



Ecological Focus Areas

Potential Benefits of EFAs

For the Farmer



- Enhanced crop pest control (natural predators)
- Increased pollination
- Decreased soil erosion
- Prevention of soil nutrient leaching

For Biodiversity



- Increased species diversity
- Increased habitat and landscape diversity
- Maintenance of 'wildlife corridors'

Social & Tourism



- Public goods (Ecosystem Products and Services)
- Maintenance of historical features and heritage
- Clean, green image

Some Current and Potential EFAs



Fig 1: Hedgerows are currently eligible as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 2: Drains are currently eligible as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 3: Buffer strips are currently eligible as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 4: Fallow land is currently eligible as EFAs in Ireland



Fig 5: Field Margins are eligible as EFAs under EU prescriptions but are currently not eligible under Irish regulations

Robyn.Earl@teagasc.ie

Notes: _____



Natural enemies of aphids for IPM

Sitobion avenae- grain aphid spreads BYDV, feeds on grain heads and can become resistant to pesticides



Wildlife habitats such as field margins support a variety of predators of aphids

- **Hoverfly** larvae eat aphids as well as other soft bodied pests. Each can consume up to 1,200 aphids



- **Adult hoverflies** feed on pollen and nectar from flowers
- Larvae and adults hibernate

- **Lacewing** larvae eat aphids. Number consumed by each larva varies but can exceed 1,500



- **Lacewing adults** feed on pollen and lay eggs near aphid colonies
- Adults hibernate

- **Ladybird** larvae eat aphids



- **Adult ladybirds** eat aphids and lay their young near aphid colonies
- Adults Hibernate

- **Parasitoid wasp larvae** keep the aphid alive and feed on it until they are fully grown. They then exit the aphid's body, killing it



- **Adult Parasitoid wasps** attack and lay their eggs inside aphids and repeat the cycle

Robyn.Earl@teagasc.ie

Notes: _____

