

AECS & Greening



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AECS



- Promotes land management practices to
 - protect and enhance Scotland’s magnificent natural heritage
 - improve water quality
 - manage flood risk and mitigate and adapt to climate change
 - improve public access
 - preserve historic sites



AECS



- Or to most farmers:-
 - Is a good income stream
 - “Clean money”
 - Great chance to get fencing
 - Improved livestock management

- And to some for conservation reasons..

AECS – Question yourself?



The Scheme may fit but does your farm?

- Are you intensively stocked?
- Have you extensively grazed “poorer” land?
- Do you have a lot of fencing to be done?
- Have you been in a scheme before?

AECS - Considerations



- How much grass do you need?
- How much silage do you need?
- What quality of silage do you need?
- Do you have seasonal land – is this in a scheme?
- Can you farm around the restrictions
- Do you need to adjust lambing/turnout times?
- Do you need to adjust stock numbers?

AECS



- The Process
- Land Management options
- Organic Options
- Scoring

AECS - Timelines



- Online applications will open 1 January 2018
- Closing date of 31 March 2018
- Successful applicants will be informed Oct/Nov 2018
- Start date of new schemes will be Jan 2019
- Management payments would begin Spring 2020
- Capital payments when works completed

AECS - Process



- Farm Environment Assessment
 - Essentially what is on the farm at present
 - Unimproved grassland
 - Watercourses
 - Hedgerows
 - Dykes
 - Diffuse Pollution Audit
 - MAPS & TABLES

What can you do?



Search

Most Agri-Environment-Climate Scheme management options have been spatially targeted in order to make them available in the locations where they will deliver the greatest benefit. This means that you will need to check which management options are available on your holding. Please note that the list of options targeted on your land in 2016 may differ slightly from the 2015 list. This is because the spatial targeting maps have changed for some options.

If there are fields registered under this Holding Code that are separated by more than 10km, you should contact your local Scottish Government RPID area office to check which management options are available on each part of your holding.

In exceptional circumstances, you may apply for other management options that are not targeted on your holding. You will need to demonstrate that there is a strong justification for including the management option in your application by submitting an endorsement from Scottish Natural Heritage or Forestry Commission Scotland. Further information on the evidence that should be provided to support an endorsement is provided [here](#). A full list of [management options](#) is also available.

Please enter your Holding Code here to find out what management options you may be eligible to apply for.

Full list of management options

There is a full list of [management options](#). If you think there is a strong justification for including a management option in your application that is not targeted on your holding, you should contact [FCS](#) or your local [SNH](#) office to discuss whether they will provide an endorsement.

Full list of capital items

The full list of [capital items](#) is available.



AECS Options



- Species Rich Grassland
 - Wader Grazed Grassland
 - Winter Stubbles
 - Created Hedgerows
 - Mown Grassland
 - Water Margins
-
- Capital Items



AECS Options



Wader Grazed Grassland

- Region 1 Grassland
- Choice of 3 grazing restrictions
- No inputs 15/3 – 15/5
- No topping until after 30 June

- £80/ha

AECS Options



Species Rich Grassland

- Existing or Created
 - Grazing Plan
 - Cutting or Grazing
 - No inputs
-
- £109.56/ha or £284.80/ha

AECS Options



Winter Stubbles

- No spraying off
- Nothing after harvest except sub soiling until 1/3
- Restricted to 10ha/location code at present
- Moveable but within 90%
- £96.18/ha

AECS Options



Created Hedgerows

- Establish a double row
- 2m wide
- 6 plants/metre
- Trimming only between 1 Dec and end Feb

- £1.20/m

AECS Options



Mown Grassland

- No rolling harrowing or grazing from 1 April
- No cutting until 1 July
- Mown in wildlife friendly manner
- No inputs 1 April – 15 May

- £149.75/ha

AECS Options



- Water Margins
- Grazing rules differ on width of Margin
- No poaching
- No inputs
- 1st two metres not paid (GAEC)
- 3m from edge of bank
- £123.42/ha

AECS Options



Capital Items

- Stock fence - £5.50/m
- Planting hedges - £5.40/m
- Created Species rich - £754.42/ha
- Dykes - £33/m²

AECS – Small Unit Options



- Under 30ha improved grassland
- Conservation Management of small units
- Cattle Management on small units

AECS – Small Unit Options



- **Conservation Management of Small Units**
- If your IACS business permanent land holding comprises more than five hectares (not including rough grazing), you must manage at least one hectare of your land split between two or more of the following options, if less than 5 ha, you must manage 0.5ha:
 - Wild Bird Seed for Farmland Birds
 - Forage Brassica Crops for Farmland Birds
 - Retention of Winter Stubbles for Wildlife
 - Wader and Wildlife Mown Grassland
 - Species-rich Grassland Management
- **£77.78/ha**

AECS – Small Unit Options



Cattle Management on Small Units

- Introduction of Native Breed or first cross
- Retention of Native Breed or first cross
- Payment now based on 1 cow/2ha
- Keep number specified at entry for 5 years

- £162.63/ha intro or £107.38/ha retention

Organic Options

- Conversion
- Maintenance



Organic Options



- Conversion
- Viability endorsement (SOPA)
- Only begin conversion once approved

Organic Options



Payments

Organic conversion payment rates per hectare

| Conversion rates per hectare | Years one and two | Years three to five |
|---|-------------------|---------------------|
| Arable | £280 | £65 |
| Improved Grassland | £140 | £55 |
| Unimproved Grassland / Rough Grazing | £12.50 | £8.50 |
| Fruit and Vegetables | £400 | £200 |



Scoring



- Amount of land to be managed
- Linked management
- Diffuse Pollution (100%)

- CSRG, Dykes, Capital/Management

Out with your control:-

- SSSI, SAM's, Neighbours

Greening changes for 2018



Greening



- Permanent Pasture – No changes
- Crop Diversification – No changes
- EFA

EFA Changes



Fallow

- undertake maintenance of field drains in the period 15 January to 15 March, this is limited to investigation (inspection pits, etc.) and replacement of pipes or tiles where existing 'bursts' have been identified
- in exceptional cases (subject to prior approval) maintenance of field drains in the period 15 March to 15 July.

Other EFA Changes



- Hedges now a separate EFA option
- Agro-forestry also new EFA option
- compulsory ban on PPP on EFA fallow, nitrogen fixing crops, catch crops and green cover

Other EFA Changes



- changes to EFA eligibility/location, a new definition of 'adjacent'
- changes to catch crop and green cover options
- changes to the EFA Nitrogen fixing crops option
- new amalgamated EFA Margin

The End.....



Any Questions?!?!



Thank You

