



CAP Post 2015 –Arable Sector

11th September 2014

Greening Measures

- ▶ All farmers subject to 'greening'
- ▶ Crop Diversification
- ▶ Permanent grassland
- ▶ Ecological focus area (EFA)
- ▶ Greening payment calculated as percentage of BPS payment for each farmer.



Greening Measures contd

- ▶ Payment calculated as percentage of BPS payment
- ▶ Greening payable on activated hectares only e.g. Farmer has declared 100 ha in 2016 but has only 50 new entitlement. Greening payment on 50 ha in 2015.



Definitions

- Total eligible area: total agricultural area plus SPS eligible afforestation and land
- Total Agricultural area: total of all permanent grassland, arable land plus lands under permanent crops
- Total arable land: total of areas under arable crops (tillage), temporary grasslands and fallow lands (arable).
- Total tillage lands: area under arable crops (excluding catch crops).

Crop Diversification

- ▶ Under 10ha of Arable lands ➤ Exempt
- ▶ Between 10 ha- 30 ha of Arable Land ➤ 2 Crops
- ▶ Over 30ha of Arable Land ➤ 3 Crops



Crop Diversification cont.

Exemptions

- ▶ Organic Farmers – organic lands only
- ▶ 75% of agricultural area is permanent or temporary grass (max 30 ha of tillage land)
- ▶ 75% of the arable land is temporary grassland and lands lying fallow (max 30 ha of tillage land)
- ▶ 50% of arable land was declared by another applicant in the previous year by applicant – all arable land must be cultivated by a different crop in year of exemption.
- ▶ Participants in GLAS – incl. meeting the winter crop cover requirements.
- ▶ Similar exemptions bar third, fourth and fifth indent apply to EFAs

Crop Diversification cont.

Definition of separate crops means

- ▶ Different Crops
- ▶ Winter and Spring Barley of same crop
e.g. barley, wheat etc
- ▶ Land lying fallow
- ▶ Temporary Grassland

Note: each hectare can only be counted once in a scheme year

Crop Diversification cont.

- ▶ Main Crop – not more than 75% – this applies to both 2 and 3 crop requirements
- ▶ Two main crops – not more than 95%
- ▶ That means that the third crops (or a mixture of crops) must be greater than 5%
- ▶ Mixed cropping regarded as one crop
- ▶ Landscape features that form part of the eligible area can be taken into account in the measurement of areas of separate crops – margins and hedges form part of the crop area.
- ▶ Use of total eligible area (reference area) rather than claimed area

Crop Diversification – Advice Only

- ▶ Ensure that you have options when sowing arable crops in Spring.
- ▶ Bear in mind that field margins and hedgerows form part of the crop for the purposes of CD measurements – 75%, 95% etc.
- ▶ Be aware of consequences using equivalence under GLAS for Crop Diversification (2015 only).
- ▶ Be cautious about planting areas close to the 75% and 95% thresholds – particularly, if sowing more than one crop in the same LPIS parcel.

Permanent Grassland

- ▶ Land, which is used for grass production for more than five years
- ▶ No ban on ploughing and reseeding
- ▶ Can be applied at holding, regional or national level
- ▶ 5% tolerance before mandatory conversion of arable land to permanent grassland is applied
- ▶ 2012 is reference year – updated to 2015

Permanent Grassland cont.

- ▶ Ban on ploughing and reseeded and for production of arable crops of certain Natura 2000 area
- ▶ Ban applies to permanent grassland in these areas
- ▶ Natura Management Plans for habitats must provide for protection of grassland / pastures

Ecological Focus Areas (EFAs)

- ▶ Farmers with 15 ha or less of arable land exempt
- ▶ Farmers with more than 15ha of arable land must ensure that at least 5% of their arable land is an ecological focus area – known as EFAs
- ▶ Areas used to establish 5% includes temporary grassland but excludes permanent grassland with the exception of buffer strips and landscape features, which are situated on permanent grassland and are declared as EFAs
- ▶ Also includes afforested areas (SPS eligible) and Short Rotation Coppice in establishment of 15 ha

EFA's cont.

Landscape Features

- Includes hedgerows and drains/ditches
- Hedgerows: must include woody species – banks not eligible
- Gaps must be excluded
- Conversion/weighting factor: 1 meter of hedgerow = 10^2 meters of EFA area
- Half the hedgerow associated with each parcel
- Full hedgerow if arable parcel adjacent to permanent grassland farmed by applicant

EFAs cont.

Landscape Features cont'd

- Hedgerows and ditches/drains adjacent to an arable parcel can be eligible
- Adjacent means touching arable parcel
- Have to be situated in a LPIS parcel claimed by applicant
- Features (e.g. Drains/ditches) can be situated on permanent grassland
- An ineligible feature in-between renders the landscape features not eligible – e.g road or river

EFA's cont.

Landscape Features cont'd

- Drains
- Each linear meter equivalent to 6² meters of EFA area
- A drain and hedgerow adjacent (but not overlapping) can contribute 16² meters of EFA area
- Hedgerows and drain must form part or be adjacent to the arable parcel – a stream between the arable land and hedgerow would mean that hedgerow could not be used as EFA

EFA's cont.

Nitrogen Fixing Crops

- These are protein crops and include peas, beans, sweet lupins and red clover
- Each hectare of protein crops is equivalent to 0.7 ha of EFA area (must be adopted by Delegated Act).
- Protein crops can benefit from the Coupled Protein Aid (peas, beans and sweet lupins) only peas be used as an EFA area

EFA's cont.

Buffer Strips

- ▶ Situated on arable lands along rivers/streams
- ▶ Minimum requirements: provisions applying Nitrates Directive
- ▶ Minimum width; 1 meter
- ▶ 1 meter = 9² meters for EFA requirement
- ▶ Will be mapped by Department
- ▶ Can be grazed/topped
- ▶ Crops cannot be harvested

EFA's cont.

Lands Lying Fallow

- Must be arable fallow lands
- That means the lands must have been used for arable crop production during one of the previous 5 years
- Lands to remain fallow for the minimum period of 1 January to 30th June
- A crop cannot be harvested during this period
- Lands must be maintained in good condition
- Minimum fallow land area will be fixed
- 1:1 equivalent – for EFA purposes i.e 1 hectare of fallow lands = 1 hectare of EFA

EFA's cont.

Catch Crop/Winter Cover

- Can be undersown grass with main crop
- Can be a mixture of seeds
- Must be sown by 1 October
- Each hectare of catch crops/winter cover is equivalent to 0.3 hectare of EFA
- The same parcel cannot be used for two EFA measures in the same year – e.g protein crops followed by winter cover

EFA's cont.

SPS Eligible Forestry

- Can be declared in 2015 as EFA area
- Existing SPS eligible forestry acceptable
- Newly planted forestry – eligible for BPS – also acceptable
- Eligibility:
 - (a) SPS Eligible lands in 2008
 - (b) declared on a SPS application in 2008
 - (c) Applicant paid SPS in 2008
 - (d) Grant aided under the Afforestation Aid Scheme Form 2015

EFA's cont.

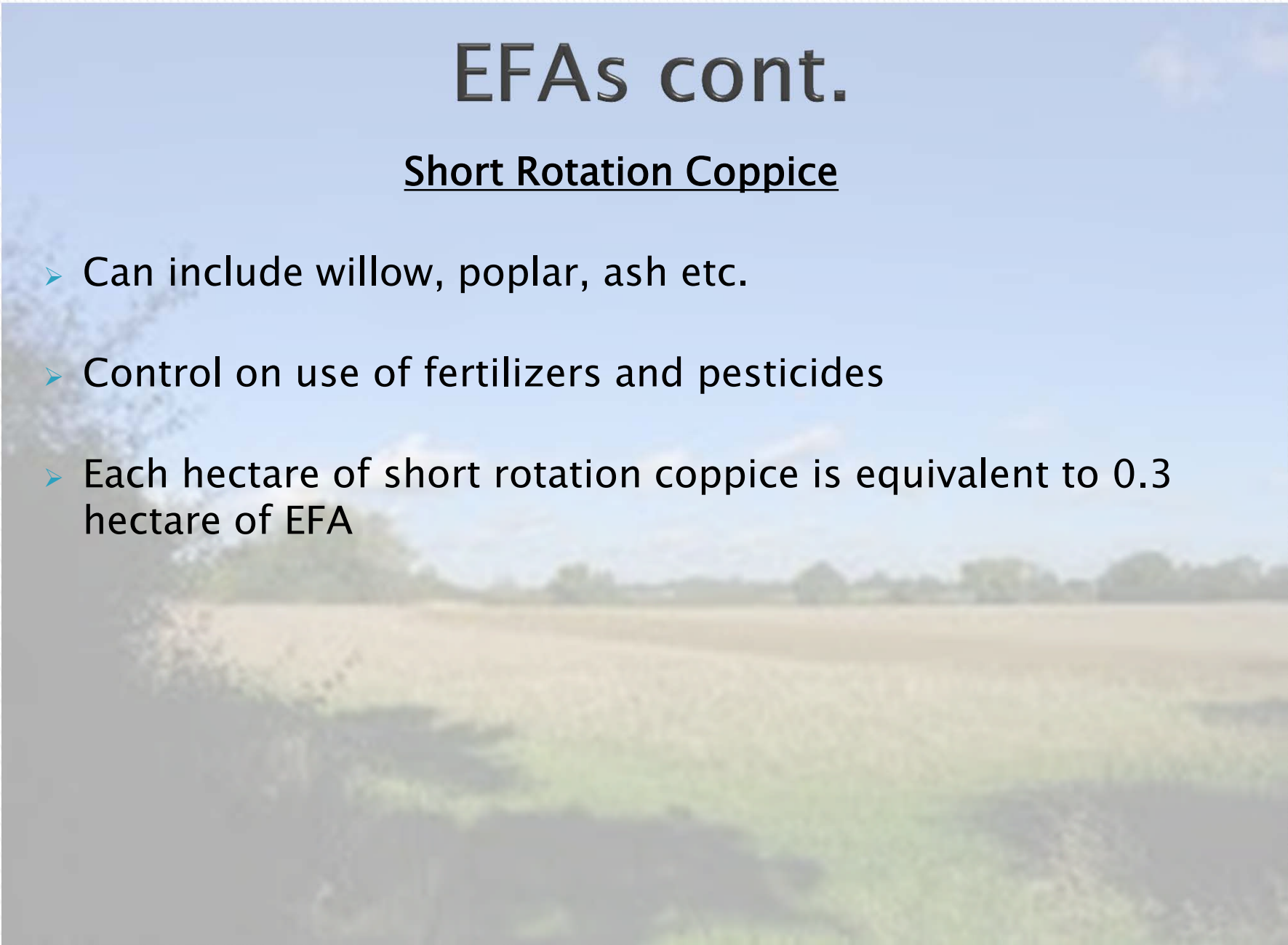
Summary of EFAs

- Hedgerows
 - Ditches/drains
 - Buffer Strips
- } Will be mapped by Department
Applicants amend where necessary
Contributes more than actual area to EFA requirement
-
- Fallow land area (actual)
 - Eligible Forestry area (actual)
 - Short Rotation Coppice area (actual)
 - Protein Crops area – reduced to 0.7 ha for EFA
 - Catch crop/winter cover area – reduced to 0.3 ha for EFA
 - Short rotation coppice area – reduced to 0.3 ha for EFA

EFA's cont.

Short Rotation Coppice

- Can include willow, poplar, ash etc.
- Control on use of fertilizers and pesticides
- Each hectare of short rotation coppice is equivalent to 0.3 hectare of EFA



EFA's Advice

- If in doubt, leave it out
- Aim high



EFA cont.

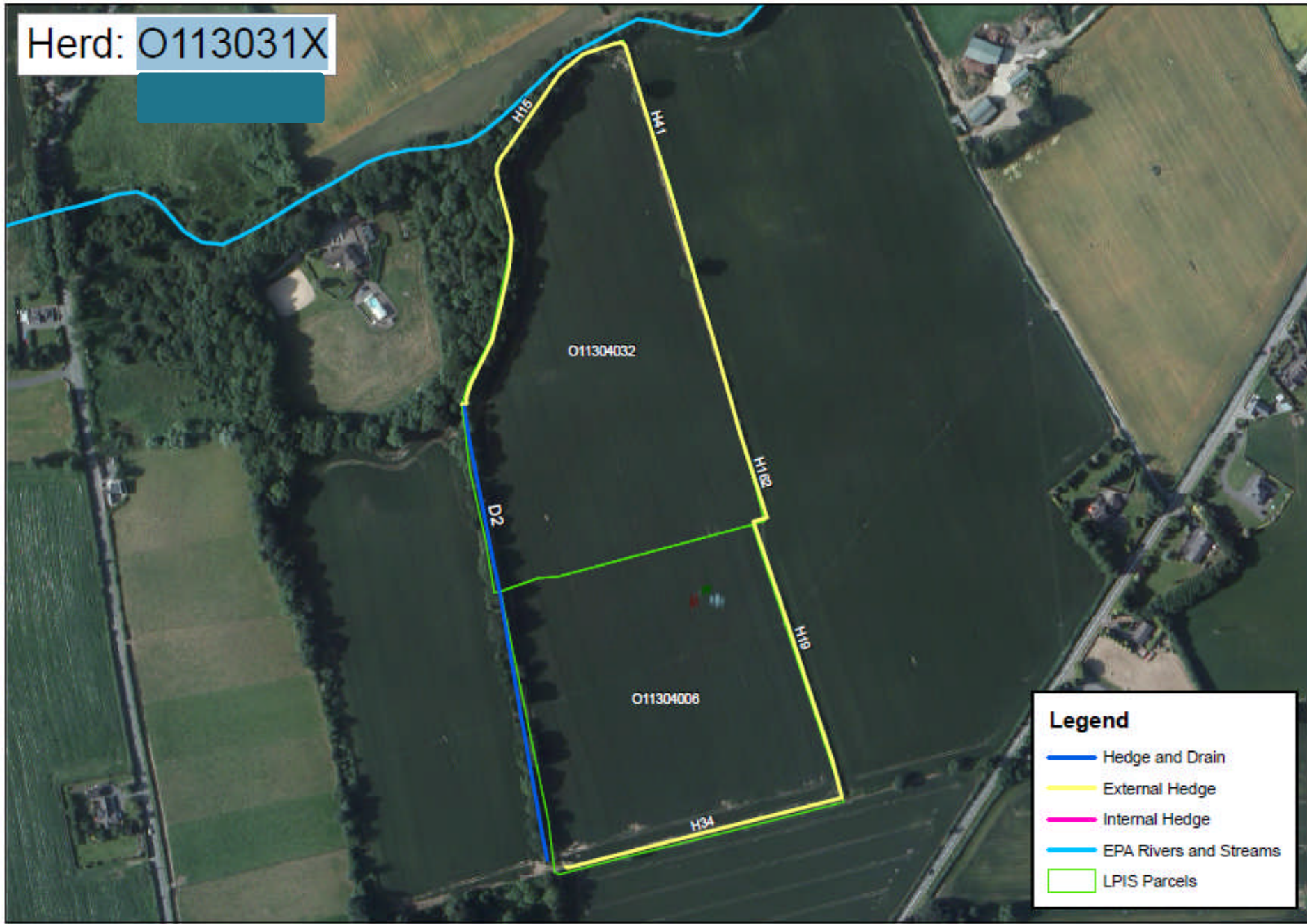
Future

- Commission must present report evaluating the effectiveness of the measure by 31 March 2017
- Report may be accompanied by proposals
- Proposals may include an increase of the EFA minimum area from 5% to 7% – must be agreed by Council of Ministers and European Parliament

Greening Timeline

- ▶ August – Farmer Notification
- ▶ October – On-line Mapping Facility to allow EFA (hedge/drain) layer to be viewed.
- ▶ November provision for amendments by farmers/agents
- ▶ Early 2015 – BPS application with Greening element online

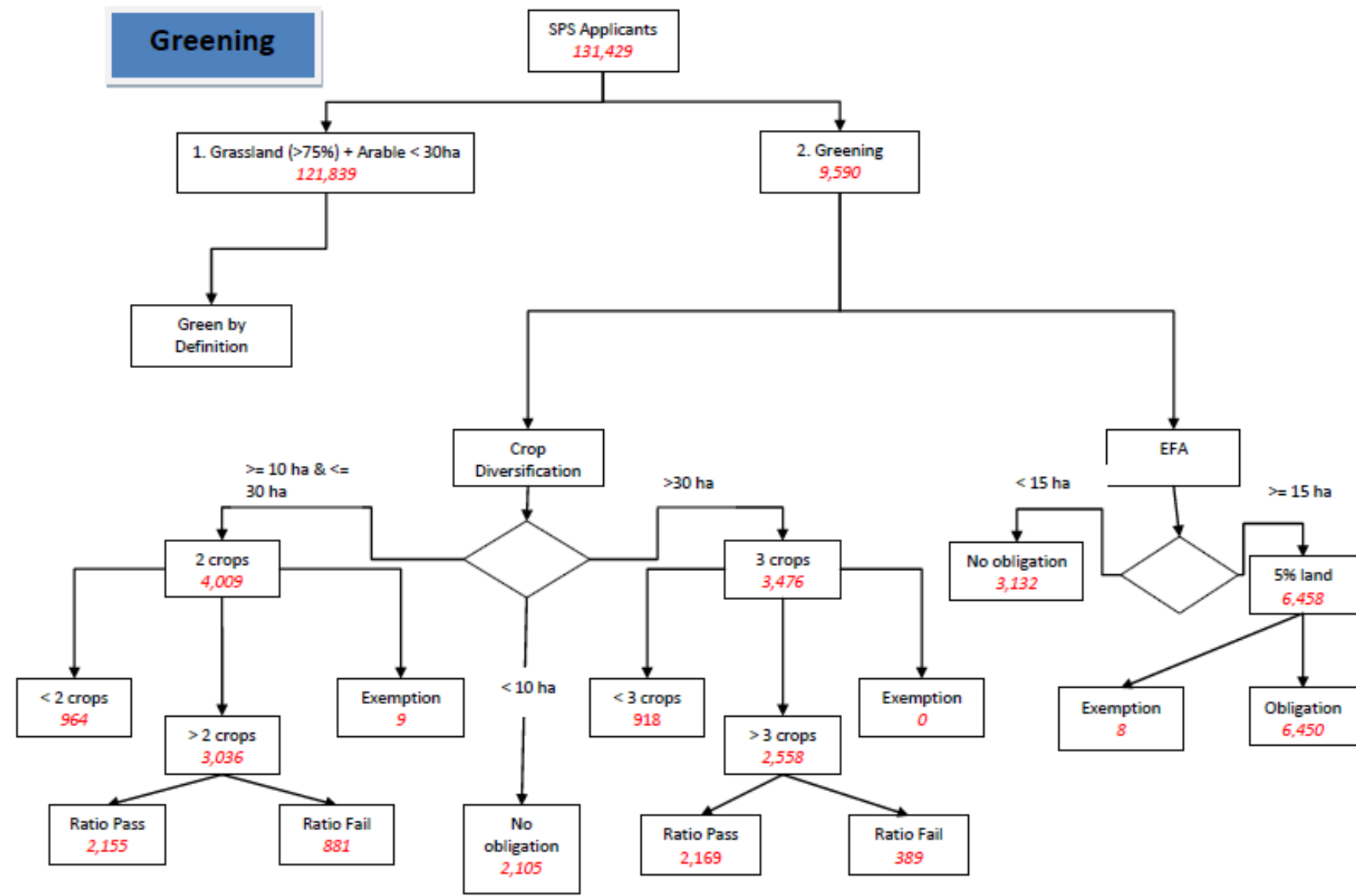
Herd: O113031X



Legend

- Hedge and Drain
- External Hedge
- Internal Hedge
- EPA Rivers and Streams
- LPIS Parcels





Coupled Protein Aid

- Will be paid on Peas, Field Beans and Lupins
- Total ceiling – €3 million
- Would pay €250 per hectare on 12,000 ha
- Treble area sown in 2014
- Protein crops eligible for aid could also contribute towards meeting EFA requirement
- Some crop meets Crop Diversification requirement



Thank You

