



Presentation on.....

- Bioenergy Scheme – willow and miscanthus
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Pilot Bioenergy Scheme 2007 - 2009

- Launched in February 2007
- Support cultivation of willow and miscanthus
- Production supported under Agriculture pillar
- Approved costs grant aided up to 50%
- Maximum grant €1,450/ha
- Area planted - 2,150 ha of miscanthus and 360 ha of willow by the end of 2009



New Scheme – 2010 to 2012

- Launched in February 2010- runs to 2012
- Scheme included in Department's Revised Rural Development Programme.
- Co-funded by Department and the European Agriculture Fund for Rural Development
- Consolidate progress made during pilot phase
- Closing date for 2010 is Wednesday, 31 March



Grant rates

- Aid payable on 50% of approved costs.
- Maximum payment of €1,300 per hectare available in 2 instalments.
- First instalment of 75% or €975/ha following crop establishment.
- Second instalment of 25% or €325 in Year 2.



Eligible costs

- Ground preparation
- Fencing
- Vegetation control
- Purchase of planting stock
- Planting



Conditions of Grant aid

- Minimum of 3 hectares and maximum of 30 hectares
- Maintain crop for bioenergy - a minimum of 7 years
- Aid payable on up to 10% open ground
- Establish crop to a satisfactory degree – Best practice manuals
- Submit an end use contract



Pre-planting Approval

- Sites must be pre-approved before work commences
- Declare land parcels using Land Parcel Identification System
- Land Parcel Number pre-printed on 2009 SPS Application Form
- On site inspections may be carried out
- Selection criteria will apply
- Successful applicants issued with pre-planting approval



Selection Criteria – EU Requirement

- Level of expertise/knowledge with regard to biomass crops
- Suitability of the site
- Evidence of linkages with end users
- Applicants who planted during pilot phase
- Economies of scale
- Proximity of site to major end users



Protection of the Environment

- Adhere to environmental requirements in the relevant Best Practice Manual
- Applicants must obtain approval to plant in areas protected by the following legislation
 - Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs)
 - Farmland based Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)
 - Special Protection Areas (SPAs)



Application for Payment

- Application for 1st Instalment – September of each year
- Include Invoices for planting stock/planting and fencing
- Tax Clearance or C2 Cert – aid exceeds €10,000
- Crops must be satisfactorily established
- Payment may be refused or delayed in exceptional circumstances
- Application for 2nd Instalment – August following year
- On-site Inspections at 1st and 2nd stage



Scheme Documents

- Scheme Terms and Conditions,
- Application Form for Pre-planting Approval
- Best Practice Manual for willow
- Best Practice Manual for miscanthus



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