

AEOS 2011 Questions and Answers

Q	Question	Answer
1	Clause 5.5 in the terms & conditions refers to Farm Partnerships as ranked second in priority. Does this refer to all Milk Partnerships irrespective of the classification of the partners?	Yes, for selection purposes only.
2	If two 'Milk Producers' in a Milk Production Partnership farming with a joint herd number wish to apply for AEOS should they complete one joint application form or separate applications?	The application must be completed in the name of the partnership. Only one application per herd number can be made. In this type of partnership the maximum for each action can be doubled. Please refer to Clause 22 in the Terms & Conditions
3	A small percentage of Milk Production Partnerships operated with more than one herd number. Where there are two herd numbers it would be normal to submit two SPS applications. Should they submit two AEOS applications?	AEOS applications must be made in the same name as the Single Payment Scheme application
4	If a Milk Production Partnership is composed of two partners namely: 'Milk Producers and 'New Entrant' only, will this partnership be eligible for the maximum payment of €4,000 per calendar year? Will it rank second in priority?	Yes Yes
5	Is the Riparian Margin action allowed on Natura Land?	You would have to have a letter from NPWS giving clearance to fence, submit this with the application, and redigitise as required.
6	Can the aftermath of the Traditional Hay Meadows be grazed as would be traditional? It will not be possible to graze some of these wet meadows before 1 st April?	Yes, it can. Following traditional grazing practices. No, these parcels may not be grazed from 1 st April until after the hay is cut each year
7	Should the words Species Rich Grassland in the fourth point on page 35 of the Specification read Traditional Hay Meadow?	Yes.
8	Do AEOS Species Rich Grassland parcels have to be soil sampled?	All land declared on 2011 SPS excluding commonage must have sample

		results for next March.
9	Does rented land have to be soil sampled?	All land declared on 2011 SPS excluding commonage must have sample results for next March.
10	Do other individual land parcels not in receipt of organic or chemical fertiliser have to be soil sampled?	All land declared on 2011 SPS excluding commonage must have sample results for next March.
11	Do Natura (River SAC's) on Form W get Priority?	Anyone who has Natura land eligible for payment and fills in form N gets priority
12	If a farmer wants to put a full LPIS parcel of 11ha into Species Rich Grassland, can he do this even though the maximum allowable is 10ha	Where a farmer has a LPIS parcel of 11 ha and wants to put it in Species Rich Grassland he can, (no digitising required) even though he/she will only be paid for 10 ha. The whole field must comply with the requirements.
13	Can Green Cover Establishment be rotated	Green Cover cannot be rotated.
14	Can farmers who are participating in the organic farming scheme apply for payment for Species Rich Grassland, Traditional Hay Meadow, Arable Margins, New Grassland Habitats, Riparian Margins	Farmers who are participating in the organic farming scheme cannot apply for payment for Species Rich Grassland, Traditional Hay Meadow, Arable Margins, Establishment & Maintenance of Habitats, Riparian Margins.
15	Are Riparian Zones eligible for DAS and SPS	Yes
16	Do grassland habitats have to go around the full boundary of the LPIS parcel?	No, as long as it's a complete boundary on one side of the parcel it's acceptable. The farmer can do one, two, three or four sides of the field.
17	Will amendments be allowed where clerical errors have been made?	No.

18	Will amendments be permitted to change the location of linear based options within a LPIS parcel?	Yes, but provided that the changes are notified to the Department prior to approval into the Scheme
19	Will applications be accepted by local Department offices?	The Scheme is administered centrally and applications should be submitted directly to the AEOS Section, DAFF, Johnstown Castle, Wexford. However, applications will be accepted in local offices which are accepting SPS applications. These applications should be in a separate envelope to the SPS application
20	Applicants that get notification of acceptance into the scheme "subject to" SPS cross check. Should / can these participants commence work at this stage once they receive this notification.	No. The participant should not commence any of their actions until they receive notification in writing that they have been accepted in to the Scheme. Any actions carried out or material purchase before the commencement date notified to you will not be paid for
21	What is the likely commencement date for 2011 applicants?	When all administrative checks have been completed on all applications.
22	Labour Costs include costs of Machinery Used (T&C 7.4). Is this including own machinery, hired machinery and contracted machinery?	Yes. Recognition will be given in payment for non-productive capital investments for a participant's own labour of up to 50% of the allowable cost. Labour cost includes cost of machinery use.
23	Tax Clearance Cert – is a current tax clearance certificate at the time the work is completed (date of invoice) sufficient or must it be valid at the time of application for payment?	When the work is completed. Payment of financial aid as provided for in this Scheme may be subject to the condition that a tax clearance certificate from the Revenue Commissioners be furnished before a payment can be issued
24	Can SPS amendments to reflect AEOS parcels be made up until August 30 th as per 2010?	No. Area claims must either be on full LPIS parcels or on plots which you must apply to have digitised in your 2011 Single Payment Scheme application
25	Do river designated SAC's qualify for priority access where the applicant has selected Form W (Water Quality)?	No
26	Where an applicant has a share of commonage owned, say 1/3 rd , and another 1/3 rd rented. What way is this to be handled on SPS? A parcel may only be entered once on the SPS online system.	You will have to get advice from SPS on this, make a clear declaration in sustainable management plan that only 1/3 is being claimed for payment.
27	Where an applicant has enough commonage lands (53 Ha) to qualify for the max payment of €4k but has other lowland natura lands. Must a management plan be completed on this lowland?	Yes
28	If an area based option is selected on a LPIS parcel with a claimed area (UAA) of	Yes

	more than the maximum eligible for payment, can the action be completed on the complete parcel but only receive payment on the maximum area permitted?	
29	Are linear based options permitted on field divisions within a LPIS parcel?	Riparian Margins, Arable Margins and new Grassland Habitats (Establishment & Maintenance of Habitats) must be delivered on a LPIS boundary or boundaries basis i.e. they are not permitted on field divisions within a LPIS Parcel. Hedgerow Planting, Coppicing, Laying and Traditional Stone Wall Maintenance may be delivered on LPIS parcel boundary or on internal plot/field divisions within a LPIS parcel.
30	Can bovines be allowed access to any watercourse on the farm? Does this include rented lands? Does this include UAA lands?	If a farmer has chosen the Water Trough Installation action, no access is allowed for bovines Yes Yes
31	Can an applicant plant more than 25 standard trees / whips but only get paid on a max of 25?	Yes, you can plant more than 25 trees. A minimum of 10 trees must be planted and the maximum number of trees that can be claimed for payment over the contract period is 25.
32	Can the action Grassland Habitat be selected along one side of a LPIS boundary or around the complete boundary of the LPIS Parcel?	Yes, but it must be clearly identified.
33	Are new Grassland Habitats and Riparian Margins eligible for SPS payments once maintained in GAEC?	Yes
34	Can the action Green Cover Establishment be rotated around different LPIS Parcels contrary to the specification?	No, they cannot be rotated.
35	Can Green Cover be grazed	No, Green Cover may not be grazed.
36	If an applicant is selecting to get paid on Species Rich Grassland on Natura sites, is Form N required?	Yes, the applicant must get a planner to complete Form N for them
37	Does the applicant get priority access?	Yes, the applicant will be prioritised and given automatic entry to the Scheme if the number of applicants in this category do not exceed the total funding available
38	Are soil samples required on Species Rich Grassland even where organic wastes are permitted on the area?	Yes, soil samples are necessary

39	Is the action Stone Wall Maintenance permitted on field divisions within a LPIS parcel?	Yes, if it is the only linear option chosen.
40	Can an applicant implement the action Wild Bird Cover on a complete LPIS parcel of more than 3 Ha but only get paid on the 3 Ha max?	Yes. The maximum payable on this action is for 3ha but the applicant may implement this action on more than 3ha if they wish.
41	For 2011 applicants who have already established a crop in 2011, what is the SPS procedure for 2011? The Bird cover does not need to be established until June 1 st after acceptance into the scheme.	Ensure parcel has a separate LPIS number in 2011 and establish next Spring if approved.
42	Are Riparian Zones eligible for DAS and SPS	Yes
43	What if no framework plan exists for a commonage	Where no framework plan exists for a commonage the planner should assess the site and prescribe suitable management practices
44	Who can sign Form N?	Agriculturalists and Environmentalists can sign form N. It must be signed by both unless the same person has both qualifications
45	Do applicants farming Rented Natura land need to submit a sustainable management plan? Do they get priority access?	No No
46	Do applicants farming non – UAA Natura need to submit a sustainable management plan? Do they get priority access?	No No
47	Can an Organic Farmer claim the €75.00 on Natura, but not the €314 for Species Rich Grassland/Traditional Hay Meadow?	Yes
48	If a Farmer withdraws after 3 years, the full Capital element of work undertaken will be paid (the 5 year payment)?	Yes
49	Can Trees, Hedgerow Planting, Hedgerow Coppicing, Stone Wall Maintenance, Water Troughs and Slurry actions be located on the one parcel?	Yes
50	For 2011 AEOS applicants when parcels are digitised out on the 2011 SPS, the current parcel use as on the 16 th May should be entered – e.g. a parcel for Wild Bird Cover would go as Grass on the 2011 SPS	Yes
51	With regard to the SPS application, is it ok if plots with the correct area are digitised separately and identified as Grass instead of Traditional Hay Meadows or Species Rich Grassland. Some advisers have already completed SPS applications and didn't realise these categories were on the on line system as they were not there last year. Do these SPS applications need to be amended? I assume as long as the correct area is digitised it is ok?	Yes No, these should be amended to the correct code.

52	Regarding 'eligible are claimed for Natura' – do we put in full area of Natura designated land if we are claiming it later for Species Rich Grassland or leave it at zero?	Put in LPIS area on Form N under LPIS area column. In the eligible area claimed column for Natura payment column enter the area for which you are applying for Natura payment. The remainder of the area can be entered as SRG on the AEOS actions form. The same LPIS will be used for both.
53	Natura declared on 2010 SPS in another family member's name: is it eligible for AEOS as Priority with a Sustainable Management Plan on Form N? e.g. Son inheriting / leasing from father	Yes, where a family member defined in the Terms & Conditions takes over the farm provided herd number is in the sons name on 16 th May 2011. There can be no artificial creation of conditions to draw down payments
54	Does the confirmation in the 2011 Terms & Conditions regarding the acceptance to a transfer of AEOS to a family member refer to 2010 also	Yes
55	If part of a parcel is Natura and all farmed as Species Rich Grassland, is there any need to digitise? E.g. 20ha field farmed as Species Rich Grassland, 5ha of which is Natura and claiming 10 ha Species Rich under AEOS	No need to digitise. The whole parcel should be declared as Species Rich Grassland for AEOS and payment will max out at 10ha. The whole parcel must be kept in Species Rich Grassland for the duration of AEOS contract
56	Is unenclosed upland Species Rich Grassland next to Commonage exempt from the fencing requirements as fencing may not be allowed in these areas?	Commonage land is not eligible for Species Rich Grassland. Species Rich Grassland must have its own LPIS area. This plot must have definitive boundaries to identify it on the ground
57	Is a lake a watercourse? Is a watercourse showing on any Ordinance Survey Map eligible	No Yes
58	Is land with Heather only eligible as Species Rich Grassland?	No. The farmer must identify at least 5 'positive' indicator species as listed in the Scheme Specification. They must be reasonably prominent throughout the plot, and it must not have more than 20% altogether of the 'negative' indicator species in the list.
59	2010 applicants who have been unsuccessful but have not yet been notified of appeals process outcome in time - can they reapply for new scheme? Can unsuccessful 2010 applications who have not appealed apply for new scheme?	They can all apply for the new scheme
60	Is Proposed / Candidate Natura similar to Natura in AEOS applications?	Yes
61	What are Eligible Farming Activities?	Please refer to 3.10 of the Terms & Conditions for the definition of 'Farming'. A farmer needs stock where grazing of bovines are mentioned. These will be checked through CMMS records
62	Can Lime be applied on Traditional Hay Meadow	Yes
63	Can Lime be applied on Species Rich Grassland	No
64	Can Orchards, Trees & Hedgerows be planted up to June if plants potted or come from a cold store?	No. (Orchards are not included in AEOS 2011)
65	Maintenance of Riparian Margins?	The fenced off margin must be maintained and managed. The farmer must also provide suitable entry points for maintenance. The area must be kept in

		good GAEC.
66	New fencing under AEOS must comply to S148. What about existing fencing previously put down for REPS?	Fences in place for REPS 3 such as along watercourses or for riparian margins can stay in place as long as they are stockproof and in good condition. There will be no payment for these fences and if the fence is not sound there will be a penalty on inspection. Any new fence being put in place must comply with DAFF spec.
67	Which actions are possible on Natura Land with NPWS written approval?	If NPWS give written approval to specific farming practices on Natura land it will qualify for the Natura payment. The only AEOS actions on Natura land which qualify for payment are Species Rich Grassland, Traditional Hay Meadow and Riparian Margin