

Agri-environment Scheme Management Plan

1.2 Good Farming Practice

All participants in agri-environment schemes must follow Good Farming Practice. GFP consists of three elements – legislation, verifiable standards and Codes:

1. **Legislation** – you must comply with all relevant environmental protection legislation.
2. **Verifiable standards** – you must adhere to the following verifiable standards:
 - (1) **Overgrazing** is not permitted.
 - (2) **Supplementary feeding** on semi-natural habitats, archaeological features or within 10 metres of a watercourse is prohibited.
 - (3) **Removal of field boundaries** is not permitted, except by prior written permission from DARD.
 - (4) **Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI):** Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) must be notified and give prior written consent before proceeding with any intended operations that are likely to damage ASSIs.
 - (5) **Pollution:** suspected pollution on the farm, or unauthorised waste disposal on land will be reported to the EHS for investigation.
 - (6) **Sheep dip disposal** requires written authorisation from EHS (Groundwater Regulations (NI) 1998).
 - (7) **Hedgerow management** (eg. cutting, restoration) must not be carried out between 1 March and 31 August.
 - (8) **Damage to Habitats, Archaeological Features and Earth Science Sites is prohibited.** In-filling, reclamation or extraction of peat, sand or gravel is not permitted. Compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (Uncultivated land and Semi-Natural Areas) Regulations (NI) 2001.
3. **Codes** – you must retain a copy of the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Soil and Air.

Management plans are provided for participants in the **Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes**

