

Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Scheme

The Less Favoured Area Compensatory Allowances Scheme (LFACA) is funded under Axis 2 of the Rural Development Programme and delivered by DARD.

It aims to support those who farm in naturally less favoured areas in Northern Ireland.

Support under this scheme will contribute to:

- Ensuring continued agricultural land use and thereby contributing to the maintenance of a viable rural society;
- Maintaining the countryside; and
- Maintaining and promoting sustainable farming systems which, in particular, take account of environmental protection requirements.

Who can apply?



The Scheme is open to farmers in Less Favoured Areas (LFA) who use their land to maintain breeding herds of beef cattle, sheep, deer and goats.

To claim, the applicant must have a Business Identification Number (Business ID) and;

- Have at least 3 hectares of eligible forage land in the Severely Disadvantaged Area (SDA) and/or Disadvantaged Area (DA);
- Keep enough eligible stock to meet the minimum 0.2 Livestock Units per hectare stocking density requirement;
- Have the land available and accessible and meet the stocking density requirement throughout the period of 1 April to 31 October;

- Adhere to the Cross-Compliance requirements; and
- Undertake to farm in the LFA for five years from the first payment of a compensatory allowance.

What funding is available?



The scheme has two parts:

1. An area-based payment for eligible hectares of SDA and DA land; and
2. A "cattle bonus" which increases the area based payment for those farmers who have 25% or more of their eligible livestock units as suckler cows or heifers.

Payments are normally made annually.

How do I apply?



The opening and closing dates for schemes/ programmes supported under the Rural Development Programme are advertised and promoted widely. The Rural Development Programme website www.rdpni.info provides a full list of what is currently open for applications together with further details of each scheme/ programme and how to apply.

If you do not have access to the Internet or require additional information please contact us using the details on the reverse.

An application must be made on the IACS/Single Application Form (SAF1) and land declared on