



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

# Agroforestry

**Wednesday 21st, February, 2024**

**Mr. Eugene Curran**

**District Inspector**

**DAFM**

**Mobile – 00 353 (0) 872536576**

**Email - [eugene.curran@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:eugene.curran@agriculture.gov.ie)**



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## Afforestation Programme Supports For Agroforestry

- **Silvopastoral Systems (FT 8 was GPC 11)**
- **Silvoarable Systems (Pilot, measure)**
- **Forest Gardening (Pilot measure)**



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## Design Things to consider

**Rows** – Headlands, Machinery, shape of field. Three tree species, in groups of three.

**Groups** – Headlands, Barbed wire ? Bull wire electrified. Sheep ?

**Singly** – 5 x 5 metre spacing tight for machinery. Okay for grazing.



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## Grant & Premium Rates 2023-2027

	Forest Type	Grant Rates (excluding fencing)		Premium Payments				
		Current Grant/ha	Proposed Grant/ha	Current Premiums/ha	Proposed Annual Premium/ha	Current Number of Premiums	Proposed Number of Premiums for Non-Farmers	Proposed Number of Premiums for Farmers
FT1	Native Forests	€5,620	€6,744	€665	€1,103	15	15	20
FT2	Forests for Water*	New	€6,744	New	€1,142	New	15	20
FT3	Forests on Public Lands**	€9,920	€11,044	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
FT4	NeighbourWoods***	€8,800	€10,200	New	€1,142	New	15	20
FT5	Emergent Forests	New	€2,500	New	€350	New	15	20
FT6	Broadleaf, mainly oak	€5,620	€6,744	€645	€1,037	15	15	20
FT7	Other Broadleaf	€3,595	€4,314	€605	€973	15	15	20
FT8	Agroforestry	€5,620	€8,555	€645	€975	5	10	10
FT9	Seed Orchards	New	€10,000	New	€1,142	New	15	20
FT10	Continuous Cover Forestry	New	€5,421	New	€912	New	15	20
FT11	Mixed High Forests: Conifer, 20% broadleaves	€3,710	€4,452	€590	€863	15	15	20
FT12	Mixed High Forests with mainly spruce, 20% broadleaves	€3,215	€3,858	€510	€746	15	15	20
Native Tree Area Scheme will be paid at FT1 and FT2 rates. Premiums will be paid over 10 years rather than 20 at a rate of €2,206 per ha annually for NTA1 and €2,284 per ha annually for NTA2								
*	Additional payment of €1,000 per ha will be paid to landowner on completion of planting							
**	Grant includes Trails, Seats & Signage Facilities and Derelict Site payment							
***	Grant includes Facilities payment							



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## Agroforestry FT8 Silvopasture General Points

- Was GPC 11 now FT8
- Minimum 400 trees/ha, will be thinned over time to circa 150 trees/ha.
- Sites need to be well drained a minimum of 0.5 ha.
- Objectives will depend on the land owner - grazing, silage, hay or all of them.
- Single and Rows good for sheep. Groups for cattle.
- Integrating the trees as much as possible within fields.
  - Quality timber , multispecies swards , improved animal welfare.



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## Agroforestry FT8 Silvopasture General Points cont.

- Improved drainage and water retention.
- Species are not confined to native species. Recommend - Oak, Cherry, sycamore, Norway Maple. 10-15% Birch/Alder. 15% Fruit and nut.
- Cultivation – Pit plant, Use an Auger, Rip, shallow invert mound.
- No spraying , use manual cleaning.
- No industrial fertilizer. Can use slurry (not from intensive pig or poultry farms)



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## Post and Shelter

1. TUBEX tree shelter 1.5 metres tall, use wire ties, remove plastic ties.
2. Round post , 1.5 metres tall, 7cm diameter.
3. Square post, 1.5 metres tall, 7cm diameter  
**Or**  
Half round, 1.5 metres tall, 13-17cm wide,  
6 cm thick in middle.





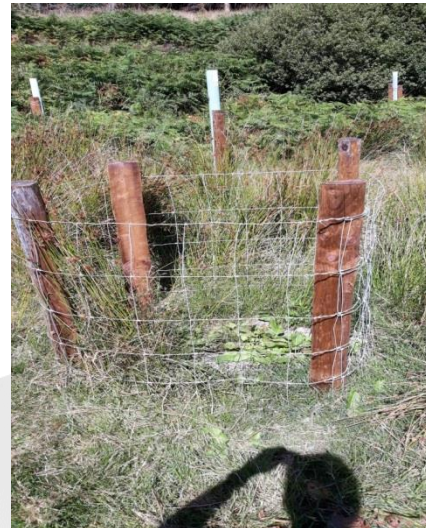
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## Plant Protection

- Birch & Alder



- Scots pine







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## One Page Plan

- Ground Preparation
- Species (fruit and nut trees)
- Design (Single, Rows, Groups)
- Stocking (400/hectare)
- Protection (shelters/fencing)
- Maintenance (Shaping/veg.control)
- Grazing (animal type)
- RUS (stumps, drains, reseeding)



Photo – Eugene Curran



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## Examples



Munnig North, Cork



Headford, Galway



Ballydehob, Cork



Durrus, Cork



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## Examples cont.



Kilcock, Kildare



Roscarberry, Cork



Slane, Meath



Corglass, Monaghan

Photos – Eugene Curran



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## Tree Protection





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## Electric Fencing

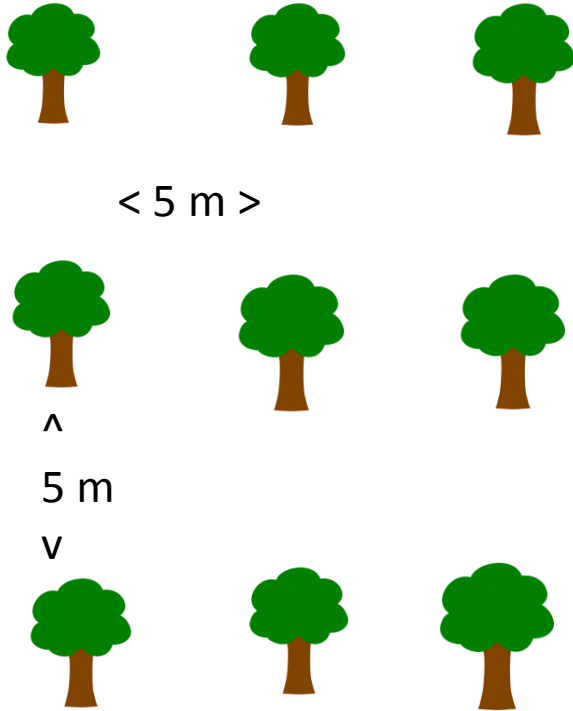




# Designs

## Singly

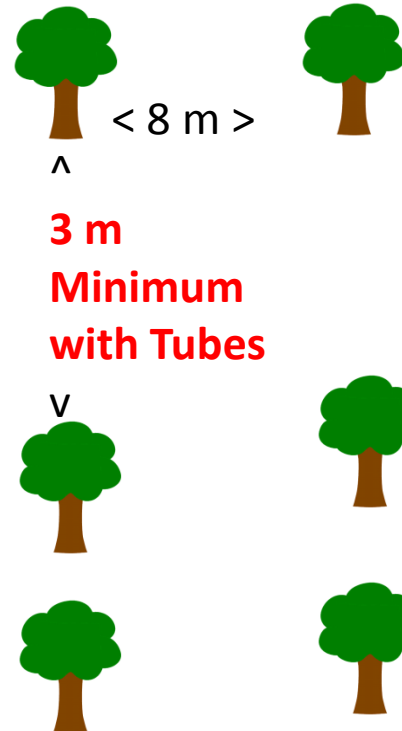
400 plants/ha



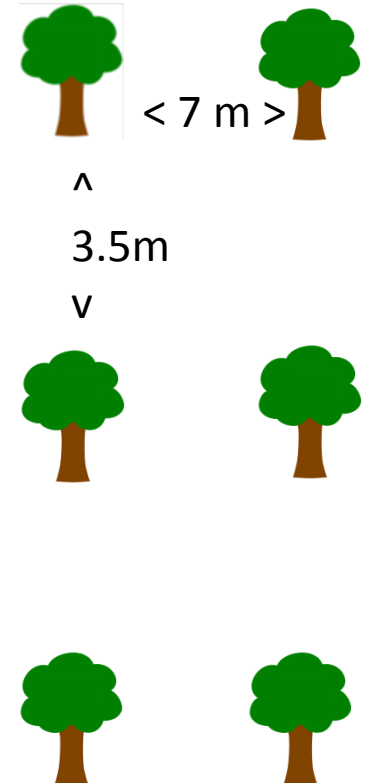
Minimum 400 trees/ha

## Rows

416 plants/ha



408 plants/ha





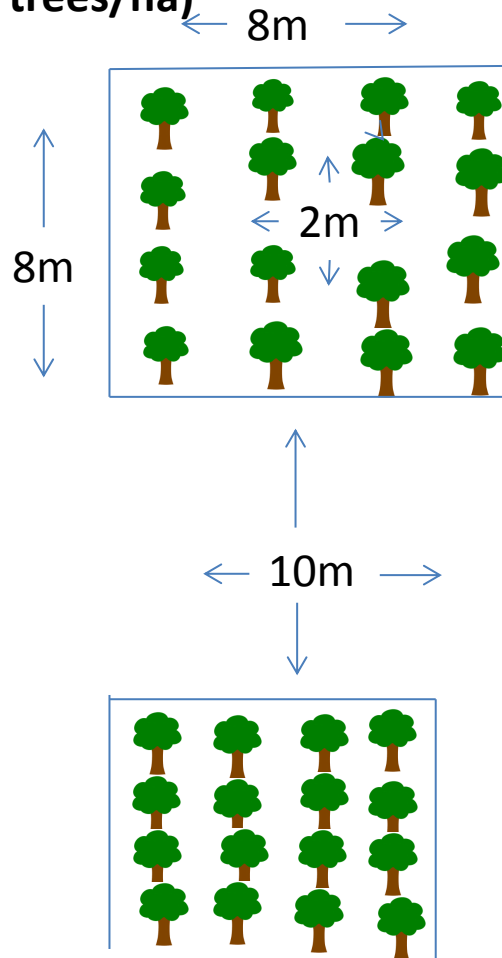
# Designs – cont.

## Groups

(400 trees/ha)

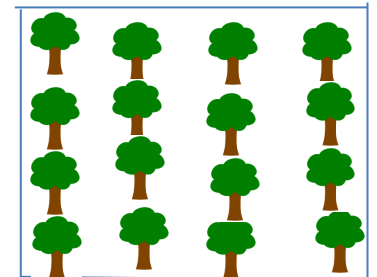


Suitable for Cattle



16 plants/plot

25 plots/ha

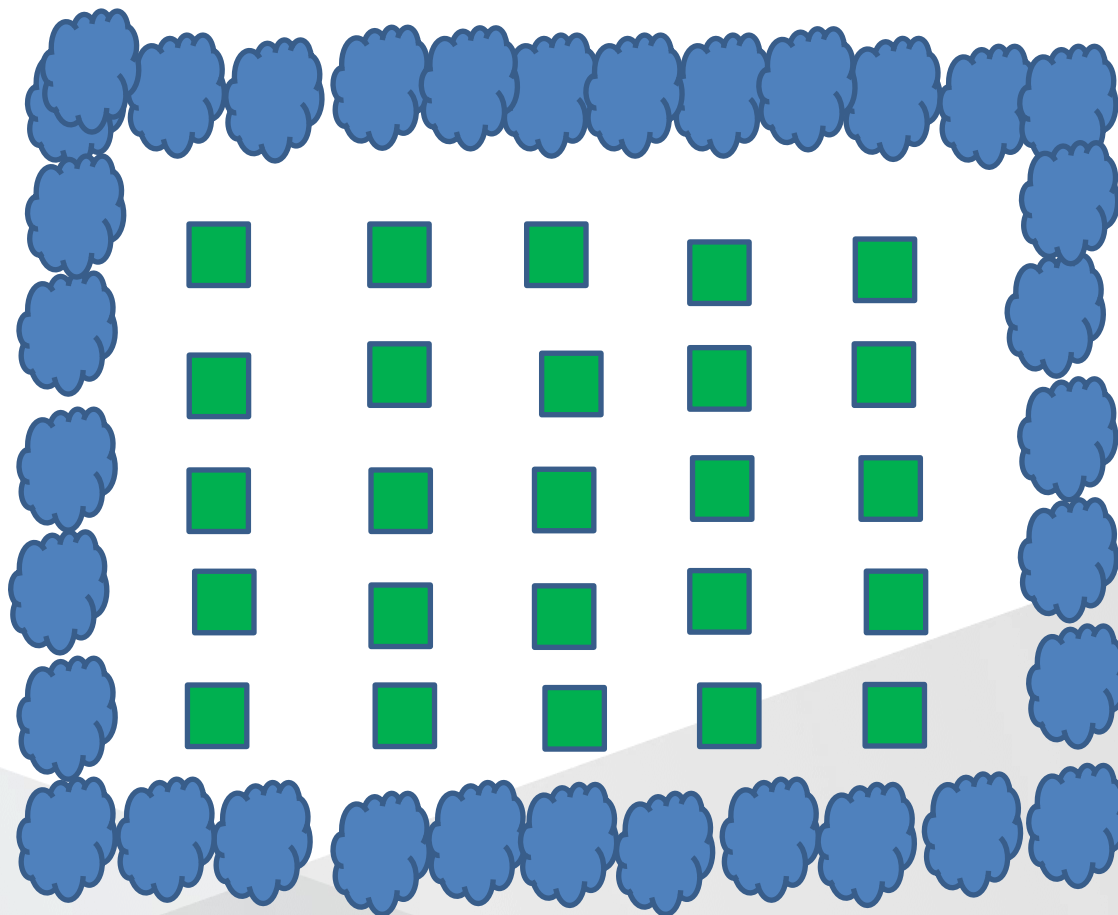




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# Group Layout

Each plot Stock fenced, e.g. for 1ha



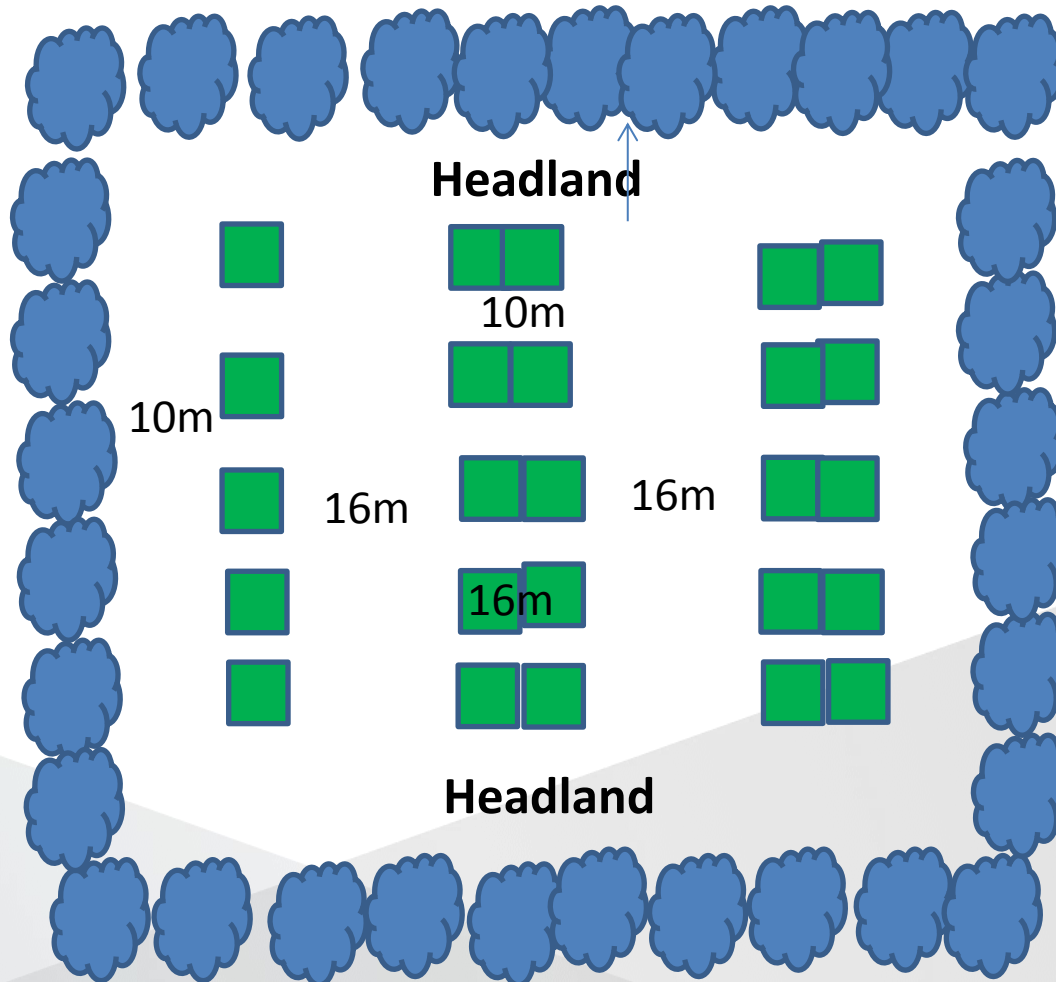




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# Group Layout

Each plot Stock fenced, e.g. for 1ha



$$10 \times 32 = 320$$
$$5 \times 16 = 80$$



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## Woodland Improvement Scheme

€1,200 /ha

- **Replace Tubes with Geotextile mesh.**
- **Remove or replace second post.**
- **Formative shaping.**



Photo – Eugene Curran



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## Maintenance

- Check Tubes not being crushed/damaged.
- Fill in dead plants.
- Pull vegetation out from inside the shelters.
- Do shelters need to be removed, new protection needed ?
- Shaping.
- Disease, pest damage etc.



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## Agroforestry Payments (Silvopasture)

**Grants – Old rate € 5,620/ha, New rate € 8,555/ha**

**These figures do not include fencing rates.**

**Premiums – Old rate € 645/ha , New rate € 975/ha**

**Premium duration – old rate 5 years, new rate 10 years**

**(for farmer and non farmer)**



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## Silvoarable Systems Pilot

**Growing crops amongst trees (mostly rows)**



**Cereals**



**Fruit**



**Vegetables**



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## Silvoarable Specs/Pilot

- **Pilot measure , 30 ha/year, 4 projects/year,**
- **Grant €6000, Prem. € 829/year for 10 years,**
- **20% Fruit & Nut trees**
- **Initial plan/layout. Widths multiples of 3 metres.**
- **No shelters needed, not grazed, may require rabbit protection.**
- **Headlands essential, guidance for machine operators.**
- **General conditions same as silvopasture.**
- **Accepting applications now.**



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## Example



Photo – Eugene Curran

### Ireland (Alan Kingston)

- **Timber species + Aronia Berries**
- **A kilometer of Aronia (10 rows , 8 metres apart)**



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# Silvoarable Systems



Photo – Eugene Curran

**Germany –**  
Poplar, Robinia, Corn, potatoes, wheat



Photo – Eugene Curran

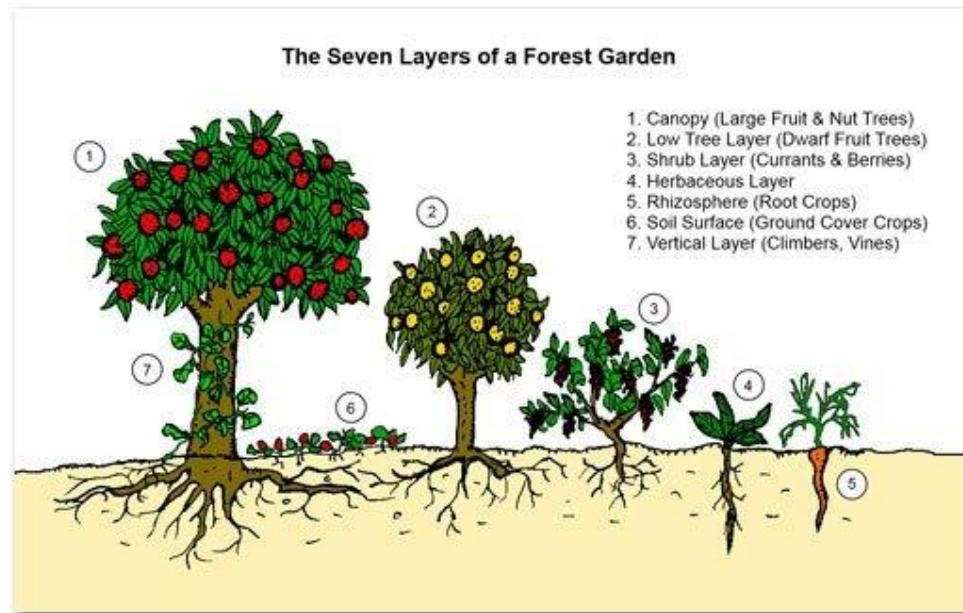
**Greece –**  
Olives /Barley





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## 3. Forest Gardening



**Forest Gardens are probably the worlds oldest form of land use and most resilient agroecosystem. Pioneered by Robert Hart in the 1980s in the UK.**



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## Forest Garden Pilot

- **Pilot measure , 6ha/year, 1ha plots.**
- **Grant €6000, Prem. € 829/year for 10 years.**
- **40% Fruit & Nut trees.**
- **Initial plan/layout.**
- **No shelters needed, not grazed.**
- **General conditions same as silvopasture.**
- **Accepting applications now.**





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# Ash die back – RUS scheme

- 1, One page plan.**
- 2, Stump Removal is not mandatory.**
- 3, Consider mound drains and reseedling.**





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## Organic Payments



Photos – Eugene Curran



- Land classified as agroforestry.
- 5 year scheme.
- €2,000/ha for the first year of conversion.
- €1,400/ha thereafter.



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## Potential Payments

Land classified as forestry/agroforestry.  
Trees protected under the 2014 forestry act.

- **10 year Forestry premium payments**
- **5 year Organic payments**
- **Biss Payments**



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**ACRES**

Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme

## Land classified as Agriculture Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme

- **Creation of Traditional Orchards**
- **Planting trees in riparian zones**
- **Tree planted singly, rows or groups  
( >0.1 ha and < 1.0 ha, 300 trees)**
- **Tree belts for Ammonia capture**
- **Hedgerows**



**Traditional Orchard**

Photo: Con O'Riordan DAFM



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## ECO scheme

### Agricultural Measure

- **5 year scheme, Agricultural Practice 4**
- **Plant 3 trees or 1 metre of hedge/ha**
- **or 6 trees /ha enhanced option.**
- **€60 to €65 /ha**
- **Parkland trees**



Photos – Eugene Curran



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# Thank You

