Corn Buntings Mown Grassland

This is an old version of the page

Date published: 5 January, 2016

Date superseded: 20 January, 2017

To see recent changes to this guidance, check the bottom of this page.

Aim

The aim of this option is to benefit corn buntings by supporting the extensive management of hay and silage fields.

Providing areas of undisturbed cover within grassland fields suitable for corn buntings will allow them to nest and raise broods.

Leaving an uncut area around the edge of the field will provide additional cover for the birds once forage making is underway.

Eligibility

Grassland that is not rough grazing is eligible.

You should not include areas of land covering rocks, scree, water, dense bracken etc. We will check this using the same approach we use to check land for the Basic Payment Scheme.

Assessing your land eligibility

Spatial targeting

Map of target area – Corn Buntings Mown Grassland (PDF, Size: 729.9 kB) doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/Updated-targeting-map---Corn-buntings-mown-grassland-16-12-2015.pdf This option is available within the target area shown on this map.

You can check if this option is available on your holding here.

Application requirements

You must identify on a map the locations of the fields to be managed.

Management requirements

This option can be moved around the farm within the normal rotation and on an annual basis.

To maximise flexibility you can manage a different total hectarage each year as long the area you manage each year is at least 90 per cent of the area you plan to manage in the first year under this option.

- do not roll, harrow or graze the area from 1 May until 1 August inclusive
- do not apply lime, fertiliser, slurry or farmyard manure from 1 May until 1 August inclusive
- the field must be mown, but not before 1 August
- the hay or silage must be cut in a wildlife-friendly manner
- a strip of grass at least two metres wide around the field boundaries must be left uncut
- this uncut strip must be grazed down before the next exclusion period
- do not spray, except for the spot-treatment of injurious weeds (requires prior written notification) or treatment of invasive species (requires prior written approval)
- you must maintain a diary

Payment

You can claim £237.09 per hectare per year.

You will only be paid for the area that you manage and declare annually.

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- you have not rolled, harrowed or grazed the area from 1 May until 1 August inclusive
- you have not applied lime, fertiliser, slurry or farmyard manure from 1 May to 1 August inclusive
- the field has been mown, but not before 1 August
- the hay or silage has been cut in a wildlife-friendly manner
- a strip of grass at least two metres wide around the field boundaries has been left uncut
- this uncut strip has been grazed down before the next exclusion period
- you have not sprayed, unless with prior written notification or approval as appropriate
- you have maintained a diary

Additional guidance

Supporting guidance is available for this option.

Recent changes

Section	Change	Previous text	New text
Spatial targeting	Updated target area map.	-	-

Previous versions

Previous versions of this page

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