

ENVIRONMENT

April 2022

Dates for your diary

Edited by
Catherine Keena,
Countryside Management
Specialist

Farmers in REAP

Claim for trees and hedges planted

Tell your advisor if you have planted trees or hedges under the Results-based Agri Environment Pilot (REAP). Complementary action claims can be submitted up to July 31 and need to include the geotag photo. While the action needs to be complete on the ground by March 31, photos can be submitted at the time the claim is made, once not later than July 31.

Additional REAP margins

Consider additional REAP margins to increase the 2022 REAP payment. New REAP grass margins can be added in year two, provided they are fenced off at the time of the field assessment in summer 2022.

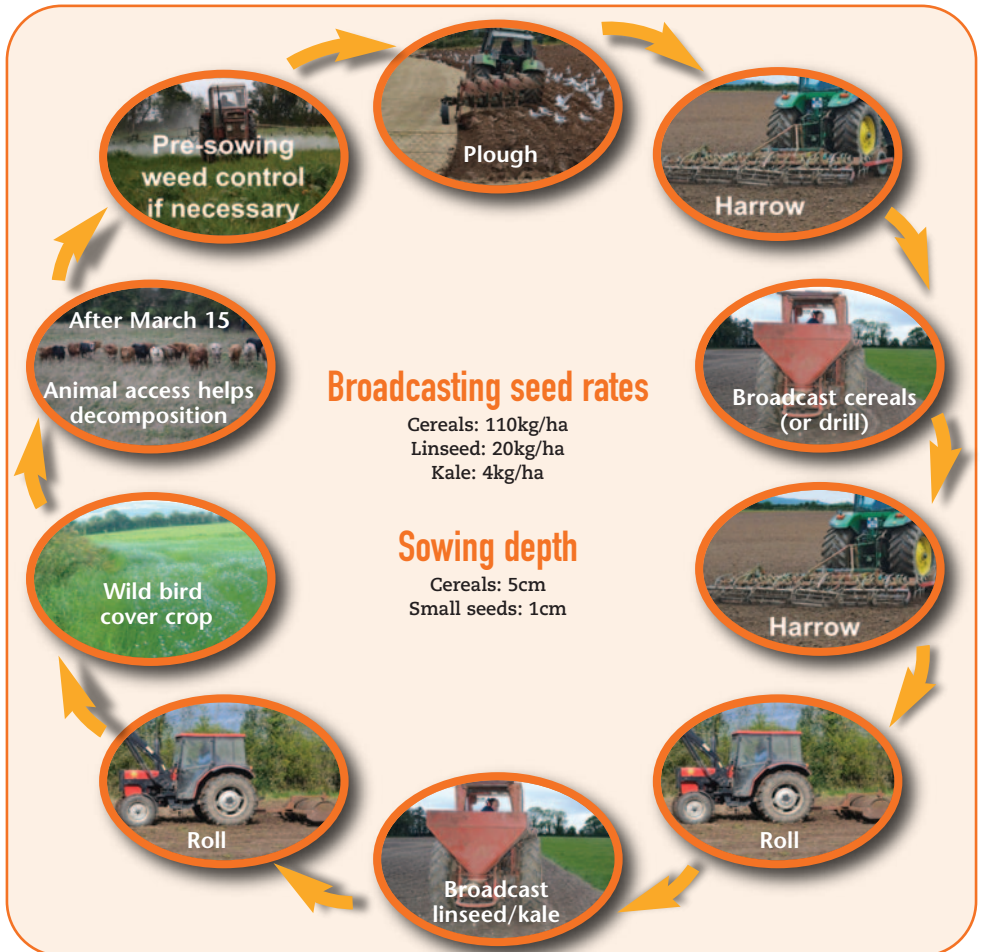
Farmers in GLAS:

- Green Low-carbon Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) fields for geese and swans can be grazed and machinery can be used with no restrictions from April 1, as the birds have returned to Iceland and Greenland for the summer;
- close GLAS Traditional Hay Meadow areas by April 15;
- no topping of GLAS Traditional Hay Meadow or GLAS Low-Input Permanent Pasture since March 15; and,
- since March 15, GLAS Wild Bird Cover (except areas of second-year kale) can be removed or animals can be given access, but must be resown by May 31.

Wild bird cover

Sowing and management:

- fine, firm seedbed essential;
- any cultivation method allowed, provided successful crop establishment;
- pre-sowing weed control may be necessary;
- plough, harrow and roll as necessary;
- drill or broadcast – lower seed rate if drilling; and,
- fertilise at half prescribed rate.



MESSAGE FROM ASSAP

Time to check silage storage

Clean slab thoroughly (power wash) to check. Complete repairs to Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) specifications. Store only the amount of silage that the slab or pit is capable of storing safely. Do not allow ensiled grass to extend onto or over effluent channels. Effluent must enter channels under the polythene cover. To prevent effluent flowing over pit walls, do not store silage too high – slope the grass back at 45° from the top of the walls. Check effluent tank during silage making. Spread on land at a dilution rate of one part silage effluent

to one part water or slurry. Do not spread if rain is forecast in the next 24 hours. Do not spread: within 5m of any watercourse (or within 10m where the field slope exceeds 10%); 20m from lakes or main rivers; and, 25-200m from a well or public water supply.

Wilt silage for 24 hours before ensiling to reduce silage effluent. In wet conditions, additional drainage pipes on the pit floor can help get effluent out, relieve pressure and reduce pit slippage. Baled silage is generally drier, but any effluent must be collected, as with pit silage.

MESSAGE FROM SIGNPOST

Get livestock out to grass when conditions allow



Ensure adequate fertiliser is applied for grazing



Complete a winter feed budget for next winter



Prioritise organic manures on grassland for silage



Spread fertiliser and close silage ground based on silage budget



Select paddocks for clover incorporation



New training scheme: AETS



Contact your local Teagasc office to sign up for AETS training.

The Agri-Environment Training Scheme (AETS) is a new voluntary environmental training scheme which aims to:

- train farmers in environmental practices and standards;
- encourage participation in future environmental schemes; and,
- promote awareness of farm safety.

What is it?

A one-day training course with an indoor and outdoor session.

Why you should do it:

- to prepare for the new agri-environment scheme: Agri-Environment Climate Measures (AECM);
- to be paid €156; and,
- to learn about results-based payments.

When is it?

From now until August 2022.

How do I sign up?

Contact your local Teagasc office.