Case studies

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This guidance is effective from 1 January, 2022

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Here are some examples of different types of farm businesses in Scotland and how the Greening requirements affect them. This might help you when considering your Greening requirements.

Case study one – arable farm

Jack Smith is an arable farmer with 100 hectares of cropped land (arable) and 50 hectares of permanent grassland. He needs to consider each of the greening elements:

- permanent grassland – there are 50 hectares of permanent grassland on the unit but none are designated as Environmentally Sensitive Grassland. Jack must still complete an annual nitrogen fertiliser and lime plan for the permanent grassland to meet his Greening requirement

He chooses to meet this requirement with the following crops:

- 32 ha winter wheat
- 28 ha spring barley
- 21 ha winter oilseed rape
- 4.80 ha field beans + 0.2 ha TGRS (associated EFA margins)
- 2.88 ha peas + 0.12 ha TGRS (associated EFA margins)
- 6 ha seed potatoes
- 5 ha fallow – (EFA fallow)

Using the table provided for EFA (Annex A (PDF, Size: 276.5 kB)), he also confirmed that to meet the EFA requirement at least five hectares (100 ha of arable land x 5% = 5 ha) must be managed as EFA. Jack's farm meets its EFA requirement by having five hectares of fallow land.

However if he decided not to choose the EFA fallow prescription, he could meet his EFA obligation with one of the following solutions:
Total = 100 ha arable land = 100%

Option A

3.4 ha of margins (3.4 ha x 1.5 = 5.1 ha EFA)

Please note: if Jack includes any of his permanent grassland area as EFA i.e. a margin, this will mean

that the area of EFA on his permanent grassland will now be classed as arable land. He must claim it as permanent cover on his Single Application Form and it will be added to his total arable area calculation, effectively increasing his EFA requirement.

Option B

7.68 hectares of nitrogen fixing crops (field beans 4.8 ha x 1.0 = 4.80 ha and associated EFA margin

1 metre wide = 0.2 ha x 1.5 = 0.3 ha) and (peas 2.88 ha x 1.0 = 2.88 ha and associated EFA margin 1 metre wide = 0.12 ha x 1.5 = 0.18 ha). Total EFA for this option is: 8.16 ha EFA.

For this option, Jack can decide not to claim all of his nitrogen fixing crops as EFA, just the 5.1 ha required to meet his greening requirements.

Option C

17 hectares of catch crops (17 ha x 0.3 = 5.1 ha EFA)

This is not an exhaustive list of options available to Jack, just an example of how he may choose to meet his EFA requirement.

Case study two – dairy farm

Neil Groves is a dairy farmer with 100 hectares of which 20 hectares is arable crop and 80 hectares is temporary grass. Neil needs to consider each of the three greening elements:

- permanent grassland – there is no permanent grassland on the unit, Neil's farm is exempt from the permanent grassland requirement
- EFA – Neil used the table provided on EFA Annex A (PDF, Size: 276.5 kB) and confirmed that as 75 per cent of the holding is temporary grass, he is exempt from any EFA requirements

Case study three – mixed upland farm

Hilary Chiles is a mixed upland farmer with 120 hectares of which 85 hectares is arable land (including 40 hectares of temporary grass) and 35 hectares of permanent grassland including two designated sites of Environmentally Sensitive Grassland.

Hilary needs to consider each of the three greening elements:

- permanent grassland – there are 35 hectares of permanent grassland on the unit with two areas designated as Environmentally Sensitive Grassland. Hilary must complete an annual nitrogen fertiliser and lime plan for all the permanent grassland to meet her Greening requirement. Hilary must ensure that the designated grassland is not converted (ploughed or cultivated) or improved. She is familiar with the land as it is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) which has been notified and regularly reviewed by Scottish Natural Heritage

She chooses to meet this requirement with the following crops:

- 15 ha spring barley, under sown with grass
- 20 ha winter barley
- 40 ha of temporary grass
- 10 ha of turnips

Hilary checked our table on EFA (Annex A (PDF, Size: 276.5 kB)) and confirmed that to meet the EFA requirement at least 4.25 hectares (85 hectares of arable land x 5 per cent = 4.25 hectares) must be managed as EFA.

Hilary's farm could meet its EFA requirement by having at least:

- 4.25 ha of fallow land (4.25 ha x 1 = 4.25 ha EFA)
  or
- 2.84 ha of margins (2.84 ha x 1.5 = 4.26 ha EFA)
  or
- 14.17 ha of catch crops (14.17 ha x 0.3 = 4.25 ha EFA)
  or
- a combination of these to meet the required EFA commitment

Case study four – hill farm

David Logan is a hill farmer with 198 hectares of which four hectares is forage rape, 24 hectares temporary grass and 170 hectares permanent pasture. David needs to consider each of the three greening elements:

- permanent grassland – there are 170 hectares of permanent grassland on the unit but none are designated as Environmentally Sensitive Grassland. David completes an annual nitrogen fertiliser and lime plan for all the permanent grassland to meet his Greening requirement. His farm is now “green” as far as permanent grassland requirements are concerned
- EFA – David used our table on EFA Annex A (PDF, Size: 276.5 kB) and does not have an EFA requirement as:

- his arable land is more than 15 hectares and less than or equal to 30 hectares

- more than 75 per cent of his arable land is temporary grass (TGRS, fallow, herbaceous forage or leguminous crops)

- more than 75 per cent of his business is grassland (PGRS and TGRS) and herbaceous forage

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