



Agroforestry and Farm Schemes Interactions



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Whole farm planning

**Permanent
land use
change**

**Enhancing farm
sustainability -**

**On-farm
pension**

Thinking of future -
Retirement
Inheritance
Succession planning

**Suitable forest
types for you**

**On-farm timber
/ fuel sales**

**Tax and
efficiency**

**Enhancing family
farm income**

**Interactions with
farm enterprises
and schemes**

**Family resource /
amenity to enjoy**

**Water quality
Carbon capture**



Topics

- Forestry and Direct Payments (BISS/ CRISS) eligibility
- Agroforestry and Organic Farmers Scheme
- ACRES / Agroforestry interactions
- Entering forestry parcels in BISS application 2024
- Active farmer

Farm Schemes

CAP Pillar 1

Direct Payments e.g.

- **Basic Income Support Scheme, (BISS)**- replaced **B**asic **P**ayment **S**cheme, in 2023
 - payable to applicants with per hectare entitlements
- **Complementary Redistributive Income Support Scheme (CRISS)**
 - annual decoupled payment to applicants entitled to basic income support
- **Eco Scheme**

CAP Pillar 2 interventions

Rural Development, with targeted deliver of long-term environmental improvements e.g.

- **Organics Farmers Scheme (OFS)**
- **Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme (ACRES)**
- **Areas Facing Natural Constraints (ANC)**

Achieving farmer status for forest premia

Be an approved participant in the Basic Income Support for Sustainability Scheme (**BISS**) in the forestry application year

AND

An approved participant in either BISS or the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS 2015-2022) in **EACH** of the previous four years.

If applying for forestry planting in 2024, then

- Submitted a valid BISS application **in 2023**
- Submitted a valid BPS each year, **2020 - 2022**



For new and young farmers

May not meet requirements of being approved participant in either BISS or BPS in **EACH** of the previous four years.

There is Flexibility available



Only need to be in BISS or BPS:

- from the year they were approved members for either the **Young Farmer Scheme** or the **National Reserve** for new and young farmer schemes
- until the year of their afforestation application.

BISS and Forestry - Eligibility

Forestry (including Agroforestry) planted since 2009 and which will be planted in 2024, can be eligible for a BISS payment in 2024, provided it **satisfies specific conditions**, including:

- ✓ That the land to be planted was given **a right to payment** under the **Basic Payment Scheme (2015-2022)**
- ✓ That the afforested lands **meet all the requirements of the relevant forestry scheme** under which it was established
- ✓ That the eligible forestry parcels that are declared on a BISS application to activate entitlements will also be **subject to conditionality requirements**

Question: Will stands converted to agroforestry be eligible for the BISS and Organic Farmers Scheme (OFS) payments?

BISS-eligible forestry parcels will have been **planted from January 2009**.

If forestry (for example- Ash) **was planted before 2009** and is being converted to Agroforestry, it would not meet the eligibility requirements for BISS.

Agroforestry parcels in receipt of BISS will be eligible for **OFS payments** – check in advance with DAFM Organics Section

Another key BISS eligibility requirement:

To benefit from the BISS on planted land, the BISS applicant(s):

Must be the person or persons **named as the forestry scheme beneficiary or joint beneficiary**

- means as the BISS applicant, you must **also be the person or persons eligible** for payment of the forestry premium
- applies to members of the same family.

This requirement must be fully considered in cases where the farm is being transferred, including within families.

Notional example:

- Father transfers the farm & herd number to daughter,
- Father continues as forestry premium applicant but...
- Forestry parcel(s) now claimed by daughter on her BPS
- *Daughter's name* on herd number and BPS application but.....
 - *Father's name* is on forestry contract
- **Eligibility is NOT being met**
- **Two-year usage of entitlements rule also applies**

Direct Payments and Forestry

CRISS - Complementary Redistributive Support for Sustainability Scheme
("Frontloading")

Annual decoupled payment, per eligible hectare, to farmers entitled to basic income support

For eligible applicants:

- Payment is on first **30 eligible hectares** claimed
- **Can include eligible forestry/agroforestry**



ACRES and Agroforestry

- Applicants considering participation in ACRES can explore opportunities in National Forestry Programme when planning for the scheme
- ACRES T&Cs allow for parcel interaction with the Afforestation Scheme **without financial penalty**, i.e.
 - Parcels with ACRES action may subsequently be **split** to facilitate planting
 - DAFM may authorise, under certain conditions, an action undertaken as part of ACRES contract to be terminated or its area adjusted before its normal end date without penalty or full reimbursement of funding already paid out, during its period of operation as follows:
 - The beneficiary subscribes to a new commitment considered of **equal or higher benefit** to the environment and/or climate, and
 - The existing commitment is completed for a **minimum of two years**,
 - The proposed new commitment is **part** of Ireland's EU-approved National Forestry Programme.

Organic Farming Scheme (OFS) and Forestry

- Afforestation is recognised as contributing to the creation of a valuable landscape mosaic at farm-level.
- OFS parcels **may be converted to forestry** during the OFS contract period - without penalty
- Land declared as Agroforestry can be **eligible for:**
 1. Agroforestry grants/premiums,
 2. BISS/CRISS
 3. Organic payments (drystock rate)

all on the same land parcel(s)



Areas of Natural Constraint and Afforestation

The previous designated land types of 'Mountain', 'More Severely' and 'Less Severe' are now Category 1, 2 and 3, with the following rates:

Land Category	Area	2022 Rate
Category 1	1 st 12 ha	€148.00
Category 1	13 - 34 ha	€112.00
Category 2	1 st 10 ha	€111.00
Category 2	11 - 30 ha	€104.00
Category 3	1 st 8 ha	€93.00
Category 3	9 - 30 ha	€88.25

Both ANC and forestry supports **not payable on some land**

Opportunities for farmers with larger farms to optimise ANC and also plant land they may own, **above the 30/34 ha max** payment thresholds

Case Study 1 – Agroforestry Option

- Farmer A (drystock) has 35 ha,
- Eligible for BISS, CRISS, ANC (Category 2) and Organics
- Decides to plant 5 ha of Agroforestry (Silvo-pastoral system) in 2024

Scheme		Per hectare (€)	Total 2024
BISS	(35 ha)	€154.64 x 35	€5,412
CRISS	(30 ha)	€42.34 x 30	€1,270
ANC	(30 ha)	€111x10 +€104 x 20	€3,190
Agroforestry	(5 ha)	€975 x 5	€4,875
Organics (drystock)	(35 ha)	€300 x 35	€10,500
			€25,247

Financial impact of Whole Farm Planning 2024- 2027

Scheme		2024	2025	2026	2027
BISS	(35 ha)	€5,412	€5,412	€5,412	€5,412
CRISS	(30 ha)	€1,270	€1,270	€1,270	€1,270
ANC	(30 ha)	€3,190	€3,190	€3,190	€3,190
Agroforestry	(5 ha)	€4,875	€4,875	€4,875	€4,875
Organics (drystock)	(35 ha)	€10,500	€10,570	€8,750*	€8,750*
		€25,247	€25,247	€23,497	€23,497

*€250/ha year 3-5 at drystock rate

Case Study 2 – Agroforestry Option

- Farmer B (drystock) has 35 ha
- Eligible for BISS, CRISS, ANC (Category 2) and Organics
- Decides to plant 10 ha of Agroforestry (Silvo-pastoral system) in 2024


Scheme		Per hectare (€)	Total 2024
BISS	(35 ha)	€154.64 x 35	€5,412
CRISS	(30 ha)	€42.34 x 30	€1,270
ANC	(25 ha)	€111x 10 +€104 x 15	€2,670
Agroforestry	(10 ha)	€975 x 10	€9,750
Organics (drystock)	(35 ha)	€300 x 35	€10.500
			€29,602

When Forestry Premia Conclude:

- Once the period of premia payments under your Afforestation measure has concluded,
- These parcels can remain eligible for BISS (up to the end of the current CAP period, 2027), **once you maintain your mandatory commitment to that particular Afforestation measure**
- By complying with the provisions set out in the Forestry Act 2014.
- Includes agroforestry


Forestry and Active Farmer on BISS Online Application

Active Farmer Status



Active Farmer
May be subject to administrative checks

Active Farmer Status



Not Active!

The farming practice I intend to undertake is:

- Grassland
- Tillage

An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

BISS
Basic Income Support for Sustainability

- Home
- My Clients
- Farmer Dashboard
- Farm Details
- Entitlement Position
- Correspondence

Grassland

- Making Hay/Silage/Haylage
- Topping
- Other Grazing livestock e.g. Equines
- Plan to purchase livestock in 2023 (payment may be delayed)
- Landscape Feature Maintenance
- Other

Please note, selecting "Other" option might delay your payment.

Review and Submit

My BISS Application

Farmer Name

Herd Number



Review & Submit

Carefully review all sections below

- Scheme Selection
- Applicant Details
- ANC Parcels
- Areas and Entitlements
- Plots
- Upload Documentation
- Add Application Notes

I have read and accept the [BISS Terms & Conditions](#).

Timing of Forest Establishment	Parcel Use – Input on BPS form
Parcels planted before 2009	“Forestry” or “Forestry Pre-2009” - whichever is on dropdown (Claimed area should be 0)
Eligible parcels planted between 2009 and 2023 (inclusive)	If Parcel Use is pre-printed as Forestry Eligible , <u>LEAVE AS IS</u>
	<p>Otherwise enter Parcel Use As “Forestry 2023” IRRESPECTIVE OF YEAR and ensure correct claimed area: (check it is not zero!)</p> <p>Also a clarification under “Notes” on the Review and Submit screen, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parcel reference no, • Planting year • Eligible and Claimed area • Confirming parcel meets all requirements as eligible forestry

<p style="text-align: center;">Timing of Forest Establishment</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parcel Use – Input on BPS form</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Eligible Parcels planted or in the process of being planted in 2024 before BISS deadline</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Forestry 2024”</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Parcels to be planted in 2024 but not yet started at the date of BISS submission</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Enter accurate parcel use <u>as of date of BISS Application form submission</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NO NEED to amend parcel if planting forestry after date of submission</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Change will be picked up by Direct Payments Section upon processing of application</p>

- OFS applicants with land planted under agroforestry prior to 2024 should have a preprinted parcel use of “**Forestry Eligible**”.
- For agroforestry being planted in 2024 under the Forestry Programme 2023-2027, the parcel use should be “**Forestry 2024**”.
- **IN ADDITION**, OFS applicants should **confirm the agroforestry status** of all eligible agroforestry parcels.
- Within the **Notes** section in the **Review and Submit** screen, include the parcel number, planting year, eligible and claimed areas and confirm that the parcel **is agroforestry, is used for agriculture** and **meets all requirements** under the OFS.

More detailed Direct Payments Guidance Document available shortly- link will be circulated



Forestry and Direct Payment Matters 2024

Eligibility of Forestry for BISS 2024

Eligible land which was afforested in any year since 2009 or which **will be** planted in 2024 can be eligible to draw down the BISS Scheme payment in 2024 provided it satisfies a number of conditions, including the following:

- For forestry planted in 2023 and 2024, the area must have been eligible and given a right to payment under the **Basic Payment Scheme (2015-2022)**.
- Forestry planted between 2009 and 2022 (inclusive) must have been eligible for and paid under the Single Payment Scheme in the year 2008.
- Farmers who wish to benefit from the BISS Payment on afforested land **must be the person or persons named as the forestry scheme beneficiary or joint beneficiary**. This means that you, as the BISS applicant, must be the person or persons eligible for the payment of the forestry premium in the relevant year. **Note: This requirement may impinge on and must be fully considered in advance in cases where planted land is being transferred, including within families.** The Department of Agriculture Food and Marine's (DAFM) Forestry Division must be notified in advance if there is a change of ownership of a grant-aided plantation during the term of the forestry contract. (See example covered in Question 1, page 11)
- Afforested land must continue to meet all requirements of the relevant DAFM scheme under which it was afforested.
- DAFM will examine forestry parcels each year to ensure they meet all the requirements of the relevant scheme. The forestry premium must be paid on each claimed parcel as part of the terms and conditions, in order for BISS section to examine the plots for eligibility.
- Eligible Forestry parcels that are declared on BISS applications to activate entitlements will also be subject to conditionality requirements.

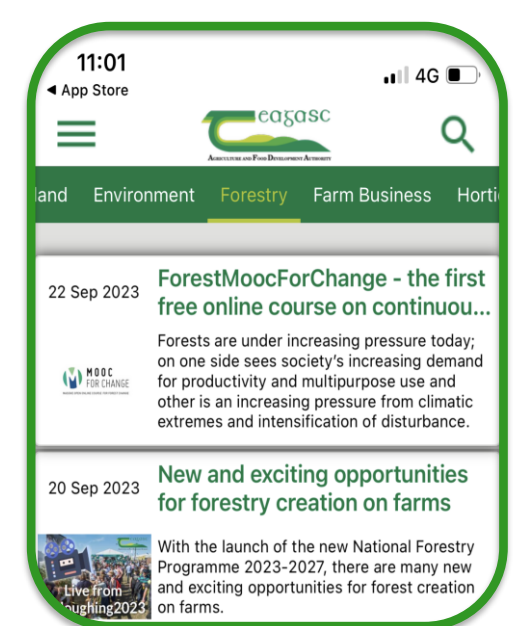
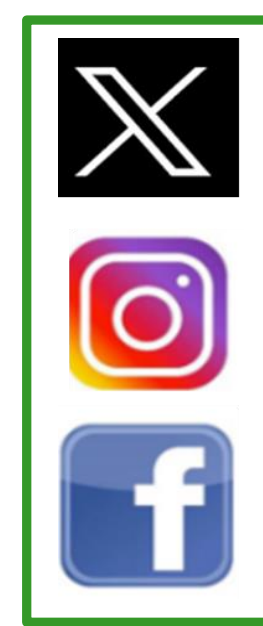
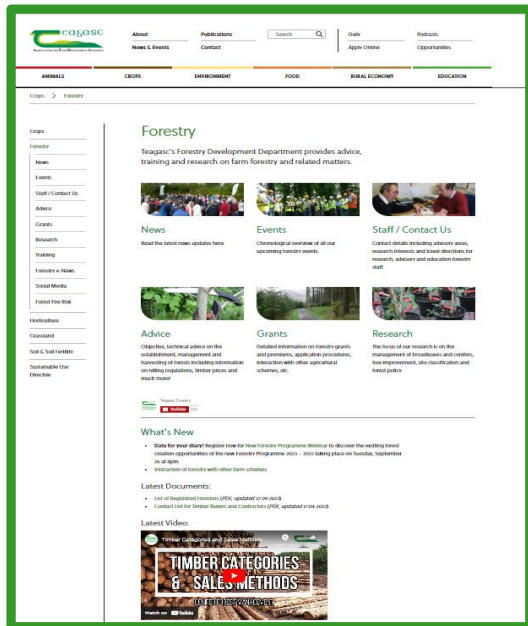
The pre-2020 requirement where applicants, planting part of their holding were obliged to retain at least 10% of the eligible hectares declared in 2008 (by themselves or their predecessor) in an agricultural activity, subject to a minimum area of 3 hectares, for the purpose of retaining eligibility **does not apply for new planting in 2023**.

If you are in receipt of aid under the Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme (including the FEPS, the Native Woodland Establishment Scheme, the Agroforestry or the Forestry for Fibre Scheme) you are **obliged to declare all the land parcels on your holding on your 2024 BISS application**.

All land parcels in receipt of payment under the Afforestation Grant and Premium Scheme (including the FEPS, the Native Woodland Establishment Scheme the Agroforestry or the Forestry for Fibre Scheme) are registered on the Department's Land Parcel Identification System (LPIS) with a unique identification number. Failure to declare afforested parcels under these schemes on LPIS could affect future forestry grant/premium payments.



Comprehensive Teagasc Supports



www.teagasc.ie/forestry

Forestry e-News

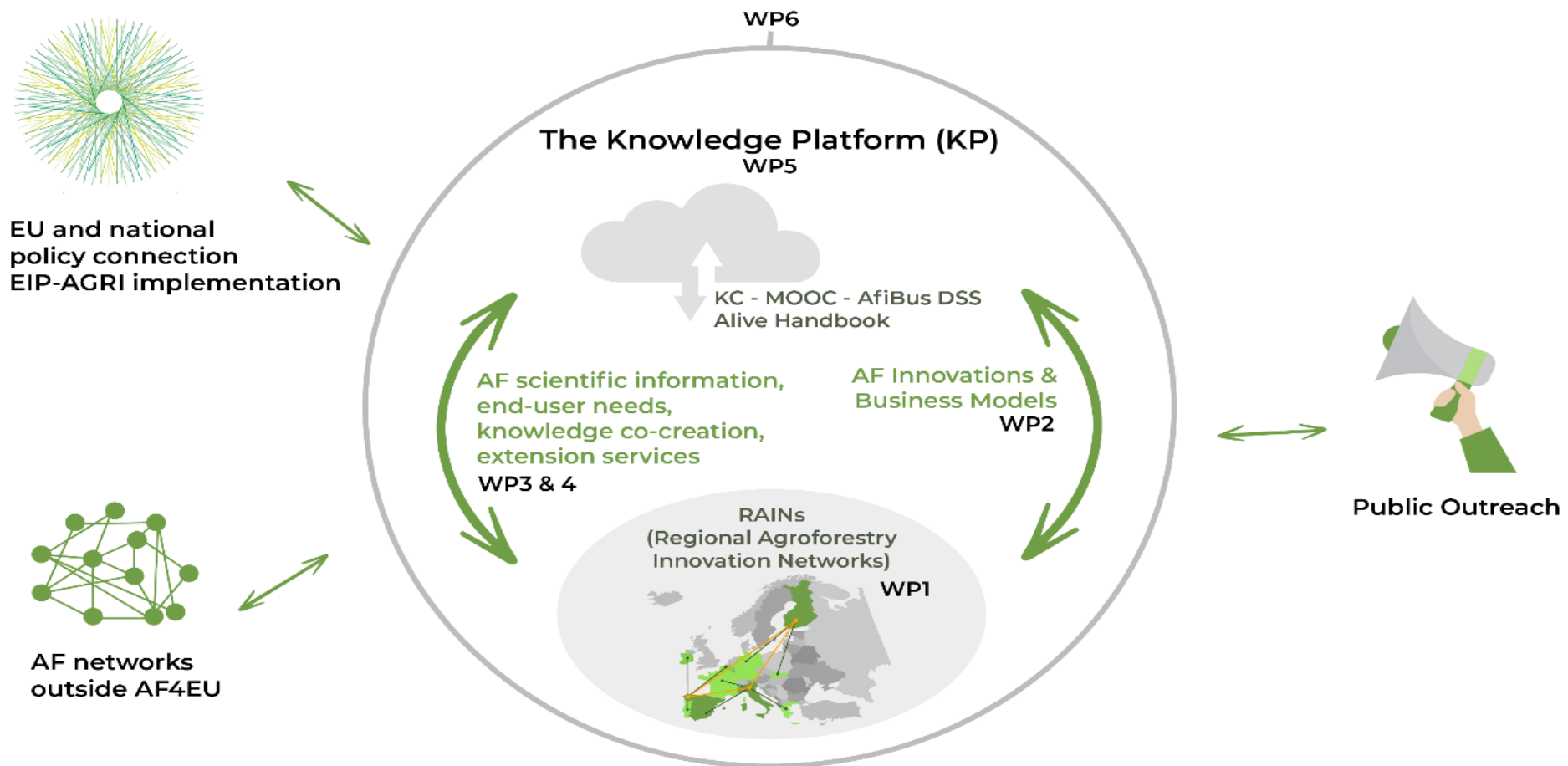
Videos on Teagasc
Forestry YouTube channel

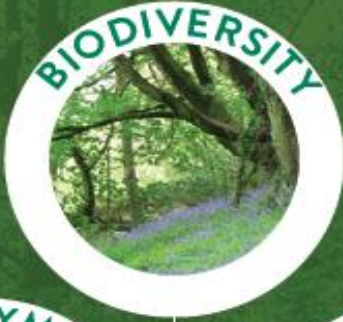
Social
media

Teagasc App

Resources in development

Agroforestry Business Model Innovation Network (AF4EU) Horizon Project





THANK YOU

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