

Habitat Quality– focus of Biodiversity Strategy

Traditionally – little focus on Habitat Quality in EU CAP measures
Biodiversity needs focus on Habitat Quantity and Quality

AES
Pillar 2

Eco-scheme
Pillar 1

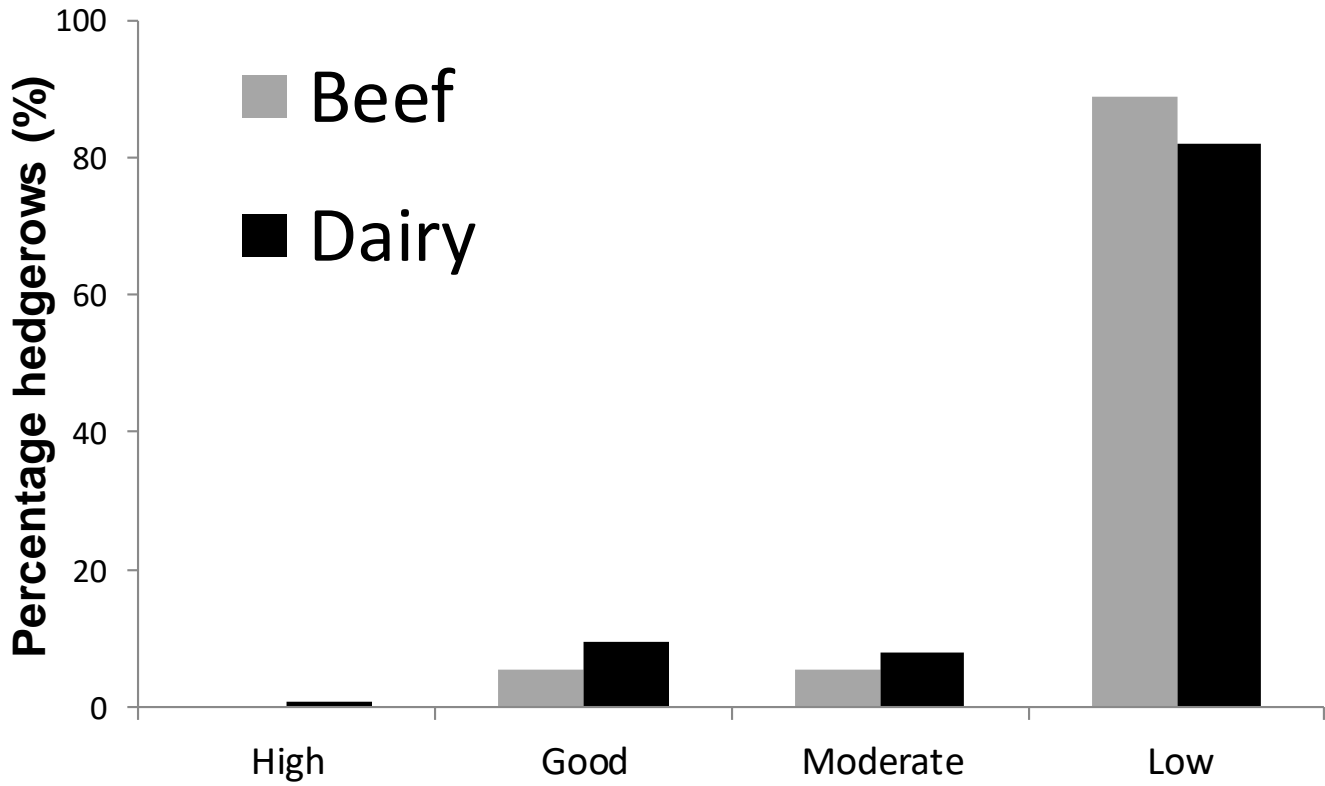
Enhanced conditionality
Pillar 1



Variation in habitat quality: hedgerows



Unfavourable hedgerow quality in sample of intensive farmland (dominant habitat)



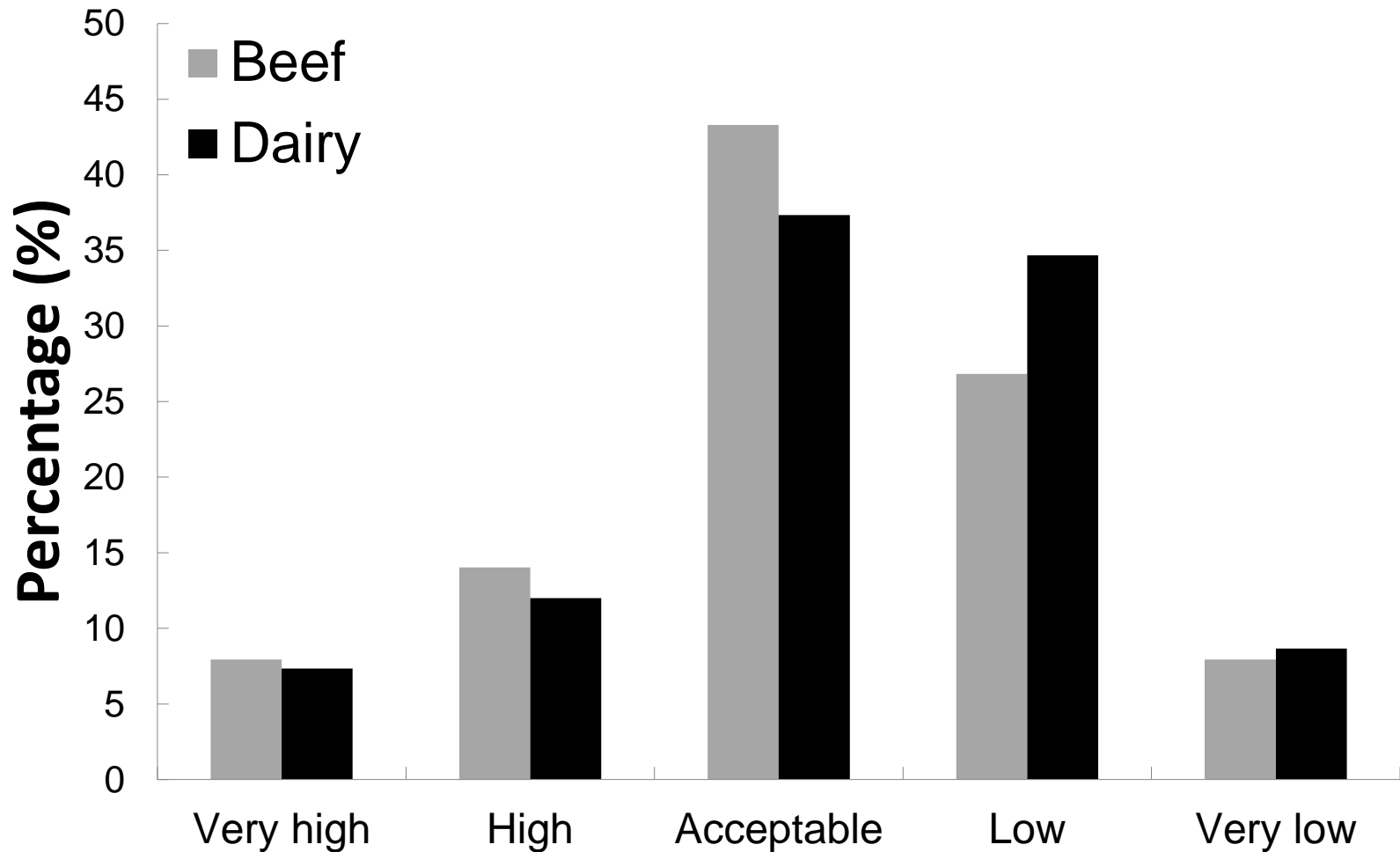
Assessment of hedgerow quality sampled from (intensive) beef and dairy systems. From Larkin et al. (unpubl.) using Hedgerow Appraisal System of Foulkes et al. 2013

Field margins



Results based approaches

Quality of dominant habitat – Field margins



Assessment of field margin vegetation quality in a sample of intensive beef and dairy systems. From Larkin et al. (in review)



KerryLIFE
control of
sediment from
critical source
areas for
conservation of
freshwater pearl
mussel



YEAR 1

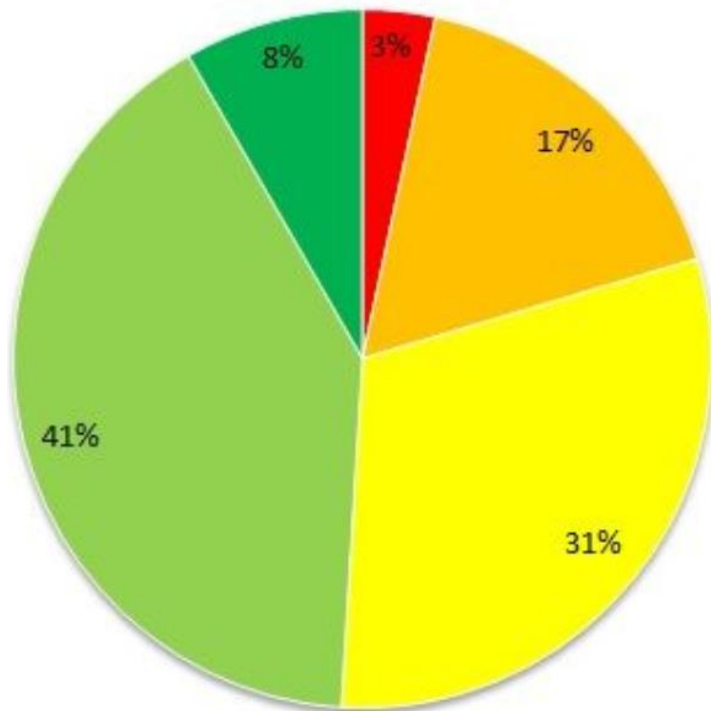


YEAR 3

3-year change in critical source areas (5 = target outcome)

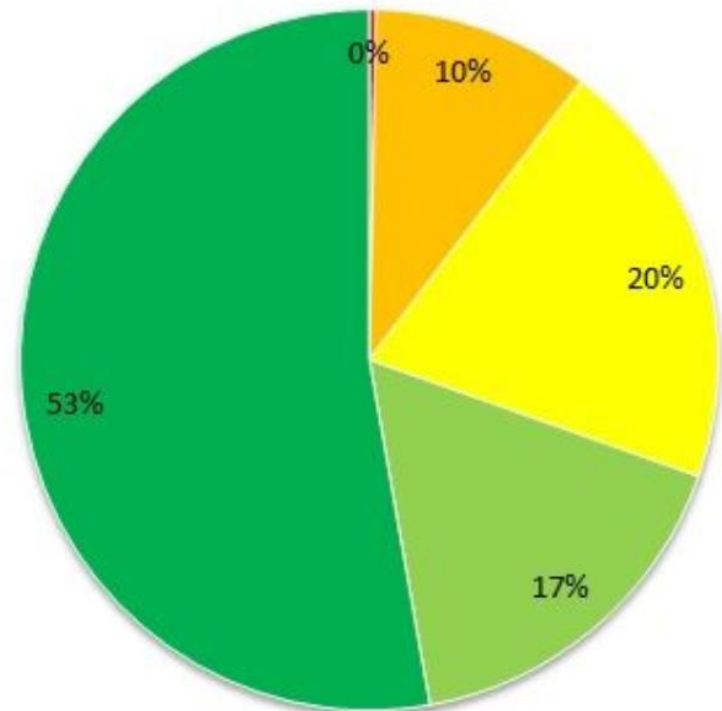
Year 1 CSA scores (434 ha)

1 2 3 4 5



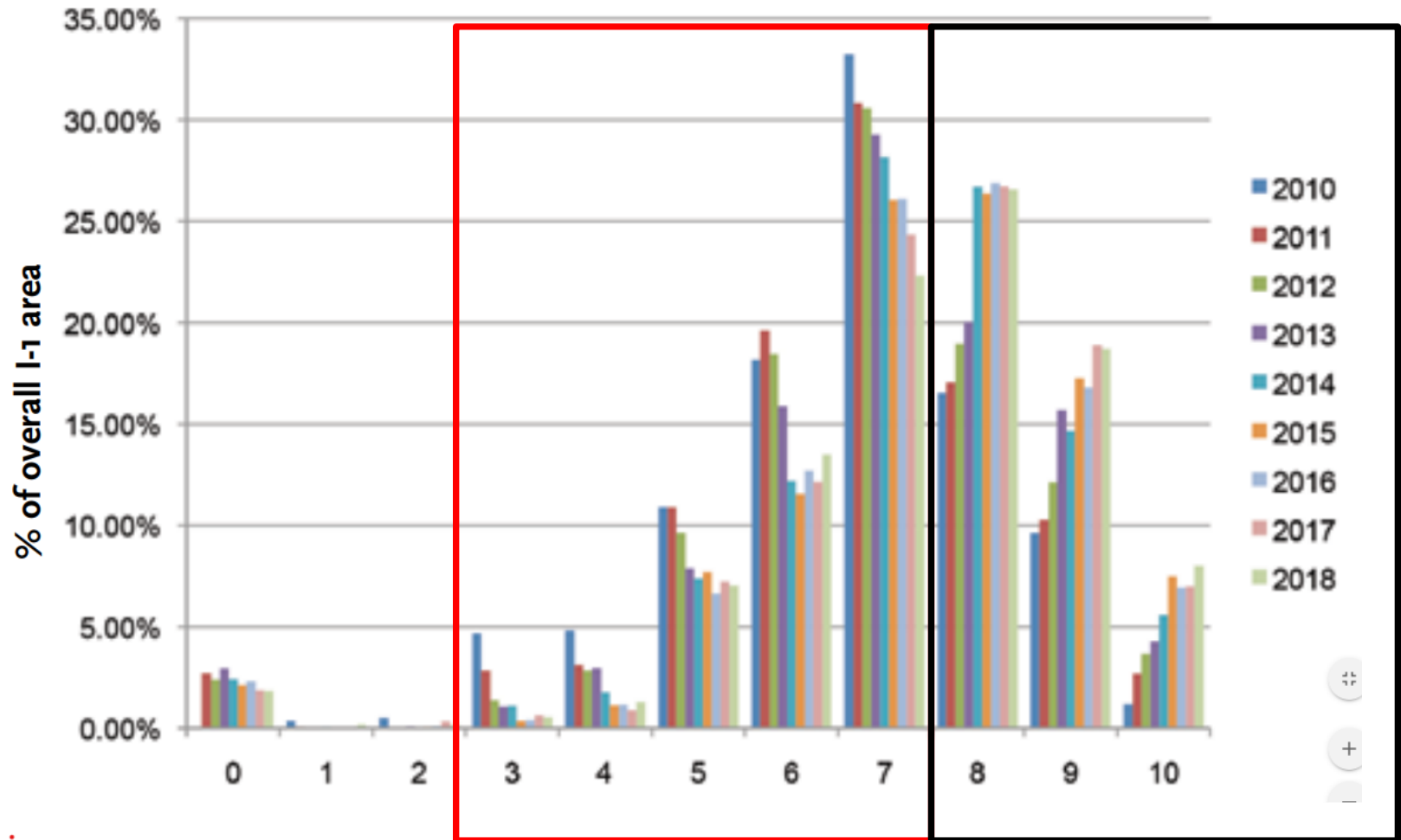
Year 3 CSA scores (434 ha)

1 2 3 4 5



Results-based payments improved quality of species-rich grasslands

PERCENTAGE OF I-1 AREA PER SCORE, 2010 – 2018



From: Farming for Conservation in the Burren, Dunford and Parr 2020.

Results-based payments

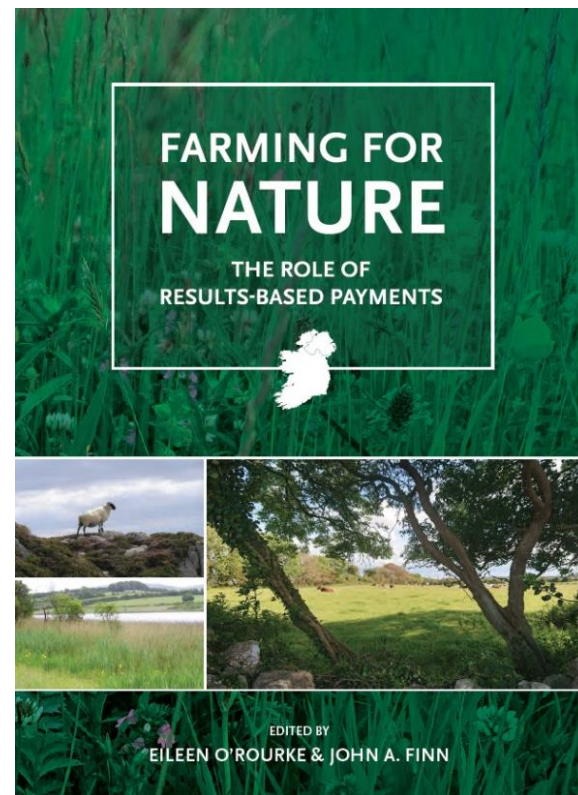
Alternative to (or complement) prescription-based payments

“Deep green” conservation approach (quality)

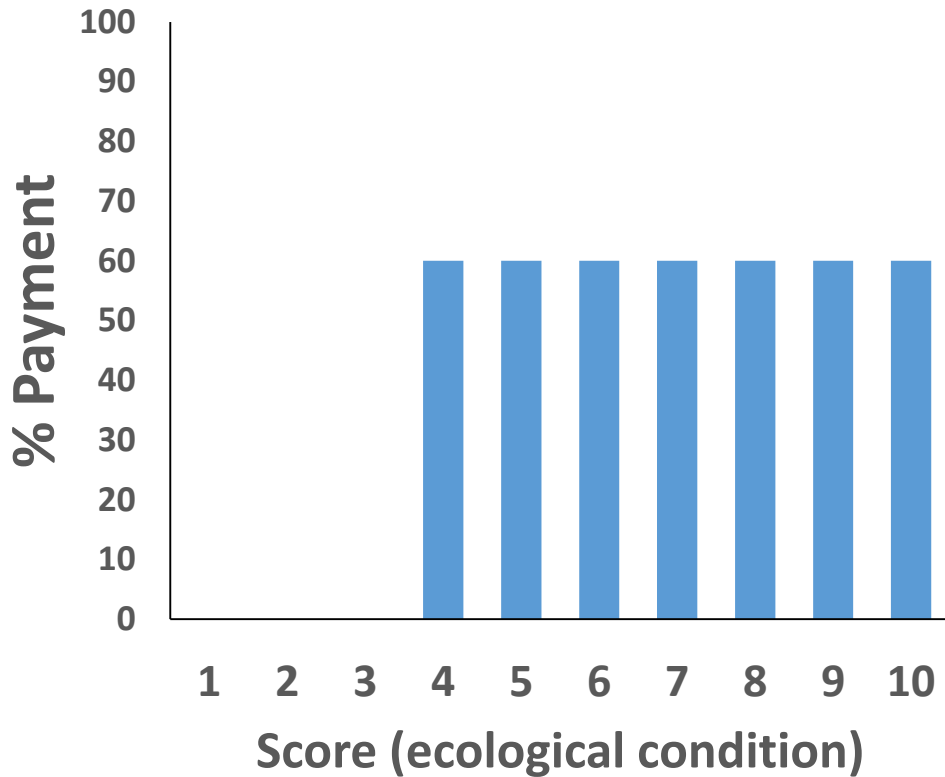
- Locally targeted and specific, evidence-based outcomes
- Specialised advice to support outcomes
- Rapid monitoring of outcomes
- Payment related to delivery of outcome

Ireland = leader in results-based approaches
(Burren, LIFE projects, multiple EIPs)

Free download of book at: www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature



Prescription-based payments for biodiversity: - flat rate payments

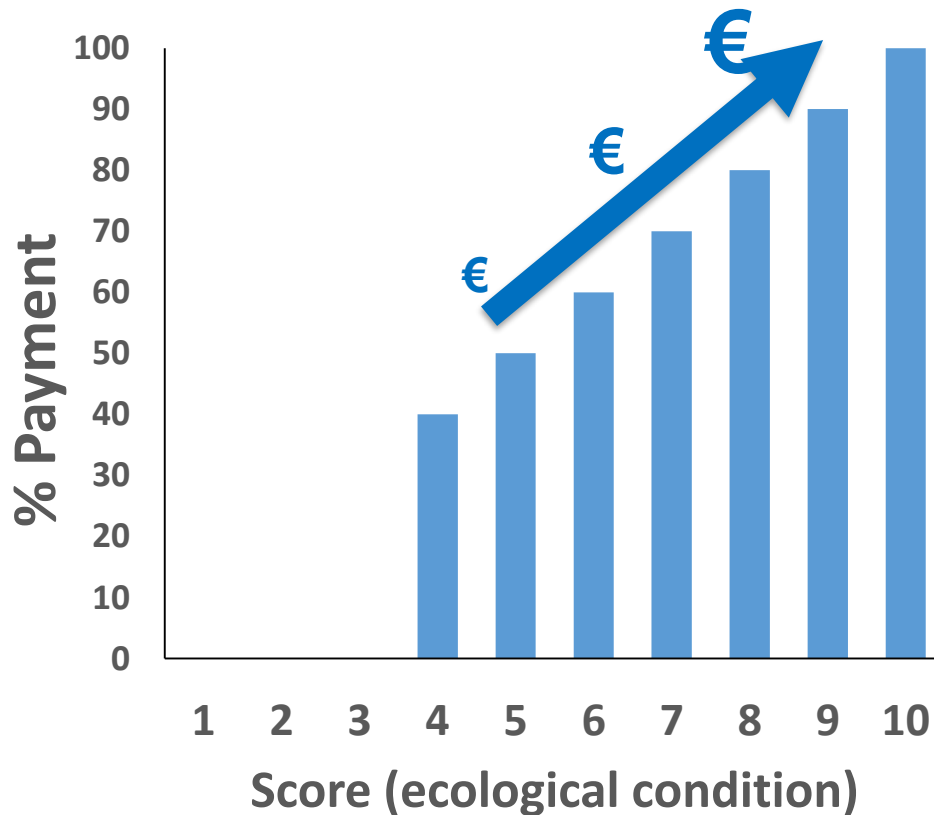


Images: James Moran

O'Rourke, E. and Finn, J.A. 2020. Farming for Nature: the Role of Results-Based Payments. Teagasc and NPWS.

Free download at: www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature

Results-based payments for biodiversity - progressive payments



Images: James Moran

O'Rourke, E. and Finn, J.A. 2020. Farming for Nature: the Role of Results-Based Payments. Teagasc and NPWS.
Free download at: www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature

Market payments for public goods

...can complement and add value to public payments

...have specific criteria

...enhance public perception of farming

...are a specific aim in Farm to Fork



conservationgrade

- home
- nature friendly farming
- cg licensees
- cg farmers
- cg people
- news and publications
- blog
- partners
- contact us

"Conservation Grade farming means Nature Friendly food"

Habitat Type	Required % of farmed area
Pollen & nectar mixes	4.0
Wild bird food crops	1.5
Tussocky & fine grass mixtures	2.0
Annually cultivated natural regeneration	0.5
Other habitats*	2.0
Total 10.0	

Looking to the future: farmland biodiversity

- Biodiversity still declining, and target for CAP (largest fund). Policy choices can strongly affect biodiversity & ES
- How to credit farmers for their habitats and for improvements? (Neglected element of environmental sustainability.)
- Results-based payments for public goods (biodiv & ES)
- Market payments for public goods
- International trade and biodiversity impact (see FAO LEAP)
- Farmers will be central to biodiversity restoration
 - There are examples of effective conservation and restoration
 - Unprecedented recognition and appreciation in agri-food sector

Further info:

- www.teagasc.ie/environment/ #TeagascJC
- Farming for Nature: The Role of Results-Based Payments. Teagasc and NPWS. www.teagasc.ie/farmingfornature
- CAP4Nature: ecological evidence base from Irish researchers
- Farming for Nature www.farmingfornature.ie
- BRIDE EIP. A Guide to Farming with nature. <https://www.thebrideproject.ie/>
- FAO LEAP 'Biodiversity and the livestock sector - Guidelines for quantitative assessment'
- 5th UN Global Biodiversity Outlook #GBO5

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