



Pearl Mussel Programme

List of Supporting Actions

Introduction

The Pearl Mussel Project is a pilot results-based agri-environment programme that rewards farmers for the environmental services provided by their land.

Peatland, grassland, and woodland habitats are used as result indicators of quality. The higher the quality of these habitats, the higher the payment farmers receive. The quality of watercourses on the farm, assessed through a whole-farm assessment, also influences the final payment.

Supporting actions are voluntary measures that a farmer may choose to undertake with the aim of improving their habitat quality or whole-farm score. This document sets out the typical supporting actions that are available to farmers within the Programme.

Each participant is assigned an annual budget of **€50 per hectare (up to a maximum of €1,200 per annum)** to help fund the delivery of supporting actions on their farm. The rate of funding varies from 25% to 100% depending on the environmental benefit of the action.

Each participant is invited to **submit an annual works plan** which details the proposed supporting actions to be completed during the following year. The **participant's advisor will submit the annual works plan to the PMP Project team via the online mapping system**. Details should include the location, quantity, and costing of works proposed. On receipt of the Annual Works Plan the project team will review the proposal before issuing approval. A final copy of this plan will then be provided to the farmer. The farmer can then proceed with the works, and on completion submit a payment claim which will comprise, a declaration that works have been completed together with any supporting documents required (receipt, photograph etc), which varies depending on the action completed (see Table 1-6). The PMP team will visit a proportion of farms to verify the works are completed in line with Programme specifications.

A list of standard supporting actions is presented in Tables 1 - 6 below together with the level of co-funding available. **There are a number of actions that, due to their variable nature and site specific conditions, will need to be costed individually in consultation with the project team.** These measures will be costed based on standard rates for labour, machinery, and materials as published by DAFM schemes such as TAMS.

There are a six categories of supporting actions as follows;

- 1) Livestock and grazing management (**Table 1**);
- 2) Water protection and habitat enhancement (**Table 2**);
- 3) Water protection (Sheep Treatment) (**Table 2**);
- 4) Farm access improvement (**Table 4**);
- 5) Invasive species control (**Table 5**); and
- 6) Woodland establishment and enhancement (**Table 6**).



The list of actions presented here is not exhaustive and it is foreseen that additional measures may be co-funded by the Programme. As individual farmers may have innovative ideas for appropriate actions, participants and their advisors are encouraged to discuss these with PMP team. Such bespoke actions would be costed individually in consultation with the project team. The actions and associated costings presented below may be revised over the duration of the Programme.

Livestock and grazing management actions

Improved livestock and grazing management can lead to improvements in habitat condition and prevent impacts on watercourses. A range of fencing options, feed and water infrastructure, and gates can be funded as appropriate depending on site and farm specific conditions. In addition, the Programme will support farmers who wish to convert to lighter native breeds which improve habitat condition. The rate of funding for these actions is typically 50%.

Table 1: Livestock and grazing management actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
L1	Post and wire fence	Metre	Line	50%	€3.00	€1.50	Photograph
L2	Electric fence	Metre	Line	50%	€1.50	€0.75	Receipt
L3	Sheep fence	Metre	Line	50%	€5.34	€2.70	Photograph
L4	Sheep fencing (mountain rate)	Metre	Line	50%	€8.01	€4.00	Photograph
L5	A Frame fence	Metre	Line	50%	€8.40	€4.20	Photograph
L6	Electric fencer (standard)	Item	Point	50%	€135.00	€67.50	Receipt
L7	Electric fencer (high power)	Item	Point	50%	€203.80	€101.90	Receipt
L8	Solar 12V fencer (standard)	Item	Point	50%	€270.00	€135.00	Receipt
L9	Solar 12V fencer (high power)	Item	Point	50%	€491.98	€246.00	Receipt
L10	Galvanized gate 4 ft	Item	Point	50%	€235.00	€117.50	Photograph
L11	Galvanized gate 8 ft	Item	Point	50%	€262.50	€131.25	Photograph
L12	Galvanized gate 12 ft	Item	Point	50%	€296.00	€148.00	Photograph
L13	Livestock conversion	Animal	Point	Consult with PMP team			
L14	Cattle feed trough (single 8ft metal)	Item	Point	50%	€129.00	€64.50	Photograph & Receipt
L15	Cattle feed trough (double 8ft metal)	Item	Point	50%	€177.00	€88.50	Photograph & Receipt
L16	Sheep feed trough	Item	Point	50%	€78.50	€39.25	Photograph & Receipt
L17	Water trough (standard all inclusive)	Item	Point	50%	€193.75	€96.88	Photograph
L18	Hydrodare piping (3/4 normal, 150m roll)	Item	Line	50%	€104.00	€52.00	Photograph
L19	Hydraulic ram pump	Item	Point	50%	€500.00	€250.00	Receipt & Receipt
L20	Storage tank (plastic) 300 gal	Item	Point	50%	€270.00	€135.00	Photograph
L21	Pasture (nose) pump	Item	Point	50%	€350.00	€175.00	Photograph & Receipt
L22	Solar pump	Item	Point	50%	€1,995.00	€997.50	Photograph & Receipt



Water protection and habitat enhancement

Various actions aimed at addressing pressures relating to flow, nutrient and sediment run-off, or potential pollution will be supported by the Programme. Actions aimed at enhancement of wetland habitats are also included here. The rate of support for these actions varies from 25 to 100% funding depending on the action and related environmental benefit.

Table 2: Water protection and habitat enhancement actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
W1	Peat / plastic dams	100 metres	Line	100%	€176	€176	Photograph & PMP visit
W2	Bog restoration training	Farm	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team		Confirmation of attendance
W3	Check (leaky) dams	100 metres	Line	100%	€176	€176	Photograph & PMP visit
W4	Earth bund	100 metres	Line	100%	€175.00	€175	Photograph & PMP visit
W5	Swale	Item	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team		Photograph & PMP visit
W6	Sediment trap	Trap / pond	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team		Photograph & PMP visit
W7	In-ditch wetland	Trap / pond	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team		Photograph & PMP visit
W8	Cross drain	Drain	Point	50%	€276	€138	Photograph & PMP visit
W9	Livestock exclusion (>1.5m)	Farm	Point	100%	€108	€108	Photograph
W10	Buffer strip (>3m)	Farm	Point	100%	€162	€162	Photograph
W11	Buffer strip (>5m)	Farm	Point	100%	€216	€216	Photograph

Water protection (Sheep treatment)

Table 3. Sheep treatment actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
W13	Mobile sheep dip (yr 1)	Animal	Point	50%	€1.75	€0.88	Receipt
W14	Mobile sheep dip (yr 2)	Animal	Point	50%	€1.75	€0.88	Receipt
W15	Mobile sheep dip (yr 3)	Animal	Point	25%	€1.75	€0.44	Receipt
W16	Sheep dip alternative (pour on) (yr 1)	Animal	Point	50%	€2.14	€1.07	Receipt
W17	Sheep dip alternative (pour on) (yr 2)	Animal	Point	50%	€2.14	€1.07	Receipt
W18	Sheep dip alternative (pour on) (yr 3)	Animal	Point	25%	€2.14	€0.54	Receipt



Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
W19	Sheep dip alternative (injectable) (yr 1)	Animal	Point	50%	€1.08	€0.54	Receipt
W20	Sheep dip alternative (injectable) (yr 2)	Animal	Point	50%	€1.08	€0.54	Receipt
W21	Sheep dip alternative (injectable) (yr 3)	Animal	Point	25%	€1.08	€0.27	Receipt

Farm access improvement actions

Improvements to farm access may address sources of sediment and nutrient run-off from farm infrastructure. The provision of bridges may be considered where pressures associated with animal crossings on watercourses exist. The rate of funding for these actions is typically 25 to 50%.

Table 4: Farm access improvement actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
F1	Farm track upgrade	Metre	Line	25%	Consult with PMP team		Photograph & PMP visit
F2	Farm track resurface	Metre	Line	25%	4.00	1.00	Photograph & PMP visit
F3	Gateway resurface	Item	Point	50%	117.50	58.75	Photo
F4	Gateway relocation	Item	Point	50%	383.00	191.50	Photo
F5	Livestock footbridge (natural watercourse)	Item	Point	50%	665	333	Photograph & PMP visit
F6	Livestock footbridge (crossing at drain; 300mm pipe)	Item	Point	50%	320	160	Photograph & PMP visit
F7	Livestock footbridge (crossing at drain; 600mm pipe)	Item	Point	50%	602	301	Photograph & PMP visit



Invasive species control actions

The presence of rhododendron, encroaching gorse, and self-sown conifers are negative indicators for terrestrial habitats within the Pearl Mussel Programme. The cost of control reflects the level of infestation and is funded by the Programme at the rate of 75%.

Table 5: Invasive species control actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit €	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
IS1	Rhododendron high cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€2,211.00	€1,658.25	Photograph & PMP visit
IS2	Rhododendron (medium cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€1,106.00	€829.50	Photograph & PMP visit
IS3	Rhododendron (low cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€536.00	€402.00	Photograph & PMP visit
IS4	Rhododendron (sparse cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€106.00	€79.50	Photograph & PMP visit
IS5	Conifer (high cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€1,795.50	€1,345.50	Photograph & PMP visit
IS6	Conifer (medium cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€897.75	€673.25	Photograph & PMP visit
IS7	Conifer (low cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€435.50	€326.50	Photograph & PMP visit
IS8	Conifer (sparse cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€81.00	€60.75	Photograph & PMP visit
IS9	Gorse (high cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€2,211.00	€1,658.25	Photograph & PMP visit
IS10	Gorse (medium cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€1,106.00	€829.50	Photograph & PMP visit
IS11	Gorse (low cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€536.00	€402.00	Photograph & PMP visit
IS12	Gorse (sparse cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€106.00	€79.50	Photograph & PMP visit



Woodland establishment and enhancement actions

The establishment and enhancement of native tree groves and hedgerows in strategic locations could intercept and capture nutrients from surface water prior to discharge to watercourses. In appropriate locations, hedgerows and wooded areas can also provide added ecological benefits. Rejuvenation of overgrown hedgerows can provide shelter and improve livestock management. These actions are funded by the Programme at rates varying from 75 to 100%.

Table 6: Woodland establishment and enhancement actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit €	Funded cost € (maximum)	Proof of completion with declaration
WD1	Native tree grove	Tree	Point	100%	€5.00	€5.00	Photo
WD2	Hedgerow establishment	Metre	Line	75%	€5.00	€3.75	Photo
WD3	Hedgerow laying	Metre	Line	75%	€8.00	€6.00	Photo