

Brief guide to 2022 Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) Scheme

THESE ARE NOT THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR THE ABOVE SCHEME, FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT www.gov.ie/agriculture/schemesandpayments

This Helpsheet should be read in conjunction with the Terms and Conditions of the 2022 Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) Scheme and before submitting your Application Form online.

Please familiarise yourself fully with the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme before completing your Application Form as the onus will be on you, the applicant(s), to comply fully with them in order to qualify for payment. The Terms and Conditions document can be found on the Government website at the following address:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/13d971-areas-of-natural-constraint-scheme/>

Copies are also available on request by contacting the Department directly at the contact points detailed below.

Contacts

A dedicated Lo-call number has been allocated to deal with specific queries from farmers in relation to the Scheme. You should contact the Direct Payments Helpdesk at 057 8674422 for any further queries.

A dedicated email address has also been allocated to enable farmers submit queries, and replies will be made on an ongoing basis. Emails should be addressed to:

DirectPaymentsCorrespondence@agriculture.gov.ie

Key points from Terms and Conditions 2022

- ❖ Applications for the scheme (previously the Disadvantaged Areas Scheme) must be made using the Basic Payment Online Application System by ticking the appropriate box on the Online Application at www.agfood.ie
- ❖ Please note you must tick the box, located under the heading of “Other Schemes and Activities” to confirm that you wish to apply for payment under the Areas of Natural Constraints Scheme. In the event you have no land changes to declare in your 2022 BPS application, it will still be necessary to tick the box to apply for the Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) scheme in 2022.
- ❖ **Failure to tick this box will mean that you will not be eligible for payment under the ANC scheme in 2022.**

- ❖ All applications must be submitted by **midnight on 16 May 2022**.

To qualify for the ANC/ASC Scheme you must:

- ❖ Hold a valid herd number, or have applied to the Local District Veterinary Office for a herd number, on or before 16th May 2022, and farm eligible disadvantaged lands in your own right.
- ❖ Maintain a minimum stocking density of 0.15 livestock units per eligible forage hectare for 7 consecutive months within the 2021 calendar year and maintain an annual average stocking density of 0.15 livestock units per eligible forage hectare for the 2021 calendar year.

With regards to specific stocking requirements, please note the following:

- ❖ Please note that with effect from the 2022 scheme year, in accordance with a determination of the European Court of Auditors, the minimum stocking density requirements will be calculated on the total maximum eligible area available to applicants, rather than on their claimed area.
- ❖ This may result in an increased stocking requirement for some applicants whose maximum eligible area is greater than their total claimed area.
- ❖ Applicants are therefore urged to review their stocking levels to ensure they meet the minimum required stocking density.
- ❖ Cattle, sheep, horses, donkeys, goats and deer are animals which are eligible to satisfy stocking requirements. Donkeys can only account for 50% of stocking density requirements. Applicants with donkeys only will need additional animals from one of the other eligible animal types to satisfy the remaining 50% requirement.
- ❖ Applicants with sheep and/or goats must have submitted a valid Sheep/Goat Census return within the specified timelines.
- ❖ In cases where it is necessary to submit your flock register for sheep and goats, the Original Flock/Goat Register must be submitted – certified copies will not be accepted.
- ❖ With effect from the 2022 Scheme year, applicants seeking to fulfil stocking density using either Horses or Donkeys **must submit certified copies of the equine passports** to the ANC section in Portlaoise. Certified copies of the passports should only be submitted after the minimum seven month retention period and annual total has been met, i.e. after the 31st July 2022.
- ❖ For the purposes of the ANC scheme, equine passports can be certified by a recognised Agricultural Agent, a practising Solicitor or Commissioner for Oaths or a member of An Garda Síochána.

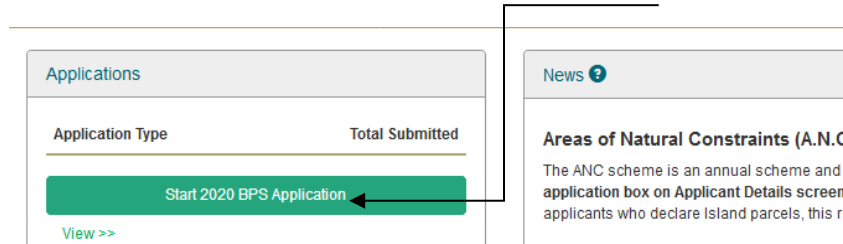
- ❖ In the case of equines, specific requirements concerning breeding enterprise criteria and equine age apply. Please consult Section 7 of the ANC terms and conditions document entitled Stocking Requirements for further information
- ❖ In the case of new entrants, applicants are required to meet the minimum required stocking density within 10 working days of receiving their herd number.
- ❖ Where a holding has been restricted due to the presence of an animal disease (e.g. TB) applicants are required to meet the minimum required stocking density within 20 working days of derestriction.

Full details of the requirements of the scheme, including additional information in respect of payment rates, scheme eligibility requirements, livestock requirements, inspections and reductions and penalties under the scheme are contained in the scheme Terms and Conditions document on the Governments website:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/13d971-areas-of-natural-constraint-scheme/>

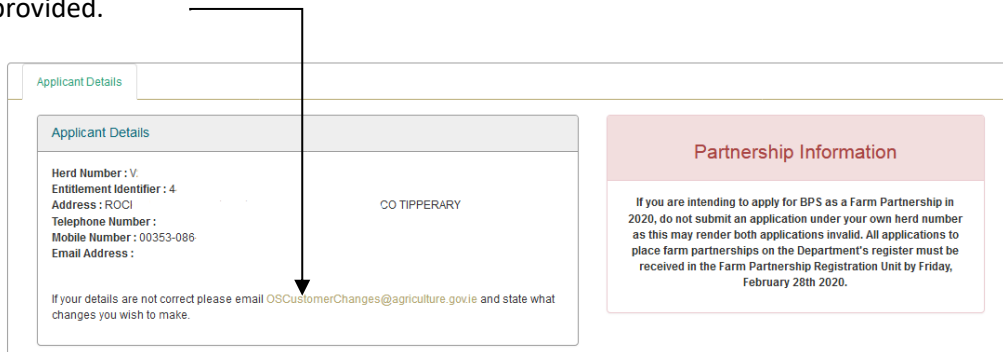
Appendix 1: Guide to submitting your Areas of Natural Constraints (ANC) and Areas of Specific Constraints (Island Farming) Scheme at www.agfood.ie

To start your BPS application –click ‘Start Application’



Applicant details screen

The **Applicant Details** page is pre-filled with your personal details which can be updated by clicking on the email link provided.



This page also provides options to tick boxes if you wish to avail of other schemes, including the ANC scheme. Please click on the box under the heading ANC should you wish to apply for the scheme. Your latest entitlements are also displayed on this page.

2020 Entitlement Position

V2190485

All entitlement types allocated under BPS and the National Reserve are subject to a two-year usage rule. Any entitlement that remains unused for two consecutive years will revert to the National Reserve. The rotation of entitlements that was available under SPS is not available under the Basic Payment Scheme.

Entitlement position					
Entitlement Type	Entitlement Identifier	Number of Entitlements	Unit Value	Lease End Date	Entitlements that will be lost to the National Reserve if unused in 2020
BPS	4.	9.7	26		0.00

Other Schemes and Activities

Organic

I intend to engage in organic farming in 2020

ANC

Please tick to confirm that you wish to apply for payment under the AREAS OF NATURAL CONSTRAINTS SCHEME/AREAS OF SPECIFIC CONSTRAINTS (ISLANDS) SCHEME. By ticking the box you are confirming that you are pursuing a farming activity on land designated under that scheme and agree to the Terms and Conditions of the scheme. If you had land that was previously eligible for ANC in 2018, but is no longer eligible it will not be included in your ANC area totals. Please refer to the Terms and Conditions as it will attract a further reduced payment in 2020.

Active Farmer

Please refer to the Terms and Conditions for Active Farmer Requirements and tick to confirm if you are engaging in any of the activities listed below.

Airports Real Estate Railway Services

Permanent Sport/Recreational Grounds

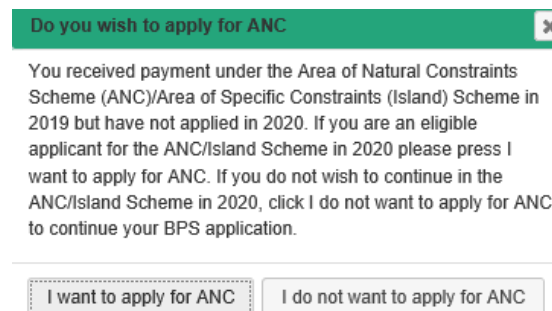
Waterworks

The next screen will ask you to click buttons to choose the type of BPS application you wish to submit i.e. No Land Changes or I have Land Changes



Where an AREA OF NATURAL CONSTRAINTS (ANC) payee in 2020 has not ticked the checkbox for ANC on the previous page, a warning message will appear and the payee will be given the option to apply again here by selecting 'I want to apply for ANC' or selecting 'I do not want to apply for ANC'

By selecting "I do not want to apply for ANC", you will be confirming that you do not wish to apply for the scheme in 2021.



Please Note - **If you have ticked the box to apply for ANC on the previous screen, this warning will not appear.**