

What are the Biodiversity measures that will have to be completed?

To achieve increased biodiversity at farm level, enhancement of the eleven basic Measures is desirable. By providing farmers with a choice from a series of optional undertakings, each farmer is given the opportunity to select the works most appropriate to the environmental or landscape features of the farm in question.

Every applicant must undertake 2 options, with at least 1 coming from Category 1.

Options do not apply on SMA land.

Each option number is linked to the relevant measure. E.g. 4A is option A from Measure 4.

#### Category 1 Options

- 4A Creation of a New Habitat
- 5A Hedgerow Rejuvenation
- 5B New hedgerow establishment
- 5C Additional Stonewall maintenance
- 9A Green Cover Establishment
- 9B Environmental Management of Set-aside

#### Category 2 Options

- 2A Traditional Hay Meadows
- 2B Species Rich Grassland
- 3A Increased Watercourse Margin
- 3B Exclude all Bovine Access to Water courses
- 4B Broadleaved Tree Planting
- 4C Nature Corridors
- 7A Increase in Archaeological Buffer Zones
- 7B Management of Publicly Accessible Archaeological Sites
- 8A Provide Landscaping around the Farmyard.

If I acquire additional land can I get paid on it in REPS 3?

You should notify the local AES office within 6 weeks of acquiring the additional land. A new full agricultural plan including the additional land must be submitted to the local AES office in the 6-week period preceding your anniversary date in order for the land to qualify for payment.

### Supplementary Measures in REPS 3

I want to transform, can I avail of a Supplementary Measure?

If you wish to avail of a Supplementary measure, you will have to have a full agri-environmental plan prepared including the Supplementary Measure.



#### Corncrake Habitats

Maintain/manage lands identified as suitable breeding sites for the corncrake.

- Traditional Irish Orchards

Create and maintain an orchard with specific apple varieties traditional to Ireland.

- Conservation of Rare Breeds

Rare animals of specific breeds traditional to Ireland, that are in danger of being lost to farming.

- Riparian Zones

Exclude from agricultural production a strip of land along a designated waterway.

#### LINNET Habitats

Maintain small scale cereal plots with the objective of providing a food source and a mosaic of habitats, in order to benefit bird species in decline.

#### Organic Farming

To encourage farmers to respond to market demand for organically produced food.



## Guidelines for existing REPS 2 participants that wish to transform to REPS 3



# REPS 3

*REPS is the Rural Environment Protection Scheme and is designed to reward farmers for carrying out their farming activities in an environmentally friendly manner.*



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Further information regarding REPS may be obtained from your local AES Office or by contacting REPS Section, Department of Agriculture & Food, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford.

## How much extra will I receive if I sign the REPS 3 DEC and opt for a new contract?

This depends on the size of your current REPS contracted area and the designation of your contracted land. The table below is a guideline to the payments available depending on the contracted area and the land designation.

Land Designation	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha	Ha
Non Target Land	15	25	45	75	15	20	20	10	45	60	60
Target Land	0	0	0	0	20	43	60	15	40	60	20
Contracted Area	15	25	45	75	35	63	80	25	85	120	80
Current Payment	€2,475	€3,775	€6,040	€6,040	€7,105	€9,752	€10,160	€5,140	€9,680	€10,160	€7,860
Payment with new 5 year contract	€3,000	€4,875	€7,850	€8,750	€7,465	€10,672	€10,360	€5,505	€11,030	€10,760	€9,640

### How long do I have to submit my REPS 3 DEC and REPS 3 2X?

The document must be submitted in the three-month period following the end of your recording year. The date for submission will be printed on the bottom of the REPS 3 DEC.

### Can I submit a full REPS 3 plan now?

Yes, within 3 months of end of your recording year.

### I have leased land included in my existing REPS 2 contract, can I transform to REPS 3?

If you have leased land, the un-expired period of the lease will have to cover the full period of the new 5-year contract if you want to receive REPS payments on the leased land.

### Will I have to get new Soil Samples?

New soil samples will be required when the full REPS 3 plan is being submitted.



## REPS 3 PAYMENT RATES

### Non Target Land

- €200/ha for first 20 ha
- €175/ha for next 20 ha up to 40 ha
- €70/ha for next 15 ha up to 55 ha
- €10/ha for areas over 55 ha

Payment rates for farmers with Target Land (Commonage land or Non Commonage Measure A land) are:

- €242/ha for first 40 ha
- €24/ha for next 40 ha up to 80 ha
- €18/ha for next 40 ha up to 120 ha
- €5/ha for areas over 120 ha

In calculating payments for farmers with Target land Non-Target land, payment on the Target land is calculated first and then payment is calculated on the remaining Non-Target land.

### What do I have to do to transform to REPS 3?

On the anniversary date of the commencement of your REPS 2 plan, the Department will issue your REPS 1C 2000 and a REPS 3 DEC. You will have two options at this stage:

#### Option 1

Is to remain in REPS 2 for the remainder of your REPS 2 contract.

You must submit your REPS 1C 2000 and you will remain in REPS 2 at the REPS 2 payment rates.

#### Option 2

Is to opt for a new 5-year contract under REPS 3.

You must submit the REPS 3 DEC together with a REPS 3 2X detailing the additional biodiversity options that you will undertake (at least two). If you avail of this option you will be awarded a new 5-year contract at the new payment rates. The new 5-year contract will be effective from your anniversary date and you will have to submit a full REPS 3 agri-environmental plan together with new soil samples by the date specified on the REPS 3 DEC.

### What is a REPS 3 DEC?

A REPS 3 DEC is an application for a new 5-year contract under the terms and conditions of REPS 3.

### What is a REPS 3 2X?

A REPS 3 2X is a document detailing the additional biodiversity measures that you will undertake to avail of REPS 3. It will include the requirements and schedule of works for the options you have chosen.

### Do I have to consult my REPS Planner?

Yes. The REPS 3 DEC has to be signed by your REPS planner and the REPS 3 2X must be completed by your REPS planner.

