



Pearl Mussel Programme

List of Supporting Actions

Introduction

Supporting actions are a series of prescribed **farm measures that can be delivered by participants with the aim of improving the environmental conditions of the farm**, which in turn should lead to a higher annual results-based payment through the Pearl Mussel Programme. **Supporting actions should aim to address issues that result in a low plot score or a low whole-farm assessment score.**

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 list of standard supporting actions is presented in Tables 1 - 5 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 five categories of supporting actions as follows;

- 1) livestock and grazing management (**Table 1**);
- 2) water protection and habitat enhancement (**Table 2**);
- 3) farm access (**Table 3**);
- 4) invasive species control (**Table 4**); and
- 5) woodland measures (**Table 5**).

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 suitable actions, participants and their advisors are encouraged to propose other site specific actions that would achieve the required environmental benefit. 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)
L1	Post and wire fence	Metre	Line	50%	€3.00	€1.50
L2	Electric fence	Metre	Line	50%	€1.50	€0.75
L3	Sheep fence	Metre	Line	50%	€5.34	€2.70
L4	A Frame fence	Metre	Line	50%	€8.40	€4.20
L5	Electric fencer (standard)	Item	Point	50%	€135.00	€67.50
L6	Electric fencer (high power)	Item	Point	50%	€203.80	€101.90
L7	Solar 12V fencer (standard)	Item	Point	50%	€270.00	€135.00
L8	Solar 12V fencer (high power)	Item	Point	50%	€491.98	€246.00
L9	Galvanized gate 4 ft	Item	Point	50%	€235.00	€117.50
L10	Galvanized gate 8 ft	Item	Point	50%	€262.50	€131.25
L11	Galvanized gate 12 ft	Item	Point	50%	€296.00	€148.00
L12	Livestock conversion	Animal	Point	Consult with PMP team		
L13	Cattle feed trough (single 8ft metal)	Item	Point	50%	€129.00	€64.50
L14	Cattle feed trough (double 8ft metal)	Item	Point	50%	€177.00	€88.50
L15	Sheep feed trough	Item	Point	50%	€78.50	€39.25
L16	Water trough (standard all inclusive)	Item	Point	50%	€193.75	€96.88
L17	Hydrodare piping (3/4 normal, 150m roll)	Item	Line	50%	€104.00	€52.00
L18	Hydraulic ram pump	Item	Point	50%	€500.00	€250.00
L19	Storage tank (plastic) 300 gal	Item	Point	50%	€270.00	€135.00
L20	Pasture (nose) pump	Item	Point	50%	€350.00	€175.00
L21	Solar pump	Item	Point	50%	€1,995.00	€997.50



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. 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)
W1	Peat / plastic dams	100 metres	Line	100%	€176.00	€176.00
W2	Bog restoration training	Farm	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team	
W3	Check (leaky) dams	100 metres	Line	100%	€176.00	€176.00
W4	Earth bund	100 metres	Line	100%	€175.00	€175.00
W5	Swale	Item	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team	
W6	Sediment trap	Trap / pond	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team	
W7	In-ditch wetland	Trap / pond	Point	100%	Consult with PMP team	
W8	Cross drain	Drain	Point	50%	€276.00	€138.00
W9	Livestock exclusion (1.5m)	Farm	Line	50%	€216.00	€108.00
W10	Buffer strip (3m)	Farm	Line	75%	€216.00	€162.00
W11	Buffer strip (>5m)	Farm	Line	100%	€216.00	€216.00
W12	Split slurry application	Hectare	Polygon	100%	€40.00	€40.00
W13	Mobile sheep dip (yr 1)	Animal	Point	50%	€1.75	€0.88
W14	Mobile sheep dip (yr 2)	Animal	Point	25%	€1.75	€0.44
W15	Sheep dip alternative (pour on) (yr 1)	Animal	Point	50%	€2.14	€1.07
W16	Sheep dip alternative (pour on) (yr 2)	Animal	Point	25%	€2.14	€0.54
W17	Sheep dip alternative (injectable) (yr 1)	Animal	Point	50%	€1.08	€0.54
W18	Sheep dip alternative (injectable) (yr 2)	Animal	Point	25%	€1.08	€0.27

Farm access improvement actions

Improvements to farm access may address sources of sediment 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 3: Farm access improvement actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit	Funded cost € (maximum)
F1	Farm track upgrade	Metre	Line	25%	Consult with PMP team	
F2	Farm track resurface	Metre	Line	25%	4.00	1.00
F3	Gateway resurface	Item	Point	50%	117.50	58.75
F4	Gateway relocation	Item	Point	50%	383.00	191.50
F5	Livestock footbridge	Item	Point	50%	Consult with PMP team	



Invasive species control actions

The presence of rhododendron and encroaching gorse 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 4: Invasive species control actions.

Code	Action name	Unit	Map feature	Rate of Support	Cost/unit €	Funded cost € (maximum)
IS1	Rhododendron / gorse (high cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€2,211.00	€1,658.25
IS2	Rhododendron / gorse (medium cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€1,106.00	€829.50
IS3	Rhododendron / gorse (low cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€536.00	€402.00
IS4	Rhododendron / gorse (sparse cover)	Hectare	Polygon	75%	€106.00	€79.50

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 5: Woodland establishment and enhancement actions.

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