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Cross-Compliance and Good Farming Practice is one of a series of Agri-Environment workshops provided by CAFRE. Others include:

Dealing with Farm Wastes
Field Boundary Management

If you are interested in attending additional workshops please call Greenmount Campus, CAFRE on 028 9442 6879 to book your place.

September 2007

Cross-Compliance & Good Farming Practice



Agri-Environment Training Programme



Page	
4	Introduction
5	Cross-Compliance
15	Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC)
20	Good Farming Practice with regard to the environment
22	Further advice and information
23	Other useful contacts

Introduction

The 1st of January 2005 marked a significant change for farmers receiving direct agricultural support payments. As part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Reform Agreement, farming practices must be carried out to protect the environment, animal health and welfare and public health in return for receipt of these support payments.

This is known as Cross-Compliance.



Cross-Compliance

Cross-Compliance involves complying with 19 European Regulations known as Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) covering the environment, food safety, animal and plant health and animal welfare. It also involves maintaining land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition. Cross-Compliance was introduced in stages from 2005 to 2007.



Gradual introduction of the Cross-Compliance Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs)

1 January '05	Environmental Protection	(5 SMRs)
	Animal Identification and Registration	(3 SMRs)
1 January '06	Sheep & Goat Identification and Registration	(1 SMR)
	Public, Animal and Plant Health	(4 SMRs)
	Notification of Diseases	(3 SMRs)
1 January '07	Animal Welfare	(3 SMRs)

Outline of the SMRs introduced in 2005

Environmental Protection

- 1 **The Conservation of Wild Birds SMR states that you:**
- Must not kill, injure, capture or keep any wild bird without a licence in authorised circumstances;
 - Must not destroy, damage, remove or keep their nests or eggs or disturb birds while nesting unless you have a licence to do so;
 - Must adhere to the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) Management Agreement for Natura 2000 or other protected sites.

2 The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna SMR states that you:

- Must not pick, cut, collect, destroy or dig up protected plants;
- Must not disturb, kill or injure protected animals, destroy or obstruct their breeding places or places of shelter, e.g. bats and otters;
- Must not introduce invasive non-native species into the wild, e.g. American mink and giant hogweed;
- Must adhere to the EHS Management Agreement for Natura 2000 and other protected sites.

3 The Protection of Groundwater against Pollution SMR advises that:

- Pesticides and spent sheep dip are classified as dangerous substances;
- Authorisation for disposal to land is required;
- Sheep dip baths must be sited, maintained and operated properly;
- Records of disposal must be maintained.

4 The Protection of the Environment, when Sewage Sludge used in Agriculture SMR states that:

The use of sewage sludge should be monitored and controlled to preserve crop yields and minimise health risks. Factors to consider include:

- Suitability of soil; (must have pH>5)
- Applied to crop requirement;
- Restrictions on land use, and crops;
- Methods of application, injection or incorporation;
- Record keeping.

5 The Protection of Water against Nitrate Pollution SMR states that:

- Farmers must comply with the Nitrates Directive Action Programme Measures and records must be maintained as required in the Nitrates Directive Action Programme;
- There will be a workshop on the Nitrates Directive. If you wish to attend please call Agri-environment Training at CAFRE Greenmount Campus Tel: 028 9442 6879.

Nitrate Directive Key Points

- **Slurry Storage Requirements**
22 weeks for Cattle and Sheep farms
26 weeks for Pig and Poultry farms
- **Slurry Spreading Closed Period**
15th October to 31st January
- **Stocking Rate Restriction**
Stay below 170 Kg Livestock Manure N/ha
- **Controls on Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) Chemical Fertiliser**
Limits for N on grassland, N to crop requirements for crops
P can only be used if a soil test shows a crop requirement



Animal Identification and Registration

6 The Identification and Registration of Animals SMR advises that:

- To keep cattle, pigs, sheep or goats farmers must be registered with DARD;
- Farmers are required to record pig movements on and off the farm and record the number of pigs on the farm;
- Pigs must be individually identified by 6 months or when they leave the farm whichever is sooner.

7&8 Identification and Registration of Bovine Animals:

- Cattle farmers must keep their herd book up to date and record:
 - Ear tags, replacement tags;
 - Colour, breed, sex, date of birth;
 - Dam's tag number and;
 - Manner and place of disposal of carcass if animal dies;
 - All calves should be double tagged within 20 days of birth with DARD approved tags;
 - Births, deaths and movement details should be notified to the DVO within the relevant time limits.

9 Sheep and Goat Identification and Registration:

- To keep sheep or goats farmers must be a registered with DARD;
- The farmer must maintain a flock register to record births; deaths, sales, purchases and movements;
- Record manner and place of disposal of carcase if animal dies;
- All sheep and goats must be tagged in the left ear by 9 months or when they leave the farm whichever is sooner;
- Farmers must follow rules for movement, replacement and export tags;
- Farmers must submit an annual inventory in December each year;
- Movement details should be notified to the DVO within relevant time limits.



Outline of the SMR's introduced in 2006

Public, Animal and Plant Health

10 The Placing of Plant Protection Products on the Market:

- Only UK approved pesticides should be used;
- Records of pesticides stored and applied should be kept;
- Pesticides should be kept in suitable stores;
- Pesticides should be applied by competent operators that have the relevant certificate(s) of competence;
- Sprayers and other application equipment should be well maintained and personal protective equipment should be available to avoid contamination of the operator or the environment.

11 Food and Feed Law:

- Feed should be sourced from registered approved establishments;
- No unsafe food or feed should be produced or stored;
- Records should include:
 - products received/supplied, - delivery dockets for feed;
 - use of veterinary medicines;
 - laboratory results i.e. for antibiotics or high somatic cell count;
 - use of plant protection products;
 - use of genetically modified (GM) seeds for feed;
- Farmers must ensure correct storage of waste and hazardous substances;
- Correct storage of food and feedstuffs;
- Adequate measures to prevent spread of Tuberculosis and Brucellosis through food;
- Farmers must provide isolation facilities.

Dairy Hygiene:

- Farmers must ensure a good state of health of cows;
- Milk from animals with Tuberculosis and Brucellosis is withheld and the animals isolated;
- Buildings and equipment are maintained to a good standard;
- Effective vermin control;
- Good milking practice;
- Effective milk cooling.

Egg Hygiene:

- Eggs must be kept clean dry and stored properly.

12 Prohibition on the Illegal Use in Stock Farming of Certain Substances having a Hormonal or Thyrostatic Action and of Beta-agonists:

- Illegal substances such as those with a hormonal or thyrostatic action are prohibited from use in farm animals;
- Farmers must use only UK authorised veterinary medicinal products;
- Farmers must keep medicine records whenever these medicines are used on the farm (i.e. keep an up-to-date medicine book);
- Farmers must follow the withdrawal periods for any medicines used.

13 Prevention, Control and Eradication of Transmissible Encephalopathies (TSE):

- Farmers must notify the Divisional Veterinary Office (DVO) if there is a suspected case of TSE and abide by any restrictions imposed;
- The feeding of animal protein (meat and bone meal, fishmeal etc.) to ruminants is not permitted;
- Steps must be taken to ensure that feed for ruminants is not contaminated by feed for non-ruminants that contain animal protein.



Notification of Diseases

14 Control of Foot and Mouth Disease:

- Any person who has a suspected or actual Foot and Mouth infected animal shall notify DARD 'with all practical speed'.

15 Control of Certain Animal Diseases:

- Any person who suspects or knows that an animal or carcass is infected with any of the following diseases shall notify DARD 'with all practical speed'.
 - Rinderpest;
 - Peste des petits ruminants;
 - Swine vesicular disease;
 - Epizootic haemorrhagic disease of deer;
 - Sheep and goat pox;
 - Vesicular stomatitis;
 - Lumpy skin disease;
 - Rift valley fever.

16 Specific Provisions for the Control and Eradication of Bluetongue:

- Any person who has a suspected or actual Bluetongue infected animal shall notify DARD 'with all practical speed'.



Outline of the SMR's introduced in 2007

Animal Welfare

17 Minimum Standards for the Protection of Calves:

- Inspection:
 - Check calves twice per day.
- Freedom of movement:
 - Calves should be able to move freely;
 - No tethering except for feeding and no muzzling.
- Accommodation:
 - Calves must have dry clean accommodation with adequate space;
 - An artificially lit building must be lit for daylight hours;
 - Housing & equipment must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.
- Feed, water and other substances:
 - Calves must receive appropriate feed and have access to water;
 - All calves should receive bovine colostrum within the first 6 hours of birth.

18 Minimum Standards for the Protection of Pigs:

- Freedom of movement:
 - Pigs should be able to move freely;
 - No tethering except for veterinary purposes.
- Accommodation, environment and equipment:
 - Accommodation should allow free movement and be clean, comfortable, well drained, allow other pigs to be seen and be at a comfortable temperature;
 - Piglets need a warm comfortable creep area;
 - Buildings must be built and maintained so they do not injure the pigs;
 - Slats must conform to the correct size of spacing and width (new buildings after 1st Jan 2003 and all buildings after 1st Jan 2013);
 - An artificially lit building must be lit for at least 8 hours per day;
 - No noise over 85 decibels;
 - All pigs should have access to material to enable proper investigative and manipulative activities;
 - You must take steps to avoid fighting.

- Feed water and other substances:
 - When group feeding all pigs should have access to food at the same time.
- Mutilations and interventions:
 - Generally do not carry these out;
 - Castration must be done by a vet if piglets are over 7 days old;
 - Boars tusks may be reduced in length for safety reasons;
 - Nose ringing must not be used if animals are continuously indoors;
 - Ear tagging or notching for identification purposes;
 - Non routine procedures e.g. teeth clipping and tail docking of piglets can only be carried out if there is evidence of a problem and other measures have been tried.



19 Protection of Animals Kept for Farming Purposes:

- Inspection:
 - All animals should be checked at least once per day;
 - You must care for sick or injured animals immediately.
- Keeping records:
 - You must record use of medicines and deaths of animals (keep for 5 years).
- Freedom of movement:
 - Animals should have freedom of movement;
 - Tethered animals should have sufficient space to avoid unnecessary stress;
 - Do not immobilise animals using electrical current;
- Accommodation, environment and equipment:
 - Materials used in buildings must not be harmful to animals i.e. lead paint;
 - Materials should be easily cleaned and disinfected;
 - There should be no sharp edges or protrusions;
 - Air quality air circulation, dust, temperature, humidity and gas concentrations should not harm animals;
 - Animals should not be kept in permanent darkness;
 - If outside they must have protection from adverse weather, predators and access to a well drained lying area.
- Feed, water and other substances:
 - Animals must receive enough appropriate food;
 - They should get food at least once per day and more often if required;
 - They should have access to suitable water or other fluid.
- Mutilations and interventions:
 - Generally do not carry these out;
 - If you do carry out a mutilation because of a welfare benefit it must be done within UK law and with local anaesthetic.
- Breeding procedures:

Do not breed animals that are inappropriately sized or are not yet reached sexual maturity to avoid unnecessary suffering or injury.

Further specific information on livestock welfare codes can be found at www.dardni.gov.uk and search for 'welfare codes'.

Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC)

As well as adhering to the Statutory Management Requirements, to receive direct agricultural support, farmers must ensure that they keep their land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). This includes all land that is farmed, including land on which direct payments have not been claimed.

There are six GAEC measures that are designed to ensure that land is farmed according to good agricultural practices:

- 1 **Soil Management;**
- 2 **Supplementary Feeding;**
- 3 **Overgrazing;**
- 4 **Undergrazing;**
- 5 **Field Boundaries;**
- 6 **Protection of Habitats (wildlife areas), Archeological Sites and Permanent Pasture.**



1 Soil Management measures are designed to maximise productivity and prevent damage to the environment:

- Cultivated land must have either a crop, stubble, grass cover or be ploughed or disced over the following winter;
- Cultivations must not take place if there is surface water on the field or if the soil is waterlogged;
- Land must not be severely trampled or poached as shown in the photograph above.



2 Supplementary Feeding is not permitted on:

- Semi-natural habitats;
- Archeological sites;
- Areas within 10 metres from a waterway or 50 metres* from a borehole or well.

What about Sacrifice Areas?

These are generally not permitted because of the increased risk of erosion, nutrient run-off, damage to soil structure and drainage.

Sacrifice Areas may only be permitted on areas of flat improved arable/grassland more than 10 metres away from a waterway or 50 metres* from a borehole or well and they must be ploughed and sown in the following spring (at least 90% grass/crop coverage by the end of spring). When supplementary feeding select the driest part of the field and move the feeding troughs regularly.

* This distance increases to 250 metres if it is used for public water supply.

3 If there are signs of Overgrazing preventative action is required:

- Select an appropriate stocking rate;
- Monitor pasture closely.

Exceptions:

- This measure does not apply to areas within 5 metres of gateways/laneways provided the land is not a semi-natural habitat, archeological site, within 10 metres of a waterway or 50 metres* from boreholes or wells;
- Where there is a conflict with the management required by the following schemes contact the relevant authority:

For Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) or Natura 2000 Sites contact The Environment and Heritage Service Conservation Designations and Protection Branch (contact details are on page 23).

For Agri-Environment Scheme agreements contact your local DARD Countryside Management Branch office (contact details are on page 22).

* This distance increases to 250 metres if it is used for public water supply.

‘Overgrazing’ is grazing land with livestock in such numbers as to damage the growth, quality or species composition of the vegetation to a significant degree (that is, where there is no vegetative cover and/or there is evidence of run-off or standing water), or destroy the Archeological feature’.

Signs of overgrazing include a short sward combined with an area or areas of bare ground and an abundance of cattle or sheep dung.

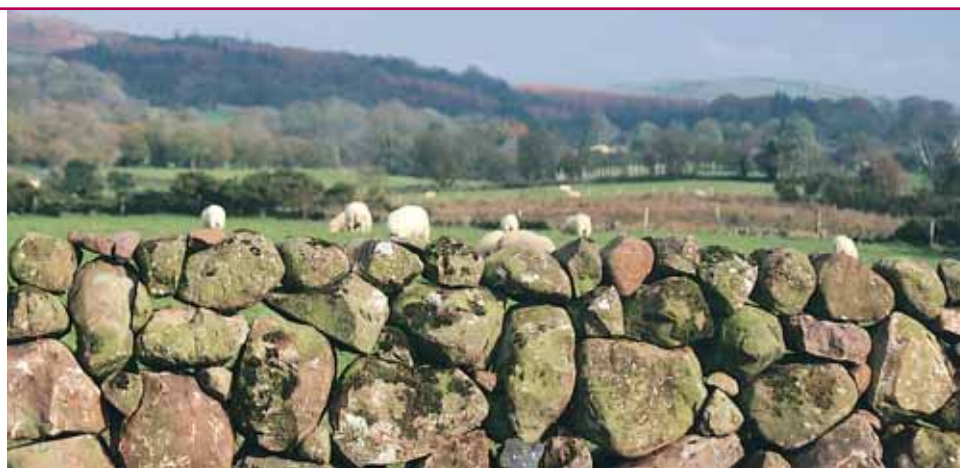


4 Undergrazing:

- Avoid infestation by species which degrade the agricultural and environmental value of land, this includes Japanese knotweed, giant hogweed and the noxious weeds such as dock, thistle, ragwort and wild oat. Weeds are best controlled by cutting before they set seed or alternatively by spraying with an appropriate approved chemical. If spraying is to be used then spot spraying is recommended. Rhododendron and gorse should be controlled but not within the bird nesting season (1st March - 31st August). This is best done by cutting and treating the stumps with glyphosate;
- No minimum stocking rate applies unless you are in receipt of Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowance Payment (0.2 LU/ha of eligible stock);
- Land must be capable of agricultural production at the start of the growing season;
- Exceptions to the undergrazing measure include management of areas of land where grazing is either prohibited or restricted. Such areas include ASSIs, Natura 2000 Sites, Scheduled Archeological Sites and certain land under Agri-Environment Scheme agreement. If you have any of these on your farm ensure that you know what management is required. If in doubt, contact the relevant body for further advice.

5 Field boundaries include all hedges, dry stone walls, ditches and earth banks. They enhance the landscape, provide a useful agricultural feature and provide an important wildlife habitat on Northern Ireland farms:

- Field boundaries must not be removed without prior written permission by DARD;
- Hedgerow management is not permitted between 1st March and 31st August.



6 Protection of Habitats (Wildlife Areas), Archeological Sites and Permanent Pasture:

- Wildlife areas must be retained;
- Archeological features must not be damaged or removed;
- The area of permanent pasture in Northern Ireland must not decrease by more than 10%.

Inspection and Sanctions

DARD and Environment and Heritage Service as designated Competent Control Authorities have responsibility for carrying out Cross-Compliance inspections within their areas of responsibility. DARD as Paying Authority has responsibility for the fixing of financial penalties. Financial penalties imposed will be proportionate to the severity, extent, permanence and repetition of the non-compliance.

A farm business obtaining Single Farm Payment must meet the requirements of the Cross-Compliance SMRs and keep all of the land farmed in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition or face financial sanction.

A farm business obtaining Single Farm Payment and Less Favoured Area Payment and/or Agri-Environment Scheme payments must meet the requirements of the Cross-Compliance SMRs, keep all of the land farmed in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition and adhere to Good Farming Practice (details on the next page).

Good Farming Practice (GFP)

Requirements of Good Farming Practice:

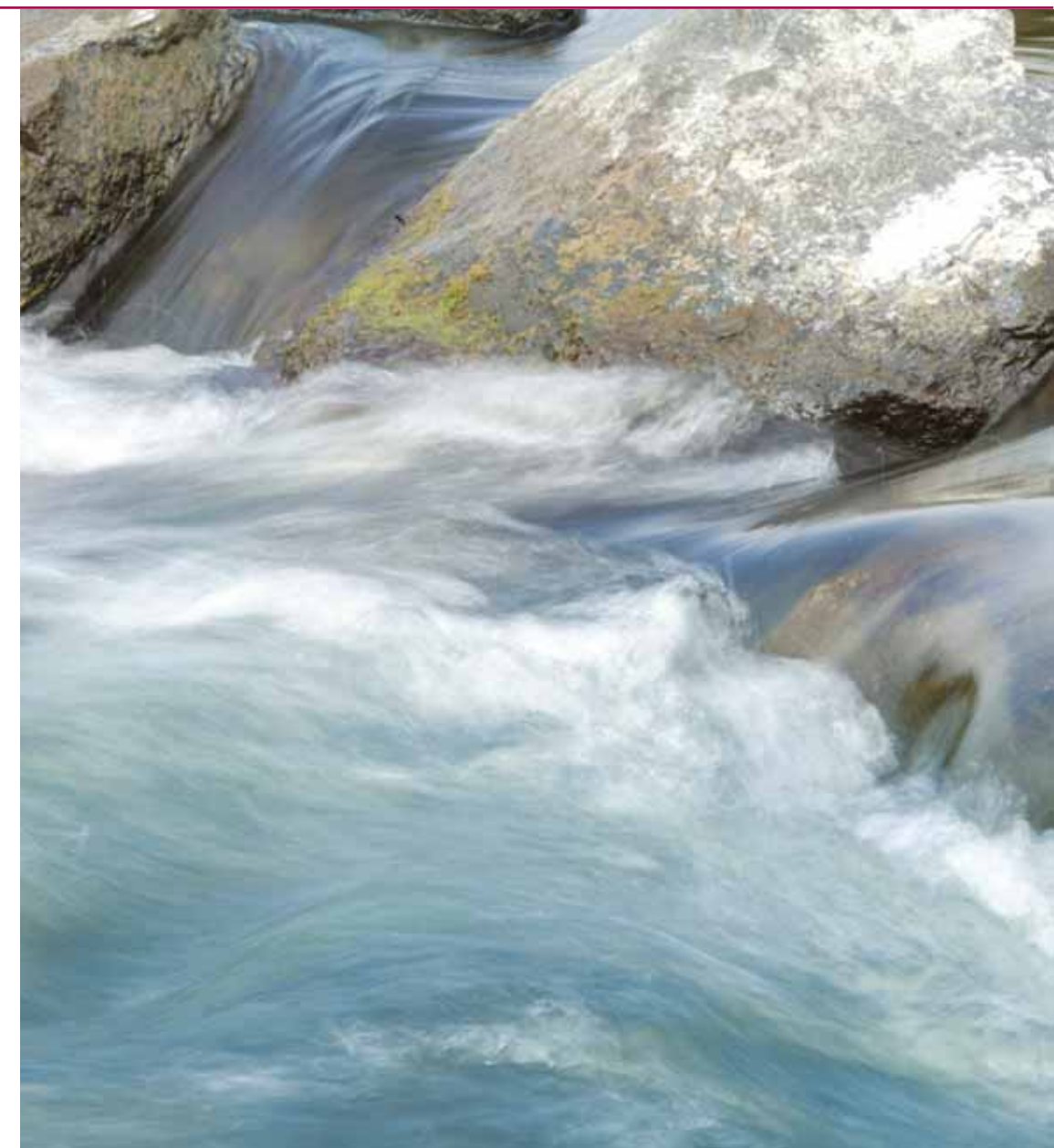
- Keep a copy of Codes of Good Agricultural Practice (for the protection of air, soil and water);
- Abide by existing Environmental Legislation;
- Meet the 8 Verifiable Standards - to retain & protect the environment.

GFP Verifiable Standards:

- **Overgrazing** is not permitted;
- **Supplementary feeding** on semi-natural habitats, archeological features or adjacent to watercourses is prohibited;
- **Removal of Field Boundaries** is not permitted except by prior written permission from DARD;
- **Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI):** Environment and Heritage Service must be notified and give prior written consent before proceeding with any intended operations that are likely to damage ASSIs;
- **Pollution:** suspected pollution on the farm, or unauthorised waste disposal on land will be reported to the EHS for investigation;
- **Sheep dip disposal** requires written authorisation from EHS (Groundwater Regulations (NI) 1998);
- **Hedgerow management** (e.g. cutting, restoration) must not be carried out between 1st March and 31st August;
- **Damage to Habitats, Archeological Features and Earth Science Sites is prohibited:** For example infilling; reclamation; extraction of peat, sands or gravels is not permitted without necessary permissions. Compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (Uncultivated Land and Semi-Natural Areas) Regulations (NI) 2001.

Keep within the Law

Farmers are bound by all regulations in connection with their business. Penalties in the form of a reduced payment imposed by DARD as a result of failure to meet Cross-Compliance or Good Farming Practice requirements are in addition to any fine a farmer may receive from a court for breach of legislation.



<div>22</div> <div>Agri-Environment Training Programme</div>					<div>23</div> <div>Agri-Environment Training Programme</div>
<div>Cross Compliance & Good Farming Practice</div>				<div>Cross Compliance & Good Farming Practice</div>	<div>23</div> <div>Cross Compliance & Good Farming Practice</div>
<div> <div>For further information and training on:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field Boundary Management Dealing with Farm Wastes Nitrates Information Meetings </div>	<div> <div>Contact:</div> <div> <div>Agri-Environment Training</div> <div>College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise</div> <div>Greenmount Campus</div> <div>Antrim</div> <div>BT41 4PU</div> <div>Tel: 028 9442 6879</div> <div>Website: www.ruralni.gov.uk</div> </div> </div>		<div> <div>For short courses:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe use of Pesticides Strained wire fencing Vermin Control Safe use of Sheep Dips </div>	<div> <div>Contact:</div> <div> <div>Short Course Administration</div> <div>College of Agriculture, Food & Rural Enterprise</div> <div>Greenmount Campus</div> <div>Antrim</div> <div>BT41 4PU</div> <div>Tel: 028 9442 6704</div> <div>Website: www.cafre.ac.uk</div> </div> </div>	

Other Useful Contacts:

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) www.dardni.gov.uk
Further information on Agri-Environment Schemes can be obtained from Countryside Management staff at the following DARD offices:

Countryside Management Branch

Headquarters

Lindesay Hall
Loughry Campus
Cookstown
BT80 9AA
Tel: 028 8675 7507
Fax: 028 8675 7511

Kilpatrick House

38/54 High Street
Ballymena
BT43 6DT
Tel: 028 2566 2800
Fax: 028 2566 2838

Sperrin House

Sedan Avenue
Omagh
BT79 7AQ
Tel: 028 8225 1020
Fax: 028 8225 3500

2b Portaferry Road

Newtownards
BT23 3NT
Tel: 028 9181 3570
Fax: 028 9182 2106

Inishkeen House

Killyhevlin
Enniskillen
BT74 4EJ
Tel: 028 6632 5004
Fax: 028 6634 3000

31 Station Road

Magherafelt
BT45 5DN
Tel: 028 7930 2066
Fax: 028 7930 2067

2 Newry Road

Armagh
BT60 1EN
Tel: 028 3751 5650
Fax: 028 3751 5661

Department of the Environment
Environment and Heritage Service

Klondyke Building
10 Cromac Avenue
Lower Ormeau Road
Belfast
Tel: 028 9056 9230
Website: www.ehsni.gov.uk

Department of the Environment
Environment and Heritage Service

Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
BT28 3AL
Tel: 028 9263 3499
Website: www.ehsni.gov.uk

Health and Safety Executive for
Northern Ireland

83 Ladas Drive
Belfast
BT6 9FR
Tel: 028 9024 3249
Website: www.hseni.gov.uk

Department of the Environment
Planning Service Special Studies Unit

(for infilling queries)
Tel: 028 9041 6892

Royal Society for the Protection
of Birds

Belvoir Park Forest
Belfast
BT8 7QT
Tel: 028 9049 1547
Website: www.rspb.org.uk