claims for payment. The offer of assistance is unless stated otherwise on the approval document valid for one year and claims must be submitted within that time. Upon application to the Department this period may be extended. If, for business reasons you are unable to take up an offer of assistance, re-applications may be considered.

In order to process a claim for payment the Department will contact Isle of Man Treasury with regard to National Insurance, ITIP, Income Tax, VAT Payments and other outstanding Government debts. To prevent any delay in processing claims, please ensure that all payments are current and up to date.

Support under the Agriculture and Fisheries Grant Scheme will not be paid retrospectively, standard terms and conditions are applied to all offers of financial assistance usually for either a three, five, ten or fifteen year period. They are intended to protect Government's investment so that if for example, a company ceases to trade within the period of the conditions or stops using the supported assets for the purpose intended, then all or part of the assistance received may be repayable. There are a number of scenarios that would trigger a default under the standard terms and conditions so it is very important that they are read and understood. DEFA may also impose further more specific conditions depending on the individual applicant's circumstances.

9. PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PAID

The applicant should be aware that the details of all financial assistance paid out under the AFGS may be published in an annual report prepared by the DEFA, which. They are therefore, not confidential to the company concerned. Applicants should also be aware that parliamentary questions may be raised on applicants.

10. RIGHT TO APPEAL

1. A person may, within 28 days of the date of notification of a decision under this Scheme, request in writing that the Department review the decision, stating the grounds on which the review is requested.
2. In the first instance, the application shall be reviewed by an officer of the Department who has had no involvement in the original application; this is known as a Stage 1 appeal.
3. Stage 1 appeal decisions are to be made and notified to the applicant within 30 days of the date the review request was received.
4. Following notification of the outcome of the review, if an applicant considers that the grounds for appeal have not been addressed, he or she may apply in writing to the Department requesting that the matter be referred to the Appeals Committee ("the Committee"). This is known as a Stage 2 appeal.
5. A stage 2 appeal shall be heard and a recommendation made by the Committee within 90 days from the date a request for a Stage 2 appeal is received.
6. Applicants may opt to have either a written or oral Stage 2 appeal.

7. In the case of a written appeal, the appeal request document and all other relevant paperwork, including the review paperwork, shall be considered by the Committee in advance of the meeting without the appellant present.
8. In the case of an oral appeal the appellant shall receive all the paperwork which is to be considered by the Committee in advance of the appeal hearing and he or she will be invited to attend part of the meeting.
9. During the oral hearing the appellant shall be extended the opportunity to present his or her case and respond to the Committee's questions. Appellants may be accompanied and may wish to appoint someone to represent them.
10. Once the appeal hearing is complete, the appellant and anyone accompanying him or her shall leave the meeting and the Committee shall deliberate on the matter.
11. The Committee must send a recommendation to the Minister of the Department for consideration and final decision. The Minister must make the decision within 28 days from receipt of the Committee's recommendation, however, where an appeal is particularly complex, a further period of consideration may be required and the appellant shall be notified of this in writing.
12. The Department shall provide the appellant with written notification of the Minister's decision within 28 days of the date of the decision being made.
13. For the purposes of this Scheme, the Committee shall be convened by the Department as required and shall consist of an industry representative, a Department representative who has not been involved in the original decision or the review and an independent person who has appropriate knowledge of the subject area.
14. The Department shall seek nominees to the Committee and maintain a list of those nominees along with a reference to their particular area of expertise. This list shall be available for inspection upon request.
15. The Committee when dealing with a Stage 2 appeal must —
 - a) work within the parameters of the Scheme;
 - b) not award compensation; and
 - c) make objective and evidenced recommendations in line with the Scheme specifications.

11. COSTS OF AN APPEAL

1. An application for a Stage 2 appeal shall incur a cost of £300, payable when the appeal is submitted.
2. Any charge for an appeal under paragraph (1) shall be refunded where that appeal is successful.

APPENDIX I: INFORMATION AND RATES OF SUPPORT FOR EACH SCHEDULE

This section will provide information on eligibility, grant rates and how to apply for each Schedule of the Agri-Environment Scheme, they are as follows:

5/01a: THE CREATION OF DESIRABLE PERMANENT HABITATS

- 5/01a(i): Woodland Planting Scheme
- 5/01a(ii): Dubs, ponds, scrapes and wetland habitats
- 5/01a(iii): New hedge planting
- 5/01a(iv): Farmer Initiatives

5/01b: THE CREATION OF DESIRABLE TRANSIENT HABITATS

- 5/01b(i): Winter stubble
- 5/01b(ii): Winter Fodder Crops
- 5/01b(iii): Traditional spring cropping
- 5/01b(iv): Conservation headlands
- 5/01b(v): Unharvested cereal headlands
- 5/01b(vi): Biennial wild bird seed mix strips
- 5/01b(vii): Supplementary winter feeding for farmland birds
- 5/01b(viii): Farmer Initiatives

5/02: THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING HABITATS

- 5/02a: Hedge Enhancement
- 5/02b: Hedge Management
- 5/02c: Dry-stone walling, repairing or rebuilding
- 5/02d: Manx sod hedge building, repairing or rebuilding

5/03: PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS

- 5/03a: Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

5/04: CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

- 5/04a: Wide water or ASSI buffer zones (20-50m)
- 5/04b: Water Protection Zones

5/05: DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

- 5/05a: Crop nutrient management plan
- 5/05b: Manure management plan
- 5/05c: Infield grass strips

5/06: AGRICULTURAL & HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

- 5/06a: Winter cover crops
- 5/06b: Soil fertility - Soil Sampling
- 5/06c: Soil Fertility - Imported Lime
- 5/06d: Legumes combine/harvested forage
- 5/06e: The Creation of Legume Rich Swards (in grazing situation)
- 5/06f: Organic Scheme Conversion and Management
- 5/06g: Plant and Animal Health - Integrated Pest Management
- 5/06h: Animal Health - Herd/Flock Health Plan
- 5/06i: Dairy productivity recording KPI's
- 5/06j: Beef productivity KPI's
- 5/06k: Sheep KPI's
- 5/06l: Other Livestock KPI's
- 5/06m: Arable cost of production

5/07: WILDLIFE BOXES

- Tree Sparrows
- Bats
- Solitary bees

5/08: EDUCATIONAL VISITS

5/09: UPLAND STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

5/01a: THE CREATION OF DESIRABLE PERMANENT HABITATS

The Creation of Desirable Permanent Habitats Schedule provides grant towards the creation of woodland, wetland habitats, new hedges and bespoke initiatives to encourage biodiversity, carbon capture and reduce flooding.

5/01a(i): Woodland Planting Scheme

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- The area is subject to an ecological assessment
- A minimum of 0.5 acre up to a maximum area of 5 acres per year
- Improved, semi-improved and unimproved land, ideally but not exclusively adjacent to existing woodland

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Trees species listed in Appendix 1 of the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook
- Planting labour (£1,000/acre)
- Tree shelters (where necessary)
- Rabbit proof and stock proof fencing
- Scrub clearance (where necessary, subject to an ecological assessment)
- Mulch mats for weed control

Grant rate

The applicant will receive between 50-100% of the total expenditure, the amount will be agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner at the time of application.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure where applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, the size of the area involved, the field numbers affected, planning permission number if required, information on what is planned (e.g. tree species, length of planting time etc.) and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the management conditions listed in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

If the fields involved are eligible for payment under the Agricultural Development Scheme they will be eligible for the area payment for 10 years from the date of your Agri-Environment Scheme application. However, this is dependent on the woodland being actively managed to the satisfaction of the Department.

If the location is adjacent to an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) or an area of high ecological importance it may be restricted to using native tree species only.

5/01a(ii): Dubs, ponds, scrapes and wetland habitats

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- The area is subject to an ecological assessment
- Improved, semi-improved and unimproved land in catchments where wetland creation reduces down stream flooding

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Dredging - to keep water area open
- Scrub control – which prevents will encroachment
- Fencing and gates (including fencing off part of water margin)
- Sluices
- Diversion of water
- Mechanical digger work (where essential)
- The removal of drains or blocking of ditches

Grant rate

The applicant will receive between 50-100% of the total expenditure, the amount will be agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner at the time of application.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure where applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, the size of the area involved, the field numbers affected, **planning permission** number, information on what is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

If the fields involved are eligible for payment under the Agricultural Development Scheme they will be eligible for the area payment for 10 years from the date of your Agri-Environment Scheme application. However, this is dependent on the area being actively managed to the satisfaction of the Department.

5/01a(iii): New Hedge Planting

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- Planting must take place on a bank or at ground level

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Shrub species listed in Appendix 1 of the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook
- Top wiring or scare wire (for sod hedges only, built or repaired under the Scheme)

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £15/m (this includes labour costs) for the first year and £5 for the second year or 75% of actual costs, this is to be discussed and agreed with Agri-Environment Delivery Partner prior to planting.

Applications received for length of hedges of over 300m to be assessed on a case by case basis.

For sod hedges built or repaired under the Scheme a top wire or scare wire is eligible and the applicant is able to claim for £1/m.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, the field numbers affected, information on what is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01a(iv): Farmer Initiatives

What is Eligible for Grant?

An initiative of habitat enhancement or creation with wildlife and landscape benefits and will be assessed on a site by site basis.

Grant rate

This is to be discussed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner, a payment will be calculated and agreed prior to application.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, information on the initiative that is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

Examples of potential initiatives are listed in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/01b: THE CREATION OF TRANSIENT PERMANENT HABITATS

The Creation of Desirable Transient Habitats Schedule provides grant towards the creation of cultivated land, which encourages Manx bird species and arable weeds.

5/01b(i): Winter Stubble

Payment for retaining winter stubbles.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- A minimum of 2.5 eligible acres
- Cereal acreage in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously
- The area can be moved from field to field with rotations but not under sown

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim £58 per acre for the area eligible. The following payment rate will be applied:

- Up to 10 acres – - 100% of the eligible land is eligible to receive payment
- Over 10 up to 20 acres – 50% of this additional eligible land is eligible to receive payment
- Over 20 acres – - 20% of this additional land is eligible to receive payment

Examples:

- If 16 acres of cereals grown – 13 acres are eligible
- If 30 acres of cereals grown – 17 acres are eligible

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed intention to apply/application form before 1st October of the Scheme year on which the intention to claim for winter stubbles has been selected. If the total combinable area is completed on this form a further application form does not need to be completed. However if this is not the case:

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, eligible acreages being claimed on and total area of combinable crops grown.

Claim Form and Payment

The field numbers of the areas claimed as retained stubbles must be included on the claim form and will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01b(ii): Winter Fodder Crops

Payment for growing winter fodder crops e.g. forage rape, kale or turnips.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1.25 eligible acres
- Any fodder growing land in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously
- Winter fodder payment areas can be moved from field to field with rotations

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim for £10 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before grazing commences.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers and eligible acreages of the winter fodder crops being claimed on.

Claim Form and Payment

The forage crop will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01b(iii): Traditional Spring Cropping

Payment for growing cereal crops e.g. spring wheat, spring barley, oats or rye, with low inputs of fertiliser and no herbicides or insecticides.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1 eligible acre
- Any cereal growing land in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously
- The area can be moved from field to field with rotations

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim for £100 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 31st May of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers and eligible acreages of the traditional cropping being claimed on.

Claim Form and Payment

The traditional cropping will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met and evidence of low input has been supplied, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

This can be combined with the Winter Stubbles Schedule Number 5/01b(i).

5/01b(iv): Conservation Headlands

Payment for producing conservation headlands.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1 eligible acre
- Any cereal growing land in rotation or where arable crops have been grown continuously
- Headlands may be along one or all sides of a field

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim for £100 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 31st July of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers and eligible acreages of the headland being claimed on.

Claim Form and Payment

The Conservation Headlands will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01b(v): Unharvested Cereal Headlands

Payment for producing unharvested cereal headlands.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1 eligible acre
- Any cereal growing land in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim for £260 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 31st July of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers and eligible acreages of unharvested cereal headlands being claimed on.

Claim Form and Payment

The unharvested cereal headlands will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01b(vi): Biennial Wild Bird Seed Mix Strips

Payment for planting areas with a seed mix to provide a habitat for pollinators and birds.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1 eligible acre
- Any fodder/cereal growing land in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim for £110 per eligible acre of bird seed mix strip.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 31st July of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers and eligible acreages of bird seed mix strip being claimed on.

Claim Form and Payment

The bird seed mix strips will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01b(vii): Supplementary Winter Feeding for Farmland Birds

Payment for providing supplementary feed for seed eating farmland birds from December to April on arable and mixed farms when natural seed sources are depleted.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- Only available in association with one of the following "Creation of Desirable Transient Habitats" Schedules:
 - o Winter Stubbles
 - o Winter Fodder Crops
 - o Traditional Spring Cropping
 - o Conservation Headlands

- Unharvested Cereal Headlands
- Biennial Wild Bird Seed Mix Strips

Grant rate

The applicant can apply for £650 per tonne of seed mixture for every 5 acres of 'transient habitats'.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 1st November of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, quantity of feed, field numbers, eligible acreages of transient habitats and location of feeding sites as agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Claim Form and Payment

The feeding areas will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met and feeding evidence (log of feeding times and amounts) will be required, once confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 1st June following your application.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/01b(viii): Farmer Initiatives

What is Eligible for Grant?

An initiative of habitat enhancement or creation with wildlife and landscape benefits and will be assessed on a site by site basis.

Grant rate

This is to be discussed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner, a payment will be calculated and agreed prior to application.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, information on the initiative that is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

Examples of potential initiatives are listed in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/02: THE ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING HABITATS

The Enhancement of Existing Habitats Schedule provides grant towards repairing and enhancing existing habitats.

5/02a: Hedge Enhancement

Payment for enhancing existing hedges.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Eligible hedges:

- Any established hedge, especially those that require gaps filling in.

The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project must be agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Shrub species listed in Appendix 1 of the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook
- Rabbit guards

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £6/m for hedge planting/gap filling or £8.50/m for fencing that includes rabbit wire.

Applications for lengths over 300m to be assessed on a case by case basis

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, the field numbers affected, total length of hedges to be enhanced, information on expenditure costs if applicable and any relevant additional information.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/02b: Hedge Management

Payment for the management of established hedges.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Eligible hedges:

As a general rule any established hedge composed of woody plants:

- With less than 2m between the ground and the base of the leafy layer
- Over 20m long and less than 5m wide gap between woody stems
- It must compose of at least 80% of native shrubs

Excludes hedges which are predominantly Gorse hedges/banks

The eligibility of the project will be assessed on a site by site basis and desired habitat outcomes for the project must be agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £8 per every 100m for one side of a hedge.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application, a 3 year management plan and a proposed schedule of works as agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner before 1st September. An application must be submitted on an annual basis.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers, total length of hedges involved and any relevant additional information.

Claim Form and Payment

The hedges will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/02c: Dry-stone Walling, Repairing or Rebuilding

Payment for the creation, maintenance and replacement of dry stone walls where they are an important landscape feature.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- Any site where a new wall can be successfully built
- If repair or rebuilding is needed the wall must have gaps which are over 1m.
- A maximum of 100m of wall per year

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £30/m² and an additional £6.50/m² is available if materials need to be brought to the site. The applicant is also able to claim £1/m on top wiring or scare wire but only for walls built or repaired under the Scheme.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, field numbers, total length of wall being created/repaired, expenditure costs if applicable and additional relevant information.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date, this will generally be 12 months from the approval date variation to this time scale may be agreed with the Delivery Partner.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/02d: Manx Sod Hedge Building, Repairing or Rebuilding

Payment for the creation or replacement of Manx sod hedges in parts of the Island where they are an important landscape feature.

What is Eligible for Grant?

New sod hedges:

- It is subject to an Ecological Assessment
- Any site where a new sod hedge can be successfully created and where it links two other sod hedges

Repair or rebuilding sod hedges:

- The existing sod hedge must have gaps of more than 5m

Grant rate

This is to be discussed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner, a payment will be calculated and agreed prior to application.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started accompanied with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, information on the initiative that is planned and expenditure information if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. The work completed will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date, this will generally be 12 months from the approval date variation to this time scale may be agreed with the Delivery Partner.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/03: PROTECTION OF EXISTING HABITATS

5/03a: Control of Invasive Non-Native Plant Species

Payment for the active management and eradication of infestations of any non-native species.

What is Eligible for Grant?

Land area:

- All land that currently receives payment under the Agriculture Development Scheme

Grant rate

The applicant applies on a field by field basis and is able to claim for upto £400 per acre.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started.

The information required on Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers, acreages being claimed on and further relevant information on the proposed control plans.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/04: CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT

Catchment Management provides grant to protect watercourses, ponds and dubs from intensive agriculture and erosion.

5/04a: Wide Water or ASSI buffer zones (20-50m)

Payment for the protection of watercourses, ponds, dubs, Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) and Ecologically Important Habitats from adjacent intensive agriculture.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1.5 acres
- Any arable land, silage crop or low-density pasture beside a watercourse or pond, or adjacent to an ASSI or Ecological Important Habitat

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Fencing and gates
- Troughs etc.
- Optional tree planting where appropriate (Preferably manx native stock only)
- Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam or giant hogweed control
- Grassland establishment where there has previously been an arable crop
- Wildflower sowing/planting may be appropriate in certain places subject to an ecological assessment

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £80/acres for permanent grassland, £120/acre for temporary grassland/ley or arable and £8/acre for Above Mountain Line land.

Payment rates on capital works are to be confirmed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 30th June with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable, to be eligible for payment in that Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers (if applicable), number of eligible acres for each land category and information on expenditure costs if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been completed a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/04b: Water Protection Zones

Payment for the protection of banks of watercourses, ponds and dubs from erosion. Preventing pollution of water by dung and silt and protections of bankside vegetation from grazing and trampling by livestock.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- A minimum length of 20m
- Land in a strip between 3 and 5 metres wide (taken from the top of the bank of the watercourse)
- All watercourses which flow all year and are 1 metre or more wide should be included
- Water margin which is already fenced at 3 to 5 metres from the water is eligible (if it is already fenced less than 3 metres from the water it should be re-fenced)
- Permanent ponds and dubs must have a 5 metre margin from the winter water's edge and an animal drinking access point on one side

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Fencing and gates/stiles
- Troughs etc.
- Japanese knotweed, Himalayan balsam or giant hogweed control
- Native tree and shrub planting may be appropriate in certain places if farmer wishes. Species from the list in Appendix 1
- Wildflower sowing/planting may be appropriate in certain places if farmer wishes

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £80/acre for permanent grassland, £120/acre for temporary grassland/ley or arable and £8/acre for Above Mountain Line land.

Payment rates on capital works are to be confirmed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 30th June with quotes for items of expenditure if applicable, to be eligible for payment in that Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers (if applicable), number of eligible acres for each land category and information on expenditure costs if applicable.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been completed a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form where applicable. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the desired habitat outcomes agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/05: DIFFUSE WATER POLLUTION MANAGEMENT

Diffuse Water Pollution Management provides payment to reduce the risk of direct and diffuse pollution of our watercourses and the sea.

5/05a: Crop Nutrient Management Plan

Payment to produce a Crop Nutrient Management Plan to reduce the risk of direct and diffuse pollution of rivers and streams, maximising returns to the farmer.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- All eligible land
- Above Mountain Line land is excluded

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per acre.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/05b: Manure Management Plan

Payment to produce a Manure Management Plan to reduce the risk of direct and diffuse pollution of rivers and streams, maximising returns to the farmer.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- All eligible land
- Above Mountain Line land is excluded

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per acre.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/05c: Infield Grass Strips

Payment to create infield grass strips to reduce the quantity of sediment, nutrients and pesticides transported through surface run off, both within field and from field to field.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 1.25 acres
- Any fodder/cereal growing land in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously

Note: it is most effective on sloping ground.

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £225 per acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 30th June of the Scheme year.

The information required for the Application Form includes, basic contact details, field numbers and eligible acreage of infield grass strips.

Claim Form and Payment

The infield grass strips will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the agreed Management Conditions have been met, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/06: AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

The Agricultural and Horticultural Initiatives are to encourage the uptake of land management/husbandry practices whilst maximising returns to the farmer.

The acreages payments for these Schedules only apply to land of BML character.

5/06a: Winter Cover Crops

Payment to grow winter cover crops to minimise soil erosion and nutrient leaching.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- A minimum area of 5 acres and a maximum of 40 acres
- Eligible seeds include rye, vetch, phacelia, barley or mustard, can be sown, or other crops such as ryegrass or tillage radish
- Cover crops to be established by 15th September of the Scheme year
- To be left undisturbed and ungrazed until 15th February of the Scheme year
- Crops cannot be grazed because they have to be destroyed and incorporated

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 1st August of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, types of winter crops to be grown and number of eligible acres.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after 15th February of the Scheme year. Evidence of drilling date will be required and it will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/06b: Soil Fertility – Soil Sampling

Payment to carry out soil sampling to match fertiliser use (organic and artificial) to crop need; optimising the use of nutrients whilst maximising returns to the farmer/grower.

What is Eligible?

- A minimum of 5 and a maximum of 20 samples
- Must be done in conjunction with a Crop Nutrient Management Plan (Schedule 5/05a)

Eligible items of expenditure:

- Soil sampling and analysis costs

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for 50% of the actual costs.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details and number of proposed samples to be taken.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. The applicant must provide evidence that a Crop Nutrient Management Plan has been completed and a copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/06c: Soil Fertility – Imported Lime

Payment to assist in purchasing Imported Lime due to reduced supply of local lime being produced.

What is Eligible?

It only applies to lime imported to the Island, both bulk and bagged product. The availability or effectiveness of lime is very dependent on the particle size of the lime; therefore grant will be awarded on the basis of the Effective Neutralising Value (ENV) of the product.

Grant rate

This is calculated based on £0.25 per tonne per percentage ENV, for a product with an ENV of 57.7% this equals to $25p * 57.7 = £14.42/\text{tonne}$.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Agri-Environment Initiatives application before work has started i.e. before the lime is ordered.

If you do not provide a quote with your application, an Effective Neutralising Value (ENV) of 57.7% will be applied to calculate your grant rate.

The information required on the Application Form includes, basic contact details, tonnes required, neutralising value and cost of product per tonne. For bulk product this information will be available from the supplier and for bagged product this information will be printed on the bag. Especially but not exclusively for bulk material the Department reserves the right to analyse the product for chemical composition and particle size to enable the actual ENV to be calculated.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once the lime has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made.

A copy of the original invoice must be supplied with the lime grant claim form. Payment will be calculated using the ENV stated on this invoice. On receipt of your invoices, if the ENV percentage quoted is lower than 57.7%, grant will be recalculated based on the lower amount.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

5/06d: Legumes Combined/Harvested as Forage

Payment to encourage cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops. Legumes for combining (peas, beans, linseed and lupins) or for harvest as winter fodder (peas, beans, clover and vetches)

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- Any arable land in grass/crop rotation or where crops have been grown continuously

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £40 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 1st June of the Scheme year,

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, types of nitrogen fixing crops to be planted and number of eligible acres being claimed.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after 1st September of the Scheme year. The applicant must supply evidence of drilling date, date of harvest and it will be subjected to a physical

inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/06e: The Creation of Legume Rich Swards (in grazing situation)

Payment to encourage the cultivation of nitrogen fixing crops. Growing clover rich swards or using clover to supplement existing swards.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- A maximum of 20% of the total forage acreage in any Scheme year
- Any cereal growing land in rotation or where crops have been grown continuously
- Prior approval must be obtained if carrying out this initiative involves the breaking of permanent pasture

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £30 per eligible acre.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, total eligible forage acreage, field numbers, seed mixture used and total number of eligible acres to be claimed.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after satisfactory establishment. The applicant must supply evidence of how much grass clover has been used, which can be in the form of a receipted invoice. It will be subjected to a physical inspection to confirm that the works carried out meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/06f: Organic Scheme Conversion and Management

Payment to assist in the conversion to organic land and the management of organic land.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- A maximum of 200 eligible Below Mountain Line acres
- The land needs to be registered with an organic certification body (if converting the land then the applicant is able to start the application process before they do this)

Grant rate

The grant rates depend on the types of land in question, see table below for the payment rates for converting the land to organic or the management of the land.

Total Payment per Acres per Scheme Year		
Land	Conversion	Management
Rotational land	£71	£26
Improved grassland	£30	£16
Unimproved grassland	£20	£8
Horticultural land	£162	£81
Top Fruit	-	£121
Enclosed rough grazing	-	£3

The Application Process

If the applicant is applying for grant to **convert** the land to organic, then they are able to start the application process before the land is registered with an organic certification body, but they need to complete an Organic Viability Plan and send it in with their application.

Where an application is received and approved during a Scheme year conversion payments will be calculated on a pro rata basis from the date of approval

If the applicant is applying for grant to **manage** their organic land, then the land must be registered with an organic certification body before applying.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, field numbers, types of land involved, eligible acres to be claimed on, if the land is being converted or managed and an Organic Viability Plan (if applicable).

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made after the 1st August of the Scheme year. The applicant must supply a copy of their organic certificate and once this has been received the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

5/06g: Plant and Animal Health – Integrated Pest Management

Payment to produce an Integrated Pest Management Plan to optimise the efficacy of animal and crop production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- All eligible BML land
- AML land is excluded

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £100 plus £0.25 per acre.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/06h: Animal Health – Herd/Flock Health Plan

Payment to produce a Herd/Flock Health Plan to optimise the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer/grower.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- All eligible BML land
- AML land is excluded

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per acre.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Once the plan has been completed a claim for payment can be made. It will be subjected to an inspection to confirm that the plan meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

KPI's

Payments under the following KPI initiatives are calculated on the basis of the percentage of the farm that is used for each enterprise the total of these percentages will equal 100. The Intention to apply/application form has on it an example of what a claim for these initiatives should look like.

5/06i: Dairy Productivity Recording KPI's

Payment to produce dairy herd performance data to optimise the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer/grower.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- The approximate percentage of the eligible forage acreages that are assigned to the Dairy enterprise

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the dairy enterprise.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made once the data from previous 12 months has been collated. This evidence will be required to be submitted with the claim form and be subjected to inspection to confirm that it meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/06j: Beef Productivity KPI's

Payment to produce beef herd performance data to optimise the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer/grower.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- The approximate percentage of the eligible forage acreages that are only assigned to the beef enterprise

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the beef enterprise.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made once the data from previous 12 months has been collated. This evidence will be required to be submitted with the claim form and be subjected to inspection to confirm that it meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/06k: Sheep KPI's

Payment to produce sheep herd performance data to optimise the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- The approximate percentage of the eligible forage acreages that are only assigned to the sheep enterprise

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the sheep enterprise.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made once the data from previous 12 months has been collated. This evidence will be required to be submitted with the claim form and be subjected to inspection to confirm that it meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/06l: Other Livestock KPI's

Payment to produce other livestock herd performance data to optimise the efficacy of animal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- The approximate percentage of the eligible forage acreages that are only assigned to other livestock enterprise

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to other livestock enterprise.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made once the data from previous 12 months has been collated. This evidence will be required to be submitted with the claim form and be subjected to inspection to confirm that it meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the relevant Claim Form expiry date.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/06m: Arable Cost of Production

Payment to produce arable performance data to optimise the efficacy of cereal production whilst maximising returns to the farmer/grower.

What is Eligible?

Land area:

- Eligible acreages that are only assigned to the arable enterprise

For the purposes of calculating KPIs, forage crops sold as forage rather than retained for own use will count as arable crops should be counted in the percentage of arable crops calculation

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £50 plus £1.50 per forage acre assigned to the arable enterprise.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed Intention to apply/application form before 30th June.

The information required on Application Form includes basic contact details and number of eligible Below Mountain Line acres to be claimed on. To avoid any misunderstandings over acreage you are strongly advised to use the option to **use claimed ADS acreage** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made after 30th October of the Scheme year. The applicant will be required to provide their gross margin template with the claim form which will be subjected to inspection to confirm that it meets the agreed Management Conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

Further information can be found in the Agri-Environment Initiatives Handbook.

5/07: WILDLIFE BOXES

Installing Wildlife Boxes provides nesting and roosting sites for specific mammals, birds and invertebrates.

What is Eligible?

Eligible boxes:

- Locations for each wildlife box should be sited in a previously agreed location
- They must be manufactured from local sustainable wood
- The animals boxes which are eligible are as follows:
 - o Barn Owl/Chough nest boxes
 - o Tree Sparrows nest boxes
 - o Bat boxes
 - o Solitary bees

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim up to a maximum of £28.50 per box up to a maximum of £200 per Scheme year.

The Application Process

This follows the AFGS process; the Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before work has started.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, type and number of boxes, proposed locations of the boxes and any relevant further information.

Claim Form and Payment

This follows the AFGS process, once work has been paid for, a claim for payment can be made. A copy of the receipted invoices or proof of payment must be supplied with the grant claim form, once this has been assessed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/08: EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Arranging educational visits on farm provides schools/youth groups first hand educational experiences.

What is Eligible?

Eligible visits:

- A minimum of 1 visit and a maximum of 10 should be carried out during each Scheme year
- A Farm Facts Document must be supplied with the Application Form

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £290 per educational visit.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before the date of the first planned visit of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, the date of the educational visit(s), the name and contact details of the tour leader and a completed Farm Facts Document.

Claim Form and Payment

A claim for payment can be made following each planned visit or before the 31st March of the Scheme year. A copy of a feedback form must be supplied with the grant claim form, once this has been assessed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.

5/09: UPLAND STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

Producing a sustainable Habitat Management Plan ensures the uplands are protected as they perform many functions including carbon storage, water storage and purification, maintain several rare and vulnerable plants and animals, provide a recreational resource and it attracts visitors to the Island.

What is Eligible?

Eligible land:

- Uplands AML land

Grant rate

The applicant is able to claim for £5.33 per eligible AML acre.

The Application Process

The Department must have received a completed **Agri-Environment Initiatives** application before 1st June of the Scheme year.

The information required on the Application Form includes basic contact details, field numbers, eligible acreages and the appropriate Habitat Management Plan/s. The Habitat Management Plans should be produced and agreed in conjunction with the Agri Environment Delivery Partner. To avoid any misunderstandings over field numbers and acreages you are strongly advised to use the option to **use ADS field numbers and acreages** on the Intention to apply/application form.

Please find a Habitat Management Plan Template under the Downloadable Document section on the website: www.gov.im/afgs/aes

Claim Form and Payment

Claim for payment can be made after you have agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner that you have met the required management conditions, once this has been confirmed the payment will be processed.

It is your responsibility to be aware of the conditions applicable to your application and the Claim Form expiry date is the 31st March of the Scheme year.

Further Information

The applicant will need to comply with the Management Conditions agreed with the Agri-Environment Delivery Partner to be eligible to receive the grant payment.