

Agroforestry In Ireland

By

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Background

- Trial Plots set up by Dr. Jim McAdam 1987.
- Results were very encouraging.
- RDP encouraging members to do agroforestry.
- Silvopastoral Agroforestry preferred.
- Irelands dependence on grass/cattle/sheep.
- Ireland second lowest tree cover in Europe.
- Strong Environmental benefits to agroforestry.

North and South

- In 2015 both the North and the South set up schemes to promote the planting of agroforestry.

DAERA & Agroforestry (North of Ireland)

- Included in the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020)
- Mo8- Investments in forest area development and improvement of viability of forests.
- Sub measure 8.2 – Agroforestry
- Silvopastoral systems.
- Available as an option in the **Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS)**.
- Maintenance payment per hectare for 5 years.
- Establishment - £1572/ hectare in year 1.
- Annual maintenance cost - £65 / hectare per year in years 1-5.
- Costs are for trees established at a density of 400 /hectare (5m x 5m spacing)

Department of Agriculture , Food and the Marine (South of Ireland)

- Decision to include it in the afforestation programme under sub measure 8.1 – land is classified as forestry (different approach to most other EU members).
- Establishment cost 4,450 euros/hectare.
- Annual premium of 260 euros/hectare/year for 5 years.
- 8 applications so far. One completed.

Different Approaches

- The North are approaching agroforestry from the agricultural side
- The South are approaching it from the afforestation side.
- Interesting to see how they progress.

Challenges

- Education and training the forestry contractors and the land owners.
- Promotion of agroforestry, to show it's productivity potential and the many environmental and animal welfare benefits.
- Research to fine tune design, plant and animal mixtures etc.
- Monitor and adjust accordingly.



Thank You