

INTERNAL DOCUMENT

Number: 28 Date: 06/07/2017

Technical Note

Greening Rules – EFAs, Buffers, Margins, Pulses, Cover /Catch Crops and Fallow

With possible changes to pesticide usage on EFAs due to come into force from January 2018, it is important to keep up to date with developments to enable close discussion with customers.

Some details are yet to be announced / clarified, and these areas will be marked below and updated as soon as available:

- + EFA is worth 30% of total BPS
- + EFA = 5% of 'Arable Land' (column C4 on BPS form) for areas > 30 ha
- + Hedges – Adjacent to arable land
 - + 1 m = 10 m² EFA, where arable / control both sides
- + Buffer strips – adjacent to a watercourse (and also in field)
 - + 1 m from top of bank
 - + Same as Cross Compliance requirement, meets both needs
 - + 1 linear m = 9 m² EFA requirement (1,112 m = 1 ha EFA)
- + Margins > 1 m
 - + These can be sited next to Buffer strips above
 - + BUT must be 'distinguishable'
 - + Mow either 1 m nearest hedge, or margin up to the 1 m buffer (start early to avoid disturbing ground nesting birds)
 - + 1 m² = 1 m² EFA
 - + Could also help compliance with spray buffer zones
 - + Less land out of production
- + Nitrogen Fixing Crops
 - + Only legumes in the mix
 - + 1 m² = 0.7 m² EFA (1.43 ha = 1 ha EFA)
 - + POSSIBLE (and very likely) CHANGE: No pesticides on EFA after 1/1/18
 - + Could use herbicide before January, but no spring fungicides etc. *
 - + NO LONGER A VIABLE FINANCIAL OPTION?
- + Catch / Cover Crops – Establish in the year of BPS Claim, e.g. May 2018 claim will show Autumn 2018 options
 - + Catch crops 31st August – 1st October **
 - + Cover crops 1st October – 15th January
 - + Both must have sown mix of 2 cover types (1 cereal, 1 non cereal):
 - Cereal – rye, barley, oats
 - Non Cereal – vetch, phacelia, mustard, lucerne, oilseed radish
 - + 3.33 ha = 1 ha EFA
 - + Pesticides may be OK outside EFA period, but could be crop must be grown without? *

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+ Fallow

- + 1st January – 30th June
- + NO PESTICIDES DURING THIS TIME
- + Mowing / topping OK
- + Blackgrass seeding?
- + 1 m² EFA = 1 m² Fallow
- + No pesticides on wild bird cover.

* detailed rules may not be available until Autumn 2017

** likely to be extended to 8 weeks minimum and therefore 31st October in 2018

Contact for Further Information

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