

Forage Brassica Crops for Farmland Birds

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Aim

The aim of this option is to benefit farmland birds.

Forage brassica crops grown under low-input management will support arable plants and provide grubs and insects for farmland birds.

During the winter, the crop will also provide valuable cover for farmland birds.

Eligibility

Land 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 – Forage Brassica Crops for Farmland Birds \(PDF, Size: 1.5 MB\)](#)

doc_external_url: https://www.ruralpayments.org/media/resources/2_Forage_brassica_crops.pdf This option is available within the target area shown on this map.

Application requirements

You must identify on a map the locations of any areas to be managed under this option each year.

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 hectareage 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.

- each year, establish a forage brassica crop
- the blocks or strips must be at least six metres wide
- do not harvest, graze, plough or cultivate the area before 1 March following the year of establishment
- do not spray, except for the spot-treatment of injurious weeds (requires prior written notification) or treatment of invasive species (requires prior written approval)

Payment

You can claim £463.36 per hectare per year subject to the following maximum claims:

- five hectares per year per location code unit of up to 250 hectares
- 10 hectares per year per location code unit of greater than 250 hectares
- you will only be paid for the area that you manage and declare annually

Inspections

The inspectors will check:

- the area claimed is not on rough grazing
- the size of the area claimed for each plot
- that plots are at least six metres wide
- the correct forage brassica crop has been sown (an invoice check may be required) for chosen management and has not been harvested, grazed, sprayed (unless with prior written notification or approval as appropriate) or ploughed down before 1 March the following year

Additional guidance

[Supporting guidance is available for this option.](#)