

AGRICULTURAL CARBON REDUCTION AND EFFICIENCY SCHEME (ACRES)

Farmers who have a signed All-Wales Element Glastir Contract will be eligible to apply for ACRES (Agricultural Carbon Reduction and Efficiency Scheme).

This is a capital grant aimed at improving resource and business efficiency, and reducing the carbon equivalent emissions of agricultural and horticultural holdings. Subject to EU approval, grant will be available for the purchase of new technology and equipment to enable the efficient use of energy, water and manure/slurry.

The following four elements will be considered eligible:-

- Heat generation – such as heat-recovery systems; biomass boilers; ground/air source heat pumps; solar hot water panels.
- Energy efficiency - capital items which achieve at least a 20% efficiency saving – including variable speed drives, plate heat exchangers, ventilation/temperature controls, energy efficient lighting systems.
- Water efficiency – including rainwater harvesting equipment and water recycling systems e.g. fixed pumps, UV filtration systems, pipe work and storage tanks.
- Manure/slurry efficiency – includes capital items aimed at expanding storage capacity on-farm to enable better timing of applications to meet crop growth requirements, leading to savings in inorganic fertiliser. Also includes clean water separation, floating covers and slurry/manure storage. Applications for new or extended slurry storage would need to meet a 5 month storage capacity requirement on-farm.

A fuller list is at Annex 1 below.

The primary benefit of the grant assisted investment must be for the farm business – domestic or diversification proposals cannot be supported by ACRES.

Support will be paid at a rate of up to 40% against eligible expenditure (50% for young farmers) and applications for grant investment should be for a minimum of £2,000 (i.e. minimum of a £5,000 capital investment) up to a maximum grant of £50,000 per All-Wales Glastir contract.

Farmers wishing to apply for ACRES will be asked to complete an Expression of Interest (EOI) in ACRES **as part of the Glastir application form**.

Owing to the potential demand for ACRES, a selection process will be operated to identify those farm businesses which could offer the most impact as a result of grant aid. Selection will be based on information provided on the EOI.

Once selected farmers have a **signed** All-Wales Element Glastir contract,

they will be invited to apply for ACRES and will be provided with an ACRES application pack which will set out further details of the scheme. Assistance in compiling an ACRES application will be available through Farming Connect which can provide up to 80% support towards the cost of advice/mentoring for businesses eligible for the service.

Further details on ACRES and how to apply will be available in future editions of Gwlad and in the Glastir application packs which are due out in September 2010.

ELIGIBLE TECHNOLOGIES

Annex 1

Subject to EU approval, the following list of technologies will be considered eligible for grant:-

Scheme Theme	Eligible technology
Slurry/manure Efficiency	Rainwater separation –rainwater goods and protection, pipe work and associated yard reinstatement, roofing over livestock gathering areas, diversion kerbing Slurry separators and associated equipment Roofs/ covers and floating covers over slurry stores Roofs over manure stores Slurry, manure and dirty water stores – new, extensions and modifications, with associated reception pit, slurry channels and fixed equipment Low trajectory slurry spreading equipment (e.g. trailing shoe spreaders and shallow injectors) Soil aerators Bio-reducers (for fallen stock) – subject to acceptance by European Food Safety Authority
Heat Generation	Biomass boilers Ground and air source heat pumps Passive solar thermal panels Associated connections/equipment
Energy Efficiency - some items will be restricted to replacement only	Plate heat exchanger in dairy parlours Heat recovery/heat exchange unit High efficiency direct expansion tank for dairy units Energy efficient lighting systems Scroll compressors Thermostats/controls Variable Speed drive (VSD) VSD vacuum pump Air circulation/ventilation fans Thermal screens Temperature sensors

	<p>Humidity controls for grain drying and dehumidifiers</p> <p>Mixed flow driers</p> <p>Cross flow driers with recirculation</p> <p>Enclosed piglet creeps</p> <p>Flexible insulated store dividers</p> <p>Hydraulic ram pump</p> <p>Wind pumps – mechanical only</p>
Water Efficiency	<p>Recycling – guttering, pipe work, storage tanks, water troughs</p> <p>Rainwater collection - pipes, filters, storage tanks, 1st flush diverters, pumps, UV filters, associated controls and electrics</p>