

Agri-environmental measures in Poland

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General rules

1. The farm is located in Poland
2. The arable land area under agr-environmental schemes need to be 1 ha or more (in schema 6 area starts form 0,1 ha)
3. Agri-environmental business plan is obliged
4. Payment rate is: 100% for 0,1 – 50 ha; 75% for 50-100 ha and 60% for more than 100 ha
5. The obligation to preserve all permanent grassland and landscape elements that are not used for agriculture as a refuge of wildlife

Measure 1: Sustainable agriculture

- Sustainable agriculture aims to promote a sustainable management system, which consists in the rational use of natural resources, to reduce the negative impact of agriculture on the environment and prevents the loss of organic matter in the soil.
- Conditions: application of a minimum of 4 crops on arable land (in the main crop during the year on the farm, including the share of the main plant, and total cereals in the crop structure must not exceed 65% and the share of each crop must not be less than 10%; don't use the sludge
- Arable land within the farm nor less than 3 ha
- Twice a year – the chemical analysis of soil (N,P,K, Mg, Ca)
- Crop rotation and catch crops
- Payment rate: 400 zł/ha

Measure 2: Water and Soil Protection

- The protection of water soils is aimed at the proper use of soils, protection against water and wind erosion, preventing the loss of organic matter in the soil, protection of waters against pollution.
- sowing of intercrop plants by September 15th;
- a ban on resuming agrotechnical procedures before March 1;
- using as intercrop only a mixture composed of a minimum of 3 plant species, where the dominant species in the mixture or cereal species used in the mixture may not exceed 70% of its composition;

Measure 2: Water and Soil Protection

- a ban on the use of a mixture consisting exclusively of cereal species;
- prohibition of fertilization;
- prohibition of the use of pesticides and herbicides in catch crop;
- non-use of sewage sludge;
- plowing in intercrop biomass, excluding cultivation of soil in a non-plowing system;
- 650 PLN / ha for catch crops; - 450 PLN / ha for protective belts on slopes with slopes above 20%.

Measure 3: Preservation of orchards of traditional varieties of fruit trees

- The preservation of orchards of traditional varieties of fruit trees is aimed at preserving the surface of orchards of varieties of fruit trees, the living environment of many organisms, the traditional way of cultivation and the characteristic element of the rural landscape.
- the obligation to maintain the orchard of traditional varieties of fruit trees, which includes at least 12 trees, propagated on strongly growing rootstocks and run as high-flesh trees, aged from 15 years, representing no less than 4 varieties or species with no less than 4 x 6 m and no greater than 10 x 10 m, and at the same time the number of these trees per 1 ha of orchard area is not less than 90)
- the minimum trunk height should be 1.20 m;
- ban on the use of herbicides;
- the obligation to perform basic care treatments in the orchard
- Payment rate: 1964 zł/ha

Measure 4: Valuable habitats and endangered bird species in areas Natura 2000

- The goal is to improving living conditions of endangered bird species, whose breeding habitats are associated with permanent grassland occurring in special bird protection areas (SPAs), by adapting the use to the requirements of bird species nesting in meadows and pastures, and extensification of management in SPA areas,

Implementation:

- extensification of management, use of appropriate quantities and dates of swaths or grazing intensity in valuable natural habitats or habitats of endangered species of birds located in Natura 2000 sites
- Restrictions on fertilization, grazing,
- The obligation to have natural documentation prepared by expert,
- The payment rate is depend of bird spices defined in ministerial documentation

Measure 5: Valuable habitats outside Natura 2000 areas

- The measure is aimed at extensification of management, application of appropriate quantities and deadlines for swaths or grazing intensity on valuable natural habitats outside Natura 2000 sites.

Implementation:

- the obligation to have natural documentation prepared by a natural expert;
- In the area covered by the Package 5., it is prohibited to: a) plowing, rolling, use of sewage sludge, application of sowing and mechanical destruction of soil structure; b) during the period: - from April 1 to September 1 in lowland areas (up to 300 m above sea level), - from April 15 to September 1 in upland and mountain areas (over 300 m above sea level); c) use of plant protection products with the exception of selective and local destruction of onerous invasive species with the use of appropriate equipment (eg herbicide scavengers);

Measure 5: Valuable habitats outside Natura 2000 areas

- creation of new, extension and reconstruction of existing drainage systems, with the exception of the construction of devices aiming at the water level adjustment using existing drainage systems to the habitat requirements of species / habitats recommended by the nature expert
- biomass storage among clumps of trees and shrubs, in ditches, ravines and other depressions
- Payment rate is depended of type of habitat and is in the range: 911 zł/ha – 1300 zł/ha

Measure 6: Preservation of endangered genetic resources of plants in agriculture

- Preservation of endangered varieties and species and ecotypes of arable crops, production of seeds at risk of genetic erosion and production of seed of regional and amateur varieties registered in the National Register.
- Implementation through: cultivation or seed production
- Payment rate: -750 zł/ha (cultivation) i 1000 zł (production of seeds)

Measure 7: Preservation of endangered animal genetic resources in agriculture.

- The implementation of the package consists in the protection of particularly valuable native breeds of farm animals (cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, goats) in the case when low. Or the decreasing number of animals poses a threat to their extinction.

- Payment rate for defined race is:

Cattle – 1600 zł

Horse – 1500 zł

Sheep – 360 zł

Pig – 1140 zł

Goat – 580 zł

The herd couldn't be bigger than 100