



2015 National Reserve (Young Farmer/New Entrant) and Young Farmers Scheme

Terms and Conditions

In implementation of Regulation (EU) No. 1307/2013

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Introduction

The following 2 schemes are governed by these Terms and Conditions

1. **The Young Farmers Scheme**
2. **The National Reserve Priority categories Young Farmer and New Entrant**

Terms and Conditions

1. Closing dates

Applications under the Young Farmer scheme must be submitted on or before **15 May 2015**.

Applications under the National Reserve Priority categories of Young Farmer and New Entrant must be submitted on or before **31 March 2015**.

Young farmers who wish to apply under the Young Farmer scheme and the National Reserve must apply by **31 March 2015**. Those who wish to apply under the Young Farmers scheme only must apply by **15th May 2015**

2. These Schemes are being implemented pursuant to Regulation (EU) No. 1307/2013, 639/2014, 640/2014, 641/2014, 809/2014 and 1306/2013 as amended and will be operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.
3. Applicants are required to be a holder of a registered herd number or have applied to the Local Office for a herd number by the closing date for the schemes.
4. Applicants are required to have submitted a valid Basic Payment Scheme Application to the Department by 15th May 2015.
5. An allocation of entitlements from the National Reserve or an increase in the value of existing entitlements can only be made to a person who is an active farmer as defined in Council Regulation (EU) No 1307/2013.
6. An application will not be accepted or approval may be withdrawn if, in the opinion of the Minister or his officials, it is established that an applicant artificially created the conditions required to obtain grant aid with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the Scheme.
7. Applications must be submitted online through agfood.ie. Therefore applicants must be registered for on line services (OLS) with the Department. Instructions for registration can be found on www.agfood.ie or you can contact: agfood Online Services Helpdesk in the Department's Portlaoise Office, Lo call 1890 252 118, or 0761 064424 or email agfood@agriculture.gov.ie
8. Applicants who wish to have an agent/agency apply on line on their behalf must first be registered for on line services (OLS) with the Department and be associated to that agent. Instructions for registration can be found on www.agfood.ie or you can contact: agfood Online Services Helpdesk in the Department's Portlaoise Office, Lo call 1890 252 118, or 0761 064424 or email agfood@agriculture.gov.ie
9. Applications not supported by ***all*** required documentation (with the exception of the 2014 Notice of Assessment for self employed applicants which will not be available by the closing

date) will be deemed as late and/or inadmissible. Penalties are applicable to late applications and applications received 25 calendar days after that date are inadmissible. Responsibility for the submission of applications to the Department by the closing date rests with the applicant concerned.

10. Applicants under the Schemes agree that the Department may request or access data held externally in relation to them which are required for the purpose of assessment or verification of their application(s).

Section 1: Young Farmers Scheme

1.1 Who is Eligible for the Young Farmers Scheme?

To be eligible for participation in the Young Farmers Scheme an applicant must meet the following conditions:

- ✓ S/he is participating in the Basic Payment Scheme in the year in which s/he submits an application;
- ✓ S/he is aged no more than 40 years of age at any time during the calendar year in which s/he first submits an application under the Basic Payment Scheme;
- ✓ S/he has successfully completed a recognised course of education in agriculture giving rise to an award at FETAC level 6 or its equivalent. Alternatively s/he must commit to commencing such a course by 30th September 2016 (See section 1.4);
- ✓ S/he is setting up an agricultural holding for the first time or has set up such a holding during the five years preceding the first submission of the Basic Payment Scheme application.

1.2 Eligibility of Young Farmer(s) in a Group - Young Farmers Scheme

Where a young farmer undertakes the farming activity as part of a *group* e.g. in a joint herdnumber, a partnership or a company, the group will be considered eligible for the Young Farmers scheme if the following conditions are met;

- ✓ At least one person in the group must meet the definition of Young Farmer as outlined in section 1.1 above;
- ✓ That Young Farmer must exercise effective and long term control either solely or jointly within the group in terms of decisions related to the management, benefits and financial risks of the group. Such control is demonstrated as follows:
 - the young farmer's name is on the herdnumber;
 - the young farmer's name is on the bank account used for the purposes of the farming activity;
 - **Companies Only** - the Young Farmer must be a Director and minimum 20% shareholder in the Company;
 - all persons who participate in the group must complete a National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme Declaration form confirming that the young farmer has effective control, either solely or jointly with the other members of the group. This declaration form is available with the scheme application form and on the Departments website.

The 'five year' payment/eligibility period will be calculated from the time the Young Farmer qualifies for Young farmer scheme eligibility in the group. In the case where a young farmer has already been carrying out an agricultural activity either individually or as part of a group/ partnership/Company, this period of agricultural activity will be included in the calculation of the five year period.

(Section 1.2 continued)

In accordance with the conditions set out in EU Regulation 639/2014 eligibility for payment under the Young Farmers Scheme shall cease if the Young Farmer no longer has control either solely or jointly within the farming entity. Applicants are required to immediately inform the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine of such a change.

Also, any change to the registration details of the herdnumber or farming entity, for example 2015 Individual Applicant joining a Partnership in 2016, Change of Directors in a Company, must be notified to the Department. A new or revised Young Farmers Scheme application may be required.

1.3 Documents Required in Support of an Application – Young Farmers Scheme

Depending on the farming entity applicants will be required to submit certain documents in support of their application as follows:

Individual Young Farmer Applicant

- ✓ Copy of the Educational Qualification or documentary evidence of a commitment to undertake a course leading to such a qualification (see section 1.4 below).

Young Farmer in a Group – Joint Herdnumber/Partnership/Company

- ✓ Copy of the Educational Qualification or documentary evidence of a commitment to undertake a course leading to such a qualification (see section 1.4 below);
- ✓ Birth Certificate of the Young Farmer(s) in the group;
- ✓ National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme Declaration for the purpose of determining effective and long term control of the Young Farmer in the group (to be witnessed by a Solicitor) see section 1.2 above;
- ✓ **Joint Herdnumber Only** - Bank Statement/Letter from the Bank to which Direct Payments are made confirming that the Young Farmers name is on the bank account;
- ✓ **Company Only** – A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Submitted applications that do not have all the required supporting documentation by the closing date will be subject to penalties and after 25 calendar days will be deemed inadmissible (with the exception of the 2014 Notice of Assessment, for applicants who were self employed during 2014, which will not be available at the closing date).

Please note that during the processing of applications it may be necessary to request additional documentation from applicants.

1.4 Educational Qualification Requirements – Young Farmers Scheme

To be considered eligible under the Young Farmer Scheme an applicant must:

- ✓ Have completed an agricultural qualification at FETAC Level 6 or its equivalent and must submit a copy of such qualification in support of their application; or
- ✓ Be currently participating in an agricultural course that will give rise to a qualification at FETAC Level 6 or its equivalent. Applicants must submit a letter from the educational authority (e.g. the agricultural college) confirming participation in such a course; or
- ✓ Intend to undertake such a course on or before 30th September 2016 in which case the applicant must supply documentary evidence of this commitment.

Where the applicant either fails to commence the stated course within a reasonable period of time or where the applicant has not demonstrated the level of progress expected through the course, payment to the applicant will cease and any monies previously paid under the Young Farmers Scheme will be recouped from the applicant who will be deemed ineligible.

1.5 Young Farmers Scheme Payment

The Young Farmers scheme payment will be calculated as 25% of the national average payment per hectare (based on the national ceiling) multiplied by the number of entitlements activated by the successful applicant, subject to the maximum number of 50 activated entitlements whether individual, group or Company.

A successful applicant will receive payment under the Young Farmers Scheme for a maximum period of five years. The 'five years' is dated from the year of setting up of the holding.

Section 2: National Reserve - Young Farmer Category

2.1 Who is Eligible for the Young Farmers Category of the National Reserve?

To be eligible under the Young Farmers category of the National Reserve an applicant must meet the following conditions:

- ✓ S/he is participating in the Basic Payment Scheme in the year in which s/he submits an application;
- ✓ S/he is aged no more than 40 years of age at any time during the calendar year in which s/he first submits an application under the Basic Payment Scheme;
- ✓ S/he has successfully completed a recognised course of education in agriculture giving rise to an award at FETAC level 6 or its equivalent. Alternatively s/he must commit to commencing such a course by 30th September 2016;
- ✓ Has a gross off-farm income that does not exceed €40,000 in one of the tax years 2013 or 2014;
- ✓ S/he is setting up an agricultural holding for the first time or has set up such a holding during the five years preceding the first submission of the Basic Payment Scheme application.

2.2 Eligibility of Young Farmer(s) in a Group - National Reserve Young Farmers Category?

Where a Young Farmer undertakes the farming activity as part of a *group* e.g. in a joint herdnumber, a Partnership or a Company, the group will be considered eligible if the following conditions are met;

- ✓ At least one person in the group must meet the definition of Young Farmer as outlined in section 2.1 above;
- ✓ That Young Farmer must exercise effective and long term control either solely or jointly within the group in terms of decisions related to the management, benefits and financial risks of the group. Such control is demonstrated as follows:
 - the Young Farmer's name is on the herdnumber;
 - the Young Farmer's name is on the bank account used for the purposes of the farming activity;
 - **Companies Only** - the young farmer must be a Director and minimum 20% shareholder in the Company;
 - all persons who participate in the group must complete a National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme Declaration form confirming that the Young Farmer has effective control, either solely or jointly with the other members of the group. This declaration form is available with the scheme application form and on the Departments website.

(Section 2.2 Continued)

The 'five year' payment/eligibility period will be calculated from the time the Young Farmer qualifies for Young farmer scheme eligibility in the group. In the case where a young farmer has already been carrying out an agricultural activity as part of a group/ partnership, this period of agricultural activity will be included in the calculation of the five year period.

2.3 Documents Required in Support of an Application –National Reserve Young Farmers

Category

Depending on the farming entity applicants will be required to submit certain documents in support of their application as follows:

Individual Applicant under National Reserve Young Farmer Category

- ✓ Copy of the Educational Qualification or documentary evidence of a commitment to undertake a course leading to such a qualification (see section 2.4 below).
- ✓ P60/P21/Notice of Assessment for either 2013/2014 (see section 2.5 below).

Young Farmer in a Group – Joint Herdnumber/Partnership/Company - under National Reserve Young Farmer Category

- ✓ Copy of the Educational Qualification or documentary evidence of a commitment to undertake a course leading to such a qualification(see section 2.4 below).
- ✓ Birth Certificate of the Young Farmer(s).
- ✓ National Reserve/Young Farmers Scheme Declaration for the purpose of determining effective and long term control of the Young Farmer in the group (see section 2.2 above).
- ✓ P60/P21/Notice of Assessment for either 2013/2014 (see section 2.5 below).
- ✓ **Joint Herdnumber Only** - Bank Statement/Letter from the Bank to which Direct Payments are made confirming that the Young Farmers name is on the bank account
- ✓ **Company Only** – A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association

Submitted applications that do not have all the required supporting documentation by the closing date will be subject to penalties and after 25 calendar days will be deemed inadmissible (with the exception of the 2014 Notice of Assessment for self employed applicants which will not be available at the closing date).

Please note that during the processing of applications it may be necessary to request additional documentation from applicants.

2.4 Educational Qualification Requirements – National Reserve Young Farmers Category

To be considered eligible under the Young Farmer category of the National Reserve an applicant must:

- ✓ Have completed an agricultural qualification at FETAC Level 6 or its equivalent and must submit a copy of such qualification in support of their application; or
- ✓ Be currently participating in an agricultural course that will give rise to a qualification at FETAC Level 6 or its equivalent should submit a letter from the educational authority (e.g. the agricultural college) confirming participation in such a course; or
- ✓ Intend to undertake such a course on or before 30th September 2016 in which case the applicant must supply documentary evidence of this commitment.

Where the applicant either fails to commence the stated course within a reasonable period of time or where the applicant has not demonstrated the level of progress expected through the course, payment in respect of allocated entitlements will cease and any monies previously paid on these entitlements will be recouped along with all entitlements which had been allocated.

2.5 National Reserve – Off Farm Income

A gross off farm income limit of €40,000 will apply to applicants to the National Reserve. Applicants may choose to use either the 2013 or 2014 tax year, whichever is more advantageous to the applicant, for this purpose.

In order to demonstrate eligibility under the income limit threshold applicants will be required to submit supporting documentation as provided by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in the following format:

- ✓ **P60** – PAYE worker who has held only one job throughout the relevant tax year;
- ✓ **P21** – PAYE worker who has held more than one job throughout the relevant tax year;
- ✓ **Notice of Assessment** – self employed applicants.

For those applicants who are farming as part of a group or as a Company, off farm income is determined as follows:

- ✓ **Joint herdnumber** – the gross off-farm income of all members of the group are taken into consideration;
- ✓ **Company** – the gross off-farm income of the Company (where the Company was established in the relevant tax year) and the gross off-farm income of the Directors are taken into consideration;
- ✓ **Registered Partnership** – Off-farm income is considered as follows:
 - Partnership of two or more herd numbers with the Young Farmer(s) holding their own herd number – only the off-farm income of the Young Farmer(s) is taken into account.
 - Partnership using a Joint Herd Number only - the off-farm income of all members of the joint herd number are taken into account.

- Partnership involving a Company where the Young Farmer is involved in the Company - the gross off-farm income of the Company (where the Company was established in the relevant tax year) and the gross off-farm income of the Directors are taken into consideration;

Please note that during the processing of applications it may be necessary to request additional documentation to determine off farm income.

Section 3: National Reserve – New Entrant Category

3.1 Who is Eligible for the New Entrant Category of the National Reserve?

A “**New Entrant**” is defined as:

- ✓ S/he is participating in the Basic Payment Scheme in the year in which s/he applies to the National Reserve;
- ✓ S/he must have commenced the present agricultural activity in the 2013 calendar year or any later year;
- ✓ S/he did not have any agricultural activity in his/her own name and at his/her own risk in the five years preceding the start of the present agricultural activity;
- ✓ S/he must submit an application for the Basic Payment Scheme not later than two years after the calendar year in which they commenced their agricultural activity;
- ✓ S/he has successfully completed a recognised course of education in agriculture giving rise to an award at FETAC level 6 or its equivalent. Alternatively s/he must commit to commencing such a course by 30th September 2016;
- ✓ Has a gross off-farm income that does not exceed €40,000 in one of the tax years 2013 or 2014

Where a herdnumber that is registered on behalf of a group applies under the ‘new entrant’ category, all persons in control of the group must meet all conditions of the ‘new entrant’ category with the exception of the educational requirement.

At least one of the persons in control of the group must have successfully completed a recognised course of education in agriculture giving rise to an award at FETAC level 6 or its equivalent. Alternatively one person must commit to commencing such a course by 30th September 2016.

In the case of a group which commences its agricultural activity in 2013 or later, all persons in control of that group must not have engaged in any agricultural activity in their own name and at their own risk, or have had control of another legal entity engaged in such agricultural activity, in the five years preceding the start of the agricultural activity of the applicant.

3.2 Documents Required in Support of an Application – New Entrants Category

Depending on the farming entity applicants will be required to submit certain documents in support of their application as follows:

Individual New Entrant Applicant

- ✓ Copy of the Educational Qualification or documentary evidence of a commitment to undertake a course leading to such a qualification (see section 3.3 below).
- ✓ P60/P21/Notice of Assessment for either 2013/2014 (see section 3.4 below).

New Entrant Group – Joint Herdnumber/Partnership/Company

- ✓ Copy of the Educational Qualification or documentary evidence of a commitment to undertake a course leading to such a qualification (see section 3.3 below)..
- ✓ P60/P21/Notice of Assessment for either 2013/2014 (see section 3.4 below).
- ✓ **Company Only** – A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association

Submitted applications that do not have all the required supporting documentation by the closing date will be subject to penalties and after 25 calendar days will be deemed inadmissible (with the exception of the 2014 Notice of Assessment for self employed applicants which will not be available at the closing date).

Please note that during the processing of applications it may be necessary to request additional documentation from applicants.

3.3 Educational Qualification Requirements – National Reserve New Entrant Category

To be considered eligible under the New Entrant category of the National Reserve an applicant must:

- ✓ Have completed an agricultural qualification at FETAC Level 6 or its equivalent and must submit a copy of such qualification in support of their application; or
- ✓ Be currently participating in an agricultural course that will give rise to a qualification at FETAC Level 6 or its equivalent should submit a letter from the educational authority (e.g. the agricultural college) confirming participation in such a course; or
- ✓ Intend to undertake such a course on or before 30th September 2016 in which case the applicant must supply documentary evidence of this commitment.

Where the applicant either fails to commence the stated course within a reasonable period of time or where the applicant has not demonstrated the level of progress expected through the course, payment in respect of allocated entitlements will cease and any monies previously paid on these entitlements will be recouped along with all entitlements which had been allocated.

3.4 National Reserve – Off Farm Income

A gross off farm income limit of €40,000 will apply to applicants to the National Reserve. Applicants may choose to use either the 2013 or 2014 tax year, whichever is more advantageous to the applicant, for this purpose.

In order to demonstrate eligibility under the income limit threshold applicants will be required to submit supporting documentation as provided by the Office of the Revenue Commissioners in the following format:

- ✓ **P60** – PAYE worker who has held only one job throughout the relevant tax year;
- ✓ **P21** – PAYE worker who has held more than one job throughout the relevant tax year;
- ✓ **Notice of Assessment** – self employed applicants.

For those applicants who are farming as part of a group or as a Company, off farm income is determined as follows:

- ✓ **Joint herdnumber** – the gross off-farm income of all members of the group are taken into consideration;
- ✓ **Company** – the gross off-farm income of the Company (where the Company was established in the relevant tax year) and the gross off-farm income of the Directors are taken into consideration;
- ✓ **Registered Partnership** – Off-farm income is considered as follows:
 - Partnership of two or more herd numbers with the Young Farmer(s) holding their own herd number – only the off-farm income of the Young Farmer(s) is taken into account.
 - Partnership using a Joint Herd Number only - the off-farm income of members of the joint herd number are taken into account.
 - Partnership involving a Company where the Young Farmer is involved in the Company - the gross off-farm income of the Company (where the Company was established in the relevant tax year) and the gross off-farm income of the Directors are taken into consideration;

Please note that during the processing of applications it may be necessary to request additional documentation to determine off farm income.

Section 4: National Reserve – Allocations

4.1 Allocation/Top-Up to the Value of Entitlements from the National Reserve

Successful applicants under the National Reserve will be eligible for an allocation of entitlements on land for which they hold no entitlements and/or a top up to the value of existing entitlements held by them, where such entitlements have a value below the National Average. The allocation of entitlements and the top-up to the value of existing entitlements is subject to a maximum of 90.

Allocation of new entitlements will be on the basis of one entitlement for one hectare of eligible land declared on the Basic Payment Scheme application for which the applicant(s) holds no entitlements.

Successful applicants who already hold existing owned entitlements with a value below the national average value will receive a top-up whereby the value of those entitlements will be increased to the national average value.

Successful applicants who hold leased entitlements that have a value below the National Average will qualify for a top-up to the value of these entitlements.

Please note that in the case of a Registered Partnership entitlements and/or top-ups to the value of entitlements will be allocated to the herd number within the Partnership on which the qualifying Young Farmer(s) holds/is involved in, subject to a maximum of 90 for the entire Partnership.

4.2 Current and Future Value of National Reserve Entitlements/Top-Ups

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.

Section 5: General Conditions

5.1 Applications

Applications for both the National Reserve and the Young Farmers Scheme must be submitted online.

Where the Department identifier (herdnumber/Partnership number) is registered in multiple names, applications submitted quoting that identifier are deemed to be submitted with the consent of all registered owners, e.g. in the following cases:

- ✓ where the Department identifier is registered in more than one name, i.e. Joint herd number,
- ✓ in the case of Partnerships, by all Partners,
- ✓ in the case of Companies, by the Company Directors.

Where a registered Partnership wishes to submit an application for the National Reserve or Young Farmers Scheme the application must be submitted using the registered Partnership number as designated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

5.2 Responsibility of Applicant and/or Agent

The Department and/or its officials shall not accept any responsibility for errors or omissions contained in application for these Schemes or any required supporting documentation.

It is the responsibility of applicants to familiarise themselves with the Terms and Conditions of these schemes and to ensure applications are submitted in full and on time.

Applicants shall immediately notify the Department of any change to the applicant/farming entity that may impact on his/her eligibility for the scheme applied for. Failure to do so may result in the recoupment of National Reserve allocations/Young Farmer Scheme payments if it is later determined that such a change rendered the applicant ineligible.

5.3 Amending a Submitted Application

Applicants will not be able to amend applications following submission, with the exception of the uploading of required supporting documentation. For this reason applicants are advised to ensure that the application is completed fully and accurately prior to submission.

5.4 Multiple Applications

Applicants may only benefit once under the Basic Payment Scheme National Reserve. Therefore a successful application in 2015 will exclude the applicant from having future applications considered for allocation.

5.5 Penalties for Late Applications

There will be a 25-calendar day period after the closing date for the acceptance of late applications. However, a fixed percentage penalty per working day that the application is received late will apply during this period. For the National Reserve the fixed percentage penalty stands at 3% and 1% for the Young Farmers Scheme. Please note that in both cases penalties are applied to payments resulting from successful application to the scheme in question and not a permanent reduction in the number/value of entitlements.

Please note that applications are considered in their entirety (see sections 1.3, 2.3 and 3.2).

Except in cases of force majeure, applications will be inadmissible after this 25 calendar day period has ended.

5.6 Inspections

Applicants under the National Reserve and Young Farmers scheme may be subject to inspection. Such inspection may take the form of on the spot checks or administrative checks during which applicants may be asked to submit original hard copies of supporting documentation for verification purposes.

5.7 Withdrawal of Approval

Approval under these schemes may be withdrawn if the applicant fails to abide by the terms and conditions of the Scheme or in the event of any material change in the circumstances of the applicant or of the farm business or in any other respect, which would be in conflict with the terms or the conditions of the Scheme(s). In such event any allocation from the National Reserve, monies paid on such entitlements and/or monies paid under the Young Farmers Scheme shall be recouped.

5.8 Recovery of Unduly Allocated Entitlements

In accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 1306/2013, where it is established that an incorrect number of entitlements has been allocated to an applicant from the National Reserve such incorrectly allocated entitlements shall revert to the National Reserve.

5.9 Circumvention Clause

In accordance with Council Regulation (EU) 1306/2013, no allocation of entitlements, top-up to the value of entitlements or Young Farmers Scheme payment shall issue to applicants for whom it is established that they artificially created the conditions required for obtaining such allocation/top-up/payment with a view to obtaining an advantage contrary to the objectives of the National Reserve and/or Young Farmers Scheme.

5.10 Review of Terms and Conditions/Procedures

The Minister reserves the right to alter the terms and conditions and procedures of the Schemes at any time. The decision of the Minister on any matter relating to these schemes shall be final.

5.11 Publication of Payment Details/Data Protection/Freedom of Information

In accordance with Regulation 1306/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council data of beneficiaries of funding under the European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), it is a legal obligation on Member States that they inform beneficiaries that their data will be made public and that the data may be processed by auditing and investigating bodies of the European Union and the Member States for the purpose of safeguarding the Union's financial interests. MSs shall also inform the beneficiaries of their rights under data protection legislation and of the procedures applicable for exercising those rules.

You should be aware that all the information supplied on your application form and in any supporting documentation shall be made available to any other Department or Agency or Local Authority for the purpose of audits, Cross Compliance controls, controls relating to the legislation underpinning Cross Compliance and all Rural Development measures, and, as appropriate, in accordance with the requirements under the Freedom of Information Act.

The rights of data subjects and how they may be exercised, in this respect, are laid down in the Data Protection Acts, 1988 and 2003. This publication of payment details is a requirement of EU law. The data therein may be processed by auditing and investigating bodies of the Communities and the Member States for the purposes of safeguarding the Communities' financial interests. The data therein cannot be used for direct marketing or other purposes and this will be made clear on the website.

Subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2014, the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003, and any enquiries, all aspects of applicants and the processing of same, to the extent that they are managed by the Dept. of Agriculture, Food and the Marine or employing organisation, are treated in strict confidence and are not disclosed to anyone outside those directly involved in the process.

5.12 Statutory Instrument – False Declarations

The Minister for Agriculture, Food & the Marine has implemented Regulations, which will make it an offence for an applicant to knowingly make a false declaration. It is also an offence for a person to assist an applicant to commit an offence under the Regulations. Applicants should familiarise themselves with the European Communities (Direct Support Schemes) Offences and Control Regulations S.I. No 115 of 2012.

5.13 Contact Details

The Young Farmers Scheme/National Reserve Section may be contacted at [0761 064 446](tel:0761064446) between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm **Monday to Friday**, between 2:00 pm and 5:30pm Monday to Thursday and **2:00 pm to 5:00 pm Friday**, excluding Public Holidays.

Alternatively e-mail queries can be submitted to NationalReserveYFS@agriculture.gov.ie

Appendix A: Educational Qualifications

Educational Award Titles equivalent to FETAC/QQI Level Six for the purpose of National Reserve allocations and Young Farmer Scheme

1. GENERAL AGRICULTURE	<p>1.1. ACOT/Teagasc Certificate in Farming or NCVA Certificate in Rural Enterprise</p> <p>1.2. FETAC Certificate in Farming</p> <p>1.3. FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Farming</p> <p>1.4. FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Agriculture</p> <p>1.5. FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Agriculture</p> <p>1.6 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture</p> <p>1.7 FETAC Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in Farm Administration</p>
2. EQUINE	<p>2.1 FETAC (Teagasc) Certificate in Horse Breeding and Training (Part 2)</p> <p>2.2 FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Horse Breeding and Training</p> <p>2.3 FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Horse Breeding & Training - Equitation or Stud Management</p> <p>2.4 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Horsemanship</p> <p>2.5 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Stud Management</p> <p>2.6 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Equine Breeding (Stud Management)</p>
3. HORT	<p>3.1. FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Horticulture</p> <p>3.2. FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Horticulture</p> <p>3.3. FETAC/Teagasc Diploma in Horticulture</p> <p>3.4. FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Horticulture</p> <p>3.5 Teagasc Diploma in Amenity Horticulture/Commercial Horticulture</p>
4. FORESTRY	<p>4.1 FETAC Level 3 Vocational Certificate in Forestry</p> <p>4.2 FETAC Level 6 Vocational Certificate in Forestry</p> <p>4.3 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Forestry</p>
5. DAIRYING	<p>5.1 Teagasc/FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture- Dairy Herd Management</p> <p>5.2 FETAC Diploma in Agriculture (Teagasc) - Dairy Herd Management/Dairying</p> <p>5.3 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate (Teagasc) in Agriculture - Dairy Herd Management</p> <p>5.4 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Dairy Herd Management/Dairying</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">6. MACHINERY</p>	<p>6.1 Teagasc/FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture- Farm Machinery</p> <p>6.2 Teagasc Diploma in the Operation, Care and Maintenance of Farm</p> <p>6.3 Teagasc/FETAC Diploma in Agriculture - Farm Machinery</p> <p>6.4 FETAC Diploma in Agriculture - Machinery (Teagasc)</p> <p>6.5 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate (Teagasc) in Agriculture - Farm Machinery</p> <p>6.6 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agricultural Mechanisation</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7. MACH/CROPS</p>	<p>7.1 FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture- Machinery and Arable Crops</p> <p>7.2 FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture- Machinery and Crops</p> <p>7.3 FETAC Diploma in Agriculture (Teagasc) - Machinery and Arable Crops</p> <p>7.4 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate (Teagasc) in Agriculture - Machinery and Arable Crops</p> <p>7.5 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Machinery and Crop Management</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">8. DRYSTOCK</p>	<p>8.1 FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture - Drystock Management</p> <p>8.2 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Agriculture - Drystock Management</p> <p>8.3 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Drystock Management/Drystock Production</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">9. FARM MANAGEMENT</p>	<p>9.1 Teagasc/FETAC Advanced Certificate in Agriculture- Farm Management</p> <p>9.2 FETAC Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Farm Management</p> <p>9.3 FAB First Farm Management Certificate/Certificate in Farm Management</p> <p>9.4 FAB/FETAC Certificate in Farm Husbandry</p> <p>9.5 FAB Trainee Farmer Certificate</p> <p>9.6 FAB/FETAC Certificate in Applied Farm Management</p> <p>9.7 FAB/FETAC Certificate in Farm Business Management</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">10. GENERAL AGRIC</p>	<p>10.1 NCEA/HETAC/Individual IT College National Certificate in Agriculture</p> <p>10.2 HETAC/Individual IT College Higher Certificate in Agriculture</p> <p>10.3 HETAC/Individual IT College National Diploma in Agriculture</p> <p>10.4 HETAC/Individual IT College Bachelor of Science in Agriculture</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">11. HORT</p>	<p>11.1 NCEA/HETAC/Individual IT College National Diploma in Horticulture</p> <p>11.2 HETAC/Individual IT College Ordinary Bachelor Degree in Horticulture</p> <p>11.3 HETAC/Individual IT College Bachelor of Science in Horticulture</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">12. ATHLONE IT</p>	<p>12.1 NCEA/HETAC National Certificate in Business in Equine Studies</p> <p>12.2 HETAC Higher Certificate in Business in Equine Studies</p> <p>12.3 HETAC Bachelor of Business in Equine Studies</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">13. LIMERICK IT</p>	<p>13.1 HETAC National Certificate in Technology in Agricultural Mechanisation</p> <p>13.2 HETAC Higher Certificate in Technology in Agricultural Mechanisation</p>

<p>13.1 Other Approved IT Programmes</p>	<p>13.1.1 BA of Science in Sustainable Agriculture- Dundalk Institute of Technology 13.1.2 Higher Certificate in Science Applied Agriculture- Letterkenny Institute of Technology 13.1.3 Bachelor of Science in Agriculture- Cork Institute of Technology 13.1.4 Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science- Tralee Institute of Technology</p>
<p>14. WATERFORD IT</p>	<p>14.1 NCEA/HETAC National Certificate in Science in Agricultural Science 14.2 HETAC/Individual IT College Higher Certificate in Science in Agricultural Science 14.3 NCEA/HETAC National Diploma in Science in Agricultural Science 14.4 HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Science 14.5 HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Land Management, Agriculture 14.6 HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Land Management, Horticulture 14.7 HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Land Management, Forestry 14.8 HETAC/WIT National Diploma in Forestry 14.9 HETAC/WIT Bachelor of Science in Forestry</p>
<p>15. GALYWAY-MAYO IT</p>	<p>15.1 NCEA/HETAC National Certificate in Business in AgriBusiness 15.2 HETAC/GMIT Higher Certificate in Business Studies (Agri-Business) 15.3 HETAC/GMIT Bachelor of Business in Rural Enterprise and Agri-Business 15.4 HETAC/GMIT Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and Environmental Management</p>
<p>16. UCD</p>	<p>16.1 Degree in Agriculture/Horticulture/Forestry awarded by UCD, the Faculty of Agriculture at UCD - NUI 16.2 Bachelor of Agricultural Science degrees awarded through the College of Life Sciences in UCD 16.3 Professional Diploma in Dairy Farm Management</p>
<p>17. VETERINARY</p>	<p>17.1 Degree in Veterinary Science - such awards must be accompanied by details confirming that the holder of this qualification is registered with the Veterinary Council of Ireland. 17.2 Bachelor of Veterinary Science - UCD</p>
<p>18. LIMERICK</p>	<p>18.1 Bachelor in Science in Equine Science Degree - UL 18.2 Diploma in Equine Science - UL</p>
<p>19. DAIRY SCIENCE</p>	<p>19.1 Degree/Diploma in Dairy Science plus 80 hours of farm management</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">20. RURAL SCIENCE</p>	<p>20.1 Degree/Diploma in Rural Science plus 80 hours of farm management</p> <p>20.2 Degree/Diploma in Science (Education) in Biological Science plus 80 hours of farm management</p> <p>20.3 Bachelor of Science (Education) in Biological Sciences plus 80 hours of farm management</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">21.</p>	<p>21.1 Non-agricultural awards or qualifications (FETAC/HETAC/IT Colleges/Universities/foreign awards) placed at or equivalent to Level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) and a FETAC award for an 180 hours Teagasc approved training programme is acceptable proving that both were completed prior 31 March 2008 .</p> <p>21.2 Non-agricultural awards or qualifications (FETAC/HETAC/IT Colleges/Universities/foreign awards) placed at or equivalent to Level 6 or higher on the National Framework of Qualifications must complete a FETAC Level 6 Specific Purpose Certificate in farm Administration.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">22.</p>	<p>22.1 A letter from Teagasc certifying that the applicant holds a qualification that is deemed to be equivalent to any of the qualifications listed at 1 to 20 above.</p>