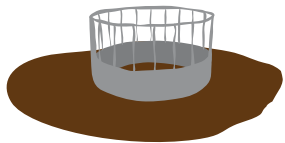


# Tips for habitat management



**Reduce artificial fertiliser use**

**Let your advisor know** if you are cutting or topping before scoring



**Avoid heavy poaching and bare soil** around feeders and in plots

**Reseeding or reclamation of plots** can reduce your score



**Inappropriate use of herbicides and pesticides** will result in less positive indicators recorded during scoring

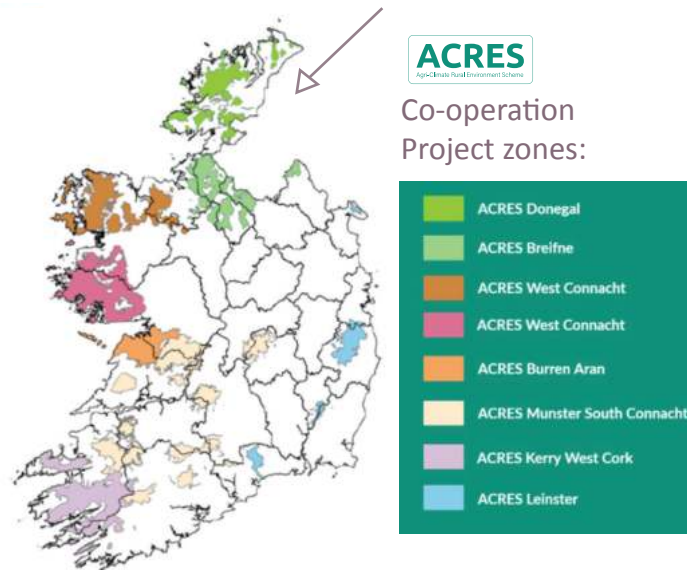
**ACRES**  
Agri-Climate Rural Environment Scheme

An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

**ACRES (Agri Climate Rural Environmental Scheme)** is the new Agri environment scheme.

There are two streams to ACRES:

- 1. ACRES General** is a mix of result-based and prescriptive actions. It is available nationally in all areas outside of the co-operation zones.
- 2. ACRES Co-operation Project** is available in 8 priority areas



We previously administrated the Freshwater Pearl Mussel EIP as a result-based programme and are aware of the challenges that face farmers in our catchment areas.



**ACRES WEST CONNACHT**

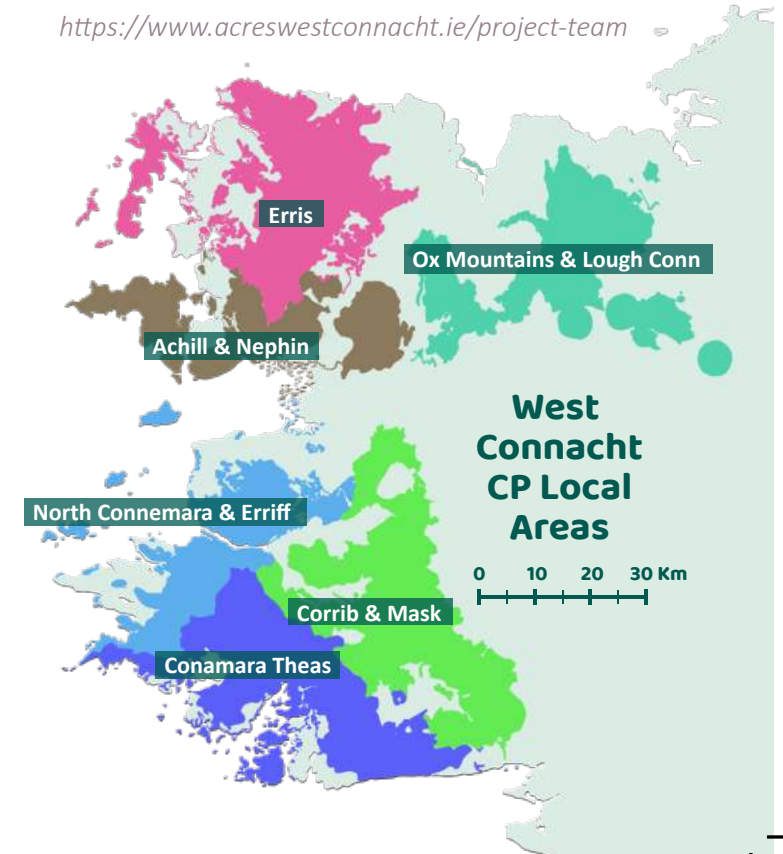
ACRES West Connacht includes two Co-operation Project (CP) zones:

- Northwest Connacht
- South Mayo / Connemara

The two zones have been broken down into 6 local areas (see map below) with project officers located in each area.

Our team has a wide range of expertise in agriculture and ecology and are available to provide specialist advice as required. You can find details of your local project officers on our website:

<https://www.acreswestconnacht.ie/project-team>



AcresWestConnacht.ie

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



@ACRESWESTCONN



ACRES WEST CONNACHT

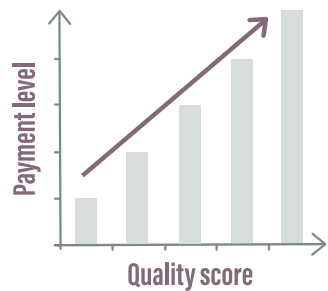
## Result-based Payment Schemes

Result-based payments link the nature quality of the habitats on your farm to your environmental payment.

Each field is scored out of 10 using a scorecard that captures the environmental quality of the habitat, which reflects past and current management.

### HIGHER NATURE QUALITY = HIGHER PAYMENT LEVEL

The payment scale increases in varying steps between a score of 4 (low quality) and 10 (high quality).



*N.B., Maximum results-based payment is €7,000.*

*Commonages scoring less than 4 receive a payment of €50/ha up to a maximum of 20 ha (see table across ->).*

## ACRES Co-operation areas...

- ... will provide sustainable benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems (e.g. rivers, peatlands, etc.), while supporting a local rural economy.
- ... are an opportunity for farmers to be recognised and rewarded for delivering environmental benefits.
- ... will deliver an additional opportunity for farmers to earn an income from their land.

### Results based payment rates (per ha)

| Grassland, Peatland, Scrubland               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |    |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Field Score                                  | 10  | 9   | 8   | 7   | 6   | 5   | 4   | <4 |
| Payment rate (€)                             | 400 | 350 | 300 | 250 | 205 | 175 | 150 | 0  |
| Reduced scale for farmers receiving OFS* (€) | 150 | 100 | 50  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0  |

*\*Organic Farm Scheme*

| Commonage (ACRES General & ACRES CP) |     |     |     |     |    |    |    |    |
|--------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Field Score                          | 10  | 9   | 8   | 7   | 6  | 5  | 4  | <4 |
| Payment rate (€)                     | 220 | 180 | 145 | 115 | 90 | 70 | 60 | 0  |

## Farmer Actions

Non Productive Investments (NPIs) and Landscape Actions (LAs) are a list of actions farmers can select from **to help improve the environmental quality of their land and improve their habitat quality.**

There is a budget of €1,500 per farmer per year for NPIs and €2,000 per farmer per year for LAs.

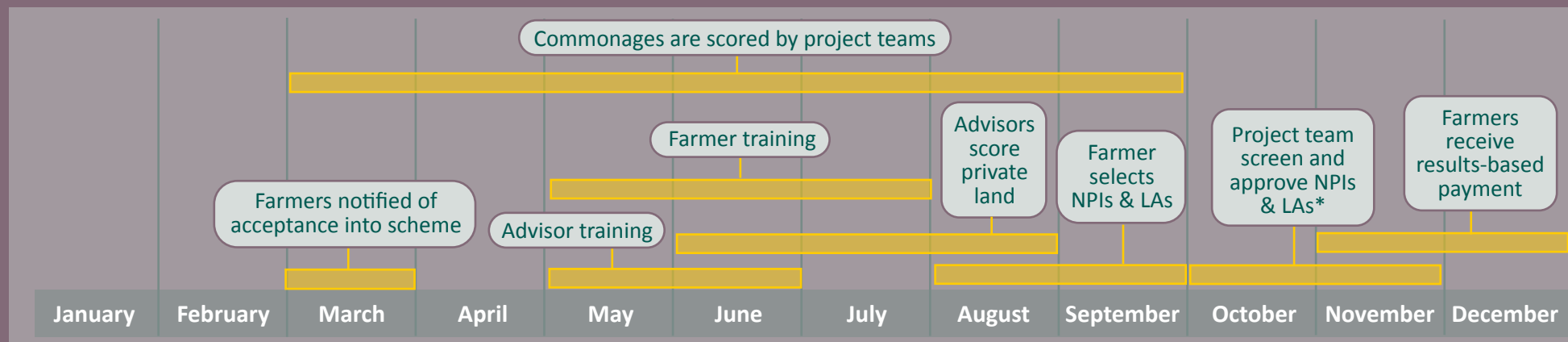
**Examples of NPIs** include fencing, drinkers, footbridges or invasive species control.



**Landscape actions** are larger actions that may require more time/expertise from the project team e.g. water quality issues or large scale invasive species control on commonages.

*Farmers can work with their advisor/project team to submit these actions each year.*

## TIMELINE OF ACRES CO-OPERATION AREAS



*\*After Year 1 actions can be selected on a continuous basis throughout the programme*