An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

2022 National Reserve (Young Farmer/New Entrant) and Young Farmers Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. I completed the application online, how do I know it has been submitted?

A. Once you have submitted your application via iNet a record of the application will show under 'Correspondence' and applicants/agents are advised to access same to confirm that the application has been successfully submitted. This record is the only accepted proof of submission of an application via iNet under the 2022 National Reserve and/or Young Farmers Scheme. Only fully completed and submitted applications will be considered.

Q. I am not registered on agfood.ie, is it possible to submit a paper version of the application form?

A. There is no facility to submit hardcopy National Reserve or Young Farmers Scheme applications. All applications must be submitted online via agfood.ie. For those not currently registered, instructions can be found on www.agfood.ie or you can contact: agfood Online Services Helpdesk at 049 4368288 or email agfood@agriculture.gov.ie

Q. Does the closing date set out in the Terms and Conditions refer to the application only?

A. All supporting documentation should be submitted before the stated closing date.

Q. I have applied for my herdnumber/to transfer an existing herdnumber, but my application has not yet been approved. As such I am unable to register on agfood.ie, what options are available to me?

A. In the event that a herd number has not been assigned at the date of application under the National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme, a facility is available via iNet for submission of such applications by registered Agricultural Agents.

Q. Can I submit hardcopies of the supporting documentation?

A. There is no facility for submitting hardcopies of supporting documentation. All such supporting documentation should be uploaded on agfood.ie under the relevant sections.

Q. How will the Department correspond with me?

A. All correspondence from the Department relevant to an application will be online via iNet. The applicant will be notified by text message to advise that correspondence from the Department is available on iNet. The registered agent for the applicant will also receive an email to advise that correspondence is available.

Q. I was allocated entitlements and/or a top-up to the value of existing entitlements under a previous Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve; does this disqualify me from the 2022 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve?

A. A successful application to the Single Payments Scheme National Reserve (2005-2012) does not make an applicant ineligible for consideration under the 2022 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve. However, if you had a successful 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 or 2021 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve application you are ineligible for consideration for the 2022 Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve Scheme.

Q. Do I need to be the holder of a herd number or be registered on a joint herd number in order to apply for the National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme?

A. Applicants are required to be a holder of a registered herd number in order to qualify for the National Reserve and Young Farmers Scheme. Applications for a herd number, or to be included on an existing herd number, must have been received by the local DVO by 16th May 2022.

Applicants should note the addition or removal of a name to/from an existing herd number, a change of legal entity, formation/dissolution of a registered farm partnership or any other amendment to the registration details of a herd number under which entitlements were held in 2021 requires a parallel change to the registration details of the entitlements. In such cases a transfer of entitlements application must be submitted by the 16th May 2022, or the entitlements will not be available to the transferee for use in 2022 and the 2022 Basic Payment shall issue to the transferor.

Q. I am eligible New Entrant farming in a group (Partnership/Joint Herdnumber/Company) with farmers who do not qualify as New Entrants. Is the group eligible under the National Reserve?

A. No. In accordance with EU Regulation only groups made up entirely of New Entrants to farming will be eligible under the New Entrant category of the National Reserve.

Q. I was successful for the Young Farmers Scheme in 2021 and I am eligible for the payment in 2022. Do I need to submit a 2022 application?

A. If no changes have been made to the herd number since 2021 you can apply for the Young Farmers Scheme by using the "tick box" on the Basic Payment Scheme application or through www.agfood.ie

Q. I was successful for the Young Farmers Scheme in 2021 and I am eligible to apply for 2022. However, a change has been made to the Herdnumber since 2021. Can I use the "tick box" option on the 2022 Basic Payment Scheme Application to apply?

A. As a change has been made to the Herdnumber since 2021 eligible applicants should use the online application facility on www.agfood.ie to submit a new 2022 Young Farmers Scheme application.

Q. I was successful under the Young Farmers Scheme in 2021 and I am eligible to apply again in 2022 but I do not have the "tick box" option on the 2022 Basic Payment Scheme Application. How do I apply?

A. In such cases eligible applications should use the online application facility on www.Agfood.ie to submit a 2022 Young Farmers Scheme application.

Q. How do I know if my Educational Qualifications meet the required standard?

A. A list of acceptable educational qualifications can be found at Appendix A of the Terms and Conditions of the National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme. Where an applicant holds or has completed a qualification that is not included at Appendix A, a letter of equivalence from Teagasc confirming the educational qualification held by the applicant fulfils the requirements of the scheme must be submitted by the applicant.

Q. I will not have completed agricultural education course leading to a recognised/accepted agricultural qualification by 16th May 2022. Am I eligible?

A. Applicants must have successfully completed an agricultural education course at FETAC Level 6 or equivalent by 16th May 2022 and must submit a copy of this qualification (or Teagasc letter of equivalence) in support of their application. If an applicant has fully completed the education course by 16th May 2022 but has not yet been verified as successful or received final certification, they must complete and submit Version A of the Confirmation of Education Form which is available for downloading on the online application facility.

Q. I am a first-time applicant in 2022 and my agricultural education course was scheduled to be fully completed by 16th May 2022. However, the completion deadline has been extended by the College due to measures put in place in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Can I still apply for the 2022 National Reserve and/or the Young Farmers Scheme?

A. As a first-time applicant in 2022, if your agricultural education course was due to be fully completed by 16th May 2022 but the deadline was extended by the College due to measures put in place in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, you may still apply for the schemes. Applicants should complete and submit Version B of the Confirmation of Education Form which is available for downloading on the online application facility. The application under the scheme(s) will be finalised once your education course is confirmed as successfully completed and your certificate is submitted to the Department.

Q. My educational qualification is made up of more than one certificate. Do I need to submit all certificates or is the most recent one sufficient?

A. In some cases, meeting the educational qualifications require a combination of two or more certificates (for example a non-agricultural award and FETAC Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Animal and Crop Production and FETAC Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Business) in those cases all three certificates are required in support of the application. Failure to submit all the certificates may result in the application being unsuccessful.

Q. My Educational Qualification Certificate is not from a college in the Republic of Ireland, is this acceptable?

A. A letter of equivalence will be required and s/he should apply to the Educational Officer in Teagasc for same.

Q. If I receive an allocation from the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve in 2021 and acquire additional land in 2022 can I apply for another allocation of entitlements on this additional land?

A. No, an applicant may only receive an allocation from the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) National Reserve once. A successful application in 2021 excludes the applicant from consideration in any subsequent year.

Q. I do not currently hold a herd number. How do I apply for one?

A. In order to apply for a herd number you must complete an ER 1 form. Completed forms should be submitted to your Regional Veterinary Office along with any necessary supporting documentation.

These forms can be accessed at: https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f90f21-application-for-a-flockherd-number/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/

It will also be necessary to record details of a bank account to which payments will be made with the Department. The form (link below to Authorisation to Add/Change Bank Account Details for Farmer) below should be completed and returned to Direct Credit Section, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham St, Cavan. Any queries in relation to the registration of bank details should be directed to the Direct Credit Section at 049 4368283.
DIR-CR-AGR-GDPR Bank & Credit Union form for Agricultural Scheme Payments

Q. I want to amend my herd number to add an eligible Young Farmer. What do I need to do?

A. In order to amend the registration details of a herd number you must complete an ER 1.1 form. Completed forms should be submitted to your Regional Veterinary Office along with any necessary supporting documentation. These forms can be accessed on the Departments website at: https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f90f21-application-for-a-flockherd-number/?referrer=http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/animalwelfare/registrationofpremisesanimals/ along with an information note on the completion of these forms.

If there are entitlements associated with the herd number it will be necessary to complete a 2022 Transfer Form transferring entitlements from the original herd number to the amended herd number that includes the Young Farmer.
It will also be necessary to amend the details of the bank account to which payments will be made with the Department as the Young Farmers name must be included on the name of the bank account. The form (link above to Authorisation to Add/Change Bank Account Details for Farmer) should be completed and returned to Direct Credit Section, Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Farnham St, Cavan. Any queries in relation to the registration of bank details should be directed to the Direct Credit Section at 049 4368283.
If you have previously benefitted from the Young Farmers Scheme, have amended your herd number and wish to continue in the Young Farmers Scheme, you should use the online application facility on www.agfood.ie to submit a 2022 Young Farmers Scheme application.

Q. Does the Young Farmer have to be recorded as the herd keeper on a joint herd number/Company/Partnership?

A. No the Young Farmer does not need to be recorded as the herd keeper but must be a registered owner of the herd number.

Q. An eligible Young Farmer is registered as the herd keeper on my herd number – but s/he is not on the herd number. Will this meet the eligibility conditions of the Young Farmers Scheme?

A. No the Young Farmer must be registered on the herd number.

Q. I qualified for the Young Farmers Scheme payment on 30 activated entitlements in 2021. I will be activating an additional (following a lease agreement) 20 entitlements in 2022. Will I qualify for the Young Farmers Scheme payment on only the 30 I held in 2021 or also on the additional entitlements for 2022

A. Successful applicants will qualify for the Young Farmers Scheme payment on all entitlements activated by them in the given scheme year. So, in this case the Young Farmer will qualify on the 50 activated entitlements.

Q. I was successful under the Young Farmers Scheme in 2021 and have acquired additional Naked Land in 2022 for which I do not hold entitlements. Will I get the Young Farmers Scheme payment in 2022 on this naked land in 2022?

A. The Young Farmers Scheme payment is not paid per eligible hectare declared. Instead, it is paid per activated entitlements held in the scheme year. Successful applicants will only be paid the Young Farmers Scheme payment on the activated entitlement they hold in the scheme year, even where they hold more hectares than entitlements.

Q. What will entitlements allocated from the National Reserve be valued at?

A. The value of entitlements allocated from the National Reserve, and the value to which existing entitlements are increased, shall be fixed at the national average value of payment entitlements in the year of allocation. In 2021 the National Average value was approximately €181.

Q. The land that I intend to declare in 2022 is not owned by me. Do I have to show I have a minimum term lease agreement for the land and will I have to provide a copy of the lease?

A. Successful applicants may receive entitlements on owned, leased or rented land. It is not necessary for applicants to demonstrate a minimum term lease but documentary evidence relating to land farmed may be requested at a later date.

Q: I do not hold any entitlements, am I eligible for the Young Farmer's Scheme?

A: The Young Farmers Scheme is paid on activated entitlements. Therefore, if you do not hold entitlements, your application for the Young Farmer's Scheme will be unsuccessful.

Q. Can entitlements be transferred out from land to create naked land for the purposes of applying to the National Reserve?

A. The removal of entitlements from land for the purpose of creating naked land upon which a National Reserve allocation can be made is not permitted. This action is regarded a circumventing the EU Regulations governing the operation of the scheme by artificially creating the conditions required for obtaining an allocation form the National Reserve.