

River Derg Agricultural Land Incentive Scheme



The Source to Tap Project's Pilot Cross-border Farming Scheme



Agricultural Grants available at 100% Funding



The 'Source to Tap' project is supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

About the Scheme

The Source to Tap Land Incentive Scheme is a pilot cross-border farming scheme which is the first of its kind, and is being trialled in the River Derg area.

The Scheme aims to give landowners, who farm in the part of the River Derg catchment upstream of the Derg Water Treatment Works, grants of up to £20,000 for a farm business based in Northern Ireland; €23,000 for a farm business based in Ireland. These grants will be available from July 2018 to July 2020 and will help farmers to make some small changes in farming practice that will make the farm business more sustainable whilst also helping to protect water quality in the River Derg – a win-win for everyone!



Why is the Scheme needed?

Clean river and lake water provides healthy ecosystems for wildlife, plants and people. The overall aim of the Scheme is to improve the quality of water in the River Derg, which is used to supply drinking water to thousands of people, as well as being home to the threatened Atlantic salmon, brown trout, otter and other river-wildlife.

In order to provide a continuous supply of good quality drinking water to the local region, water taken from the River Derg must be treated to remove pollutants that wash off the land, such as soil and the herbicide MCPA. These pollutants are harming the health of the river and are costly to remove at the water treatment works. It is also costly for the landowner who is losing the soil and MCPA from the land.

The Scheme aims to bring about positive changes that benefit both the landowner and the river; as well as reducing the cost of treating and supplying high quality drinking water to our taps.

Did you know...

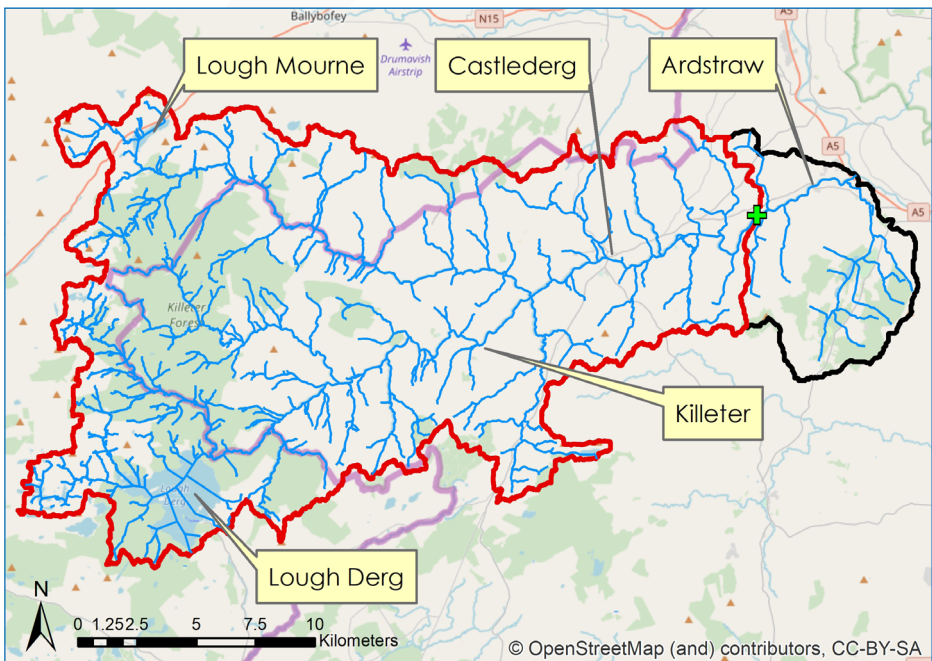
A single drop of MCPA, spilt into a stream 1 meter wide, can cause a breach of the EU drinking water limit for herbicide along 30 kilometres of the stream.

Who Can Apply?

To apply for the scheme:

- You must be the landowner (*tenants should get their landowner to apply*)
- Your farm must be located entirely or partly within the catchment area of the River Derg that is upstream of the Derg Water Treatment Works (see map)

The full Land Incentive Scheme Handbook, which includes detailed information on how the scheme works and consideration of the State aid implications, can be found at www.sourcetotap.eu/farm-grants/



Key

Land Incentive Scheme Eligible Area

River Derg Catchment Boundary

— River Derg

+ Derg Water Treatment Works

How does the Scheme work?

1. Contact us to let us know you are interested in the Scheme
2. One of our Project Officers will contact you to arrange to meet you on your farm for a farm visit
3. You and your Project Officer will walk the farm yards and fields to identify what Scheme Items could work well on your farm
4. Your Project Officer will produce a confidential and bespoke Water Environment Management Plan for your farm with recommendations of what could be included in your Scheme application.
5. You decide which recommended items you want to proceed with on your farm
6. Your Project Officer can help you fill in the simple, Scheme Application Form
7. Once your Application is approved, you get the items installed through a contractor, who you pay directly.
8. Once completed, your Project Officer will check the work, help you complete the claim form and process your claim so that your costs are refunded to you as quickly as possible*

How do I apply to the Scheme?

Contact us today to arrange your farm visit

NORTHERN IRELAND call: **+44 (0)7948 354026** or **+44 (0)7948 354027**

IRELAND call: **+353 (0)87 700 1512** E-MAIL: **info@sourcetotap.eu**



Lisa Stewart



Patrick Gallagher



Lyndsey Herron

*Typically, no more than 8 weeks from receipt of a completed claim form and accompanying evidence

What is included in the scheme?

The following items in the Scheme can be considered for your farm and can help improve water quality in your area. There is also scope for you to suggest alternative measures under the Farmer Innovation item (6.1) if it is expected to improve water quality.

Item Description

Advice and Support

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 1.1 | REQUIRED: Water Environment Management Plan Development and Delivery <i>(produced by your project officer with your input)</i> |
| 1.2 | Rush and/or Peatland Management Plan <i>(where applicable)</i> |

Herbicide/Pesticide Control and Rush Management

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 2.1 | Installation of a pesticide sprayer loading area and wash down area |
| 2.2 | Installation of biobed |
| 2.3 | Installation of biofilter |
| 2.4 | Provision of pesticide storage unit |
| 2.5 | Contractor for weed wiping to replace MCPA use |

Protection of watercourse from stock & alternative drinking points

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 3.1 | Stock fencing on watercourses |
| 3.2 | Tree Planting next to Watercourses |
| 3.3 | Alternative Stock Drinking Points - Water Trough <i>(Including base)</i> |
| 3.4 | Alternative Stock Drinking Points – Cattle Operated Pasture Pump <i>(Including base)</i> |

Reduction in surface flow across farm

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 4.1 | Gateway relocation |
| 4.2 | Improvement of farm tracks and access routes |
| 4.3 | Clean and dirty water separation |
| 4.4 | Sedimentation traps and Interception ponds |

Peatland Management

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 5.1 | Drain blocking |
| 5.2 | Restoration of peat without plant cover - nurse crop |
| 5.3 | Restoration of peat without plant cover - brash spreading |

Other

- | | |
|-----|-------------------|
| 6.1 | Farmer Innovation |
|-----|-------------------|

Advice and Support

Everyone who receives a farm visit will get a bespoke Water Environment Management Plan (Item 1.1), even if you choose not to go any further with the Scheme. The Plan is confidential between you and the Project. It will provide useful information for you on how to reduce the risk of water pollution from your farm whilst potentially making significant financial savings.

If it is required, your Plan will also include a Rush and/or Peatland Management Plan (Item 1.2).

Did you know...

On average, 1 tonne of soil per hectare, per year, is lost from agricultural grassland which significantly affects the productivity of land as well as impacting on water quality and aquatic ecosystems through silting up of watercourses.

HERBICIDE/PESTICIDE CONTROL AND RUSH MANAGEMENT

Very high concentrations of pesticides are commonly stored and handled on a farm and the smallest spillage can cause a large amount of damage and pollution of land and water. This can be costly to the farmer in terms of pesticide wastage, it also risks a pollution fine and potential loss of farm subsidies.

2.1 - Installation of a pesticide sprayer loading area and wash down area

Pesticide loading and wash down areas decrease the risk of pollution by providing a dedicated space which can collect washings from sprayers and/or applicators.

2.2 - Installation of biobed (direct or indirect)

Biobeds are designed to collect and break down pesticide residues in washing areas from pesticide handling activities and have the potential to reduce pollution going into watercourses.



2.3 - Installation of biofilter

Biofilters are designed to break down pesticide residues and have the potential to reduce pollution. Biofilters work best on farms with low pesticide waste.

2.4 - Provision of pesticide storage unit

Industry standard Pesticide Storage Cabinets provide safe, secure storage of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals. Having the correct pesticide storage can help keep pesticides safe and out of watercourses.

2.5 - Contractor for weed wiping to replace MCPA Use

Weed-wipers can manage rushes more efficiently than conventional boom sprayers and save money by using less chemical. Weed-wipers are only licensed for use with glyphosate, a chemical that has potentially less impact on water quality as it can break down quicker in around 3-7 days compared with MCPA, which breaks down in 3-4 weeks. Using a contractor to do the weed-wiping means that you save money on time, fuel, machinery purchase and maintenance costs and on training.

PROTECTION OF WATERCOURSE FROM STOCK AND ALTERNATIVE STOCK DRINKING POINTS

3.1 - Stock fencing on watercourses

Stock fencing of watercourses will prevent poaching of river banks by livestock which will reduce the amount of sediment entering the watercourses. Keeping your livestock out of the water will also reduce the risk and cost associated with lameness, injury and waterborne diseases such as liver fluke.



3.2 - Tree Planting next to Watercourses

Planting trees near rivers and streams can help reduce water pollution, by creating a buffer to slow run-off of water and soil from nearby fields and stabilise riverbanks. The trees will also help to dry the area in which they are planted and provide shelter for livestock from the elements.

3.3 & 3.4 - Alternative Stock Drinking Points - Water Troughs and Cattle Operated Pasture Pump (Including base)

Drinking points in fields which have had the waterways fenced off help to reduce soil and pollution entering the river, stream or open drain and also help reduce risk and cost associated with lameness, injury and waterborne diseases such as liver fluke.

REDUCTION IN SURFACE FLOW ACROSS FARM

4.1& 4.2 - Gate relocation and Improvement to farm tracks

By installing or improving farm tracks and relocating field gates you can save money through reduced risk of livestock lameness, injury and damage to productive land. It also protects the river by reducing the risk of runoff, watercourse pollution, poaching, soil erosion and contamination of water supplies.

4.3 - Clean and dirty water separation

Rainwater, falling onto the roofs of farm buildings, is clean until it comes into contact with a dirty yard; then it has to be collected as dirty water and spread onto land. All of this can be avoided, and time and money saved, by simply having good spouting's and downpipes in place to keep clean water clean and divert it to a nearby watercourse.



4.4 - Sedimentation traps and Interception ponds

Sediment ponds/traps are designed to trap water and soil run-off from fields or farmyards. They can trap large volumes of sediment and contaminants (pesticides and soil) which could make their way into watercourses and affect water quality. Captured soil can be spread back to your land ensuring this precious resource is not lost from the farm.

PEATLAND MANAGEMENT

5.1 - Drain blocking

Blocking artificial drains on peatland slows the flow of water through the peat soil, reducing the amount of nutrients and soil being leached into watercourses. Raising the water table in peatlands also supports the growth of bog mosses which will stabilise the system, creating more peat and resulting in the absorption of more greenhouse gases from the air.

5.2 - Restoration of peat without plant cover - nurse crop

Peat without plant cover is prone to wind and water erosion. The peat that washes off the land colours the water brown and changes its acidity. Restoring plant cover on peatland will mean that less peat and silt will end up in the streams and rivers downstream affecting your farm and the local environment.



5.3 - Restoration of peat without plant cover - brash spreading

The brash will form a skin over the peat without plant cover to protect it against erosion. The brash will also provide a better environment for seeds to grow in as they are protected from the harsh weather. Again, less peat and silt will end up in the streams and rivers downstream affecting your farm, the local environment and water quality.

Other - Farmer Innovation

This item is for you to share your ideas with the Project Officer. If the idea helps protect the watercourses and is not deemed to be a productive item or action, the Project Officer will work with you to find the best method to put your idea into practice.

About the Source to Tap Project

Source to Tap is an innovative and exciting, cross-border partnership project. It focuses on the Lough Erne and the River Derg catchments which cross the border between Ireland and Northern Ireland.

It aims to develop sustainable, catchment-scale solutions for the protection of rivers and lakes, which are the main sources of our shared drinking water.

The project focuses on reducing the amount of the herbicide MCPA and soil getting into rivers and streams from which drinking water is abstracted. The project runs from 2017 to 2021. It is funded by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland, and the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) in Ireland. The Source to Tap project consortium is formed of a group of partners including Northern Ireland Water, Irish Water, Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), Ulster University, East Border Region and The Rivers Trust.



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