

ENRD workshop

2nd meeting of the Thematic Group on Sustainable Management of Water and Soils

Brussels, Dec 15th 2017 (via video conference)

Results Based Payments Schemes

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www.burrenprogramme.com



The Burren

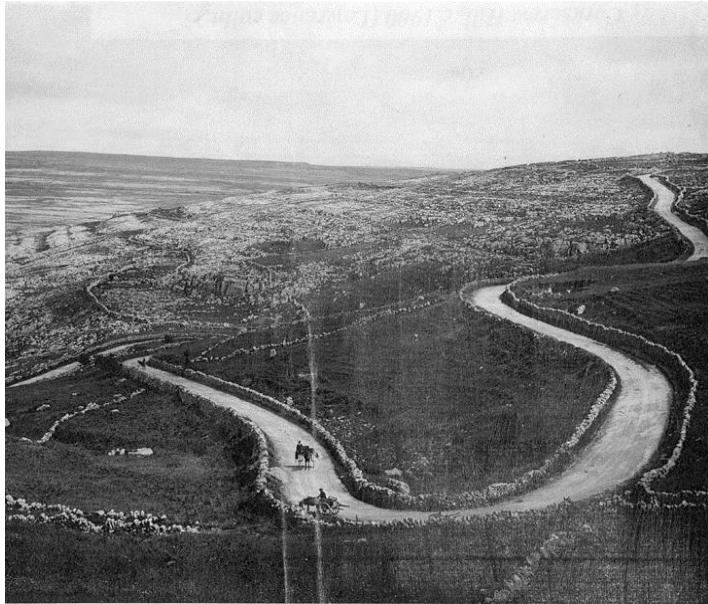


30,000ha N2000



Threats

Changes in farming (the main driver)




Underutilization




Overutilization



Environmental challenges arising from polarisation of farming activity

Solutions

Burren LIFE (2004-2010)



A locally-led, farmer-centered, action-and-research-based, conservation project



Highly successful project BUT: The underlying management challenges - the poor social & economic reality of HNV farming – were not fully addressed through an action-led scheme



Move to more labour-efficient 'lowland' systems

**Reduction in
'upland' farming
and associated
biodiversity loss**

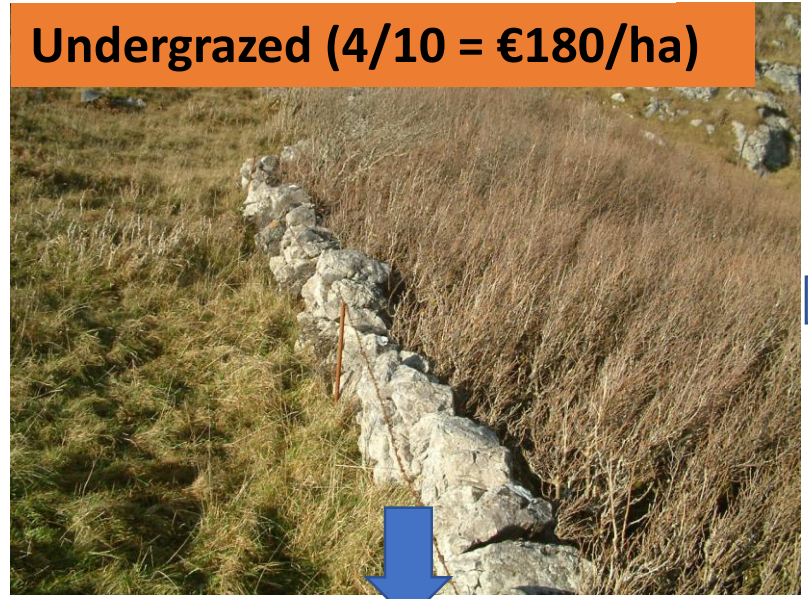


Response: Paying farmers for their environmental performance



(2010-present): A Hybrid Approach

Undergrazed (4/10 = €180/ha)



Well managed (10/10 = €180/ha)



Developing a Scoring System

II Score Sheet for Winterage-type Pastures *Burren Programme*

Farm: _____ Field: _____ Surveyor: _____

Current Grazing Practice (circle as appropriate) Feeding Management (circle as appropriate)

Winter Only	Winter & Light Summer	Year Round	Other	Silage/hay: _____ Concentrator: _____ Not fed or Some fed loose, scattered Fed as: Round bales (ring feeder or not) _____ or F or In/on Trailer _____ or F
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SCORING (circle appropriate value)

A1. What is the grazing level? **Comments**

Negligible	Below optimum	Optimum	Above optimum	V. High	
-35	-25 -5 0 9	15	8 -6	-36	

A2. What is the litter level? (% cover)

Low <10%	10-25%	>25-50%	>50-75%	High >75	
20	14	8	2	0	

A3. Is there damage around feed sites and/or water troughs?

Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High	
15	11	7	2	-7	

A4. Is there damage around natural water sources? (Note if no natural water present)

Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High	
15	11	7	2	-7	

A5. Is there bare soil and erosion?

Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High	
5	1	-3	-10	-17	

B1. What is the level of immature, removable scrub? (% cover) Use N° in brackets if seen

≤2%	3 - 5%	6 - 10%	11 - 25%	>26%	
15 (13)	9 (7)	3 (1)	-7 (-9)	-18	

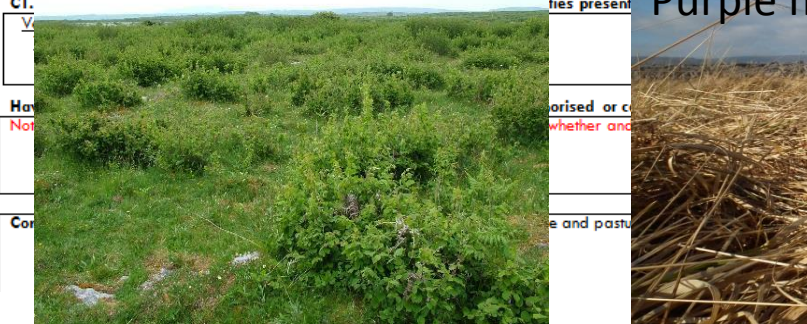
B2. What is the impact of / threat from, Bracken?

Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High	
5	1	-3	-10	-17	

B3. What is the impact of / threat from, Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia*)?

Low	Low-Med	Medium	Med-High	High	
5	1	-3	-10	-17	

B4. Immature scrub



June 2016

Scoring Burren Winterages
General Instructions & Guidelines

These instructions and guidelines are subject to regular review and revision.

Burren Programme

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Grazing level



Natural water sources



Bare soil & erosion



Purple moor-grass



Weeds

Annual Environmental Performance Report for the Farmer

Burren Programme I-1 Payment Sheet

2016



Payment for Results (I-1)

Maximum payment (if all fields score 10/10): €5,647.40

Field no.	Field name	Pasture type (e.g strength)	Grazing		Management recommendations	Digitised area (ha)	Assessable I-1 area (ha) (A)	Payment rate (€/ha) (see table below) (B)	BFCP 2015 score (0-10)	BP Year 1 score (0-10) = Baseline	Payment (€) (A x B)
			Winter	Late summer							
Meadows											
7	7th Field	Meadow-like*	Yes	Yes	Delay grazing until late summer (late July onwards) then graze out well while taking care to avoid poaching. Do not apply any fertilizer. Control weeds.	0.50 ha	0.34 ha	€0	3	3	€0.00
9	Pump Field	Meadow-like*	Yes	Yes	Delay grazing until late summer (July onwards) if possible, then graze out as well as ground conditions allow (avoid excessive poaching). Control scrub, especially along fringes of rocky outcrops. Control weeds and improve water supply to prevent damage at water points.	3.00 ha	2.10 ha	€168	7	7	€352.80
Winterage											
5	5th Field	Middling	Yes	Yes	Grazing system has improved, increasing field score. Graze well in late summer (August onwards) and early winter. Continue work to control encroaching scrub, as well as the high level of bracken and weeds found across the site.	3.40 ha	0.49 ha	€72	4	6	€35.28
6	6th Field	Strong	Yes	Yes	Reduce level of summer grazing - graze in late summer (August onwards) and early winter. Avoid poaching. Control weeds.	1.40 ha	1.07 ha	€72	5	6	€77.04
1	1st Field	Middling	Yes	Optional	Reasonably well grazed over winter, occasional light summer graze (August onwards) will help top-off stronger sections. Also, improve water facilities - this will help improve grazing and reduce pressure on water point. Treat regrowth from previous scrub work - failure to fully address regrowth has reduced score.	13.95 ha	11.16 ha	€84	8	7	€937.44
2	2nd Field	Middling	Yes	Optional	Graze out well in winter. A light, late summer graze (August onwards) will help top-off stronger growth. Requires better water facilities for livestock, continued scrub removal (and regrowth) work, weed control and wall repair.	10.65 ha	8.30 ha	€96	8	8	€796.80
4	4th Field	Middling	Yes	Yes	Increase grazing in winter and also graze the valley area in late summer (late July onwards). Control encroaching scrub (mainly low blackthorn), bracken and weeds (by entrance gate).	5.25 ha	4.85 ha	€96	8	8	€465.60
3	3rd Field	Middling	Yes	Optional	Graze out well in winter. A light, late summer graze (August onwards) will help top-off stronger growth. Fix water trough overflow, control encroaching scrub and also control patches of weeds and bracken.	7.20 ha	6.79 ha	€135	9	9	€916.65
Total:						45.35 ha	35.10 ha		Baseline average (by area):		7.68

Total I-1 Payment Due: €3,581.61



Declaration: We, the undersigned, agree with the information contained above, in particular to the I-1 scores applied to each field and the total I-1 payment due this year.

Signed by Farmer(s): _____

Signed by Advisor: _____

I-1 Score	Winterage Payment Rates				Meadow-like*	
	1-40ha	40-80ha	80-120ha	>120ha	1-10ha	10-40ha
<5	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0	€0
6	€ 60	€ 30	€ 15	€ 8	€ 120	€ 60
6	€ 72	€ 36	€ 18	€ 9	€ 144	€ 72
7	€ 84	€ 42	€ 21	€ 11	€ 168	€ 84
8	€ 96	€ 48	€ 24	€ 12	€ 192	€ 96
9	€ 135	€ 68	€ 34	€ 17	€ 240	€ 120
10	€ 180	€ 90	€ 45	€ 23	€ 315	€ 158

Fields scoring 5 are paid on in Years 1 + 2 only.

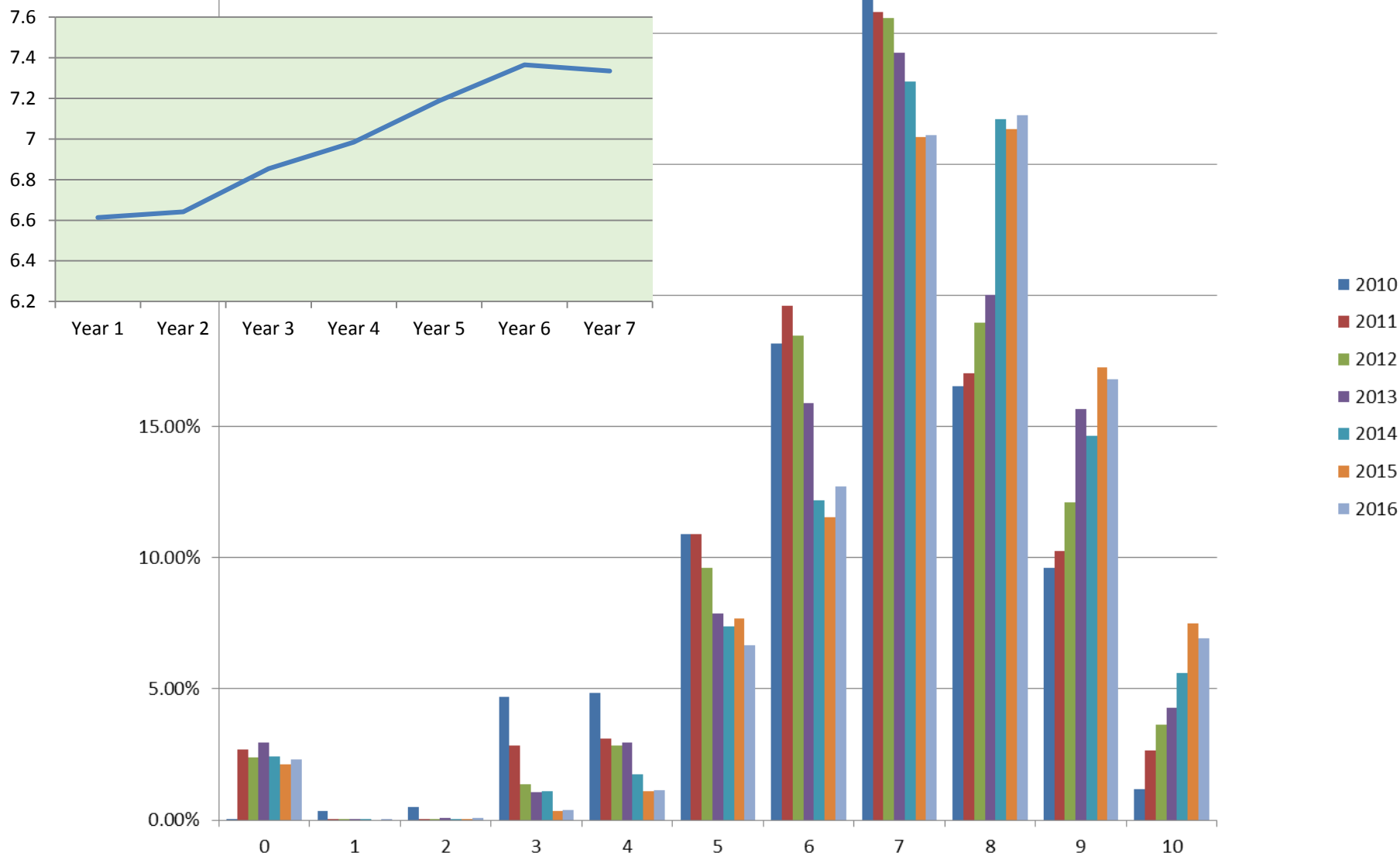
Increased payment rates available for field scoring 9s and 10s

★ High quality grassland, earns an extra 25%

★ Exceptional quality grassland, earns an extra 50%

Measuring Impact: An In-built Monitoring System

Average I-1 Score 2010-2016



Gradual annual shift towards higher scores

Conclusions

- Results Based Payment Schemes – in pure or hybrid form – can be more effective *in some circumstances* (such as the Burren) than purely action-based approaches.
- For the farmer, RBPS can be much more empowering and positive as they appeal to some of farmer's key values – 'freedom to farm' , 'pride of place', rewarding hard work and ingenuity.
- For the taxpayer, RBPS can provide better value for money and higher impact, as less money is spent (wasted!) on situations where there are poor outputs.
- For the Managing Authority, RBPS can, in many cases, provide meaningful impact data.
- Admin costs for RBPS may not necessarily be high: while some front loading may be needed, once scaled, costs can be reasonable and benefits high (Burren Prog has a c.15% overhead).
- More flexibility in RDP Articles (or a new Article) is needed to accommodate RBPS and more account should be taken of the environmental, and not just the financial, impact of all AES
- RBPS would benefit from longer timeframes, more flexibility in costing payments, and greater adaptability over time and place.
- RBPS alone are not a panacea for Agri-Env't challenges: for instance in the Burren Programme, other principles have played an equally important role: e.g adopting a farmer-centred design process ('co-creation'), taking a locally-targeted approach, allowing space for creativity and adaptability. These key principles should be carefully considered in future AES design.