

What's the wildlife benefit and impact on my management regimes ?

New OELS/HLS options

Q24: If I amend my agreement to include a new option, will this count as the one amendment allowed per 5 yrs in agreement?

Yes, unless the agreement has more than 2 years left to run and the amendment reduces the presence of low priority options in the agreement and replaces them with the equivalent value of high priority options; if the amendment meets these criteria it will not count towards the one amendment per 5 years limit.

I want to apply for EF23 Supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds but don't have any EF2 Wildbird seed mix or EF22 Extended Overwinter stubbles to qualify. Can I add some in at the same time and will that count as the one amendment per 5 years?

Cannot use HF12

Yes, you can add in EF2 (wild bird seed mix) and EF22 (extended overwinter stubble) areas at the same time to qualify for EF23 Supplementary feeding in winter. This will not count as your one amendment per 5 years providing the criteria at Q24XX are met.

The Supplement to add wildflowers to field corners and buffer strips (EE12/OE12) will not be available for existing agreements.

What we felt was missing

3 years ago was intensive organic

Organic matter Low

Earthworms... Low

Wildlife Ongoing declines

Grass margins ... floristically poor Owls

Gross Margins :

establishment cost of temporary leys

Want to keep leys down for 4 years

Wild bird seed mixes are very hit and miss

Can use farm saved Herward which also has arable flora in it

Use volunteers (pheasant feeders would get pinched)

Stubbles are not as weedy as we would like yet (the right kind of weeds)

Leave areas uncut

Feed forage to cattle (will come out other end and improve sward diversity)

Farm grows good forage

ff

Beef box

Q38: Are the two new grassland options EK20/OK20 Ryegrass seed-set as winter food for birds and EK/OK21 Legume and herb-rich swards only available on permanent pasture?

These new grassland options are available on temporary grassland (sown to grass or other herbaceous forage for less than 5 years) and permanent grassland that has been cultivated within the last 5 years. Grassland which has not be cultivated for 5 years or more is ineligible.

Buffer strips

Why are the points being reduced for some of the buffer strip options? They're one of the few options that focuses on protecting water resources.

We are not reducing the points allocations for buffer strips next to watercourses; we are in fact extending the eligibility for these options so they can be used alongside tracks to stop the development of run-off.

However, many recent research and monitoring studies have shown that buffer strips aimed at delivering benefits for plants and wildlife work much better when they are not simply tussocky grass, but contain a high proportion of flowers.

Laying and gapping up were the only two methods of restoration allowed under option UB14.

You can enter up to 40 m on your application form. This represents the annual commitment (40m /year for 10 years if in an HLS) i.e. 400m

| For example, where the annual commitment is 40 m | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| End of agreement year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Minimum total length restored | 40 | 80 | 120 | 160 | 200 |
| Maximum total length restored | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 | 200 |
| Points earned | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 | 400 |

Can I use hedgerow restoration option EB14/OB14 with other EB/OB hedgerow management options