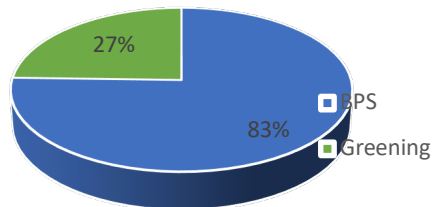


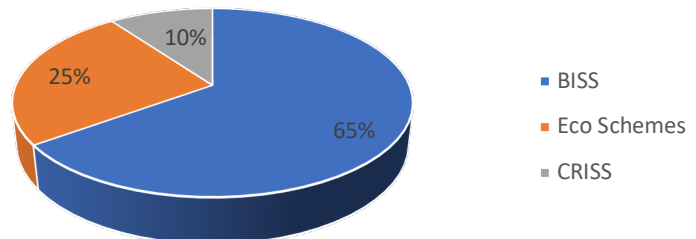
# CAP Strategic Plan (CSP)

The new CAP started on the 1st of January 2023. Essentially we are moving from BPS & Greening in the previous CAP to Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS), CRIS (front loading) & ECO.

Current BPS System

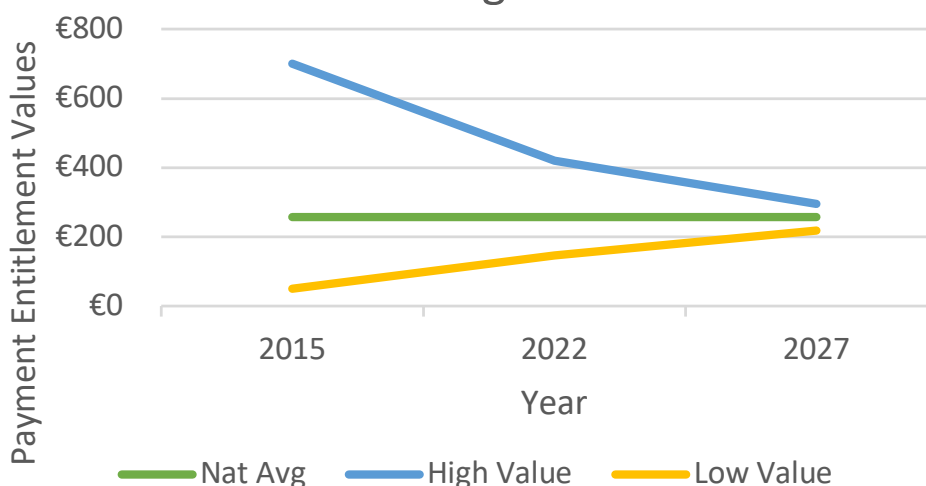


Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS)



Other key changes include Convergence of payment entitlement values, which will bring values closer to the national average entitlement unit value (€257/ha), and Capping the maximum payment an individual can receive, with this limit being reduced from €150000 to €100000. Anything above €100k is 100% capped, while anything between €60-€100k will be reduced by 85%. All entitlement values will fall into a range from €130 - €285/ha by 2026.

## Convergence



Currently all on at least 60% of national average value Proposals - moving to at least 85% of national average value

Under the CAP Strategic Plan 2023-2027, GAEC 8 requires a farmer to devote 4% of eligible land to biodiversity and landscape protection. The 4% conditionality is a requirement for the Basic Income Support for Sustainability (BISS) payment in 2023. Under the new Eco-Scheme Agricultural Practice 1, if a farmer has at least 7% Space for Nature on their holding, this will count as one of the two required practices to receive an Eco-Scheme payment. Under the enhanced option for Agricultural Practice 1, if a farmer has at least 10% Space for Nature on the holding, this will count as two Eco-Scheme practices and will qualify for a full Eco-Scheme payment.

Eco-Schemes are being proposed for the first time as part of the next Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and they will be funded by ring-fencing 25% of Ireland's Direct Payments allocation. The aim of Ireland's Eco-Scheme is to reward farmers for undertaking actions beneficial to the climate, environment, water quality and biodiversity. Farmers will receive a full Eco-Scheme payment where they commit to and deliver two out of the eight agricultural practices on eligible agricultural land.

### The 8 measures are:

1. Space for nature (non productive areas and landscape features)
2. Extension Livestock Production (Max overall stocking rate of 1.4LU/ha)
3. Limiting Chemical Nitrogen Usage
4. Planting of Native Trees/Hedgerows
5. Use of GPS Controlled Spreader and/or sprayer
6. Soil Sampling & Liming
7. Planting a Break Crop
8. Sowing a Multi Species Sward

# Nitrates Action Plan 2022

Ireland's new nitrates action plan has been signed off by the EU and comes into effect from January 2022. It includes a number of significant changes including

- A Fertilizer Register for Chemical Fertilizer
- Reduction of Chemical Fertilizer allowance by 15% by 2024 (10% in 2022 and a further 5% in 2024)
- Extra Slurry Storage and Management
  - o closed period moving from Oct 8th in 2022 to Oct 1st in 2023
  - o open date still Jan 13th
- Soiled water storage and management

Closed Period	
2022	21st – 31st December
2023	10th – 31st December
2024	1st -31st December

*\*winter/liquid milk suppliers exempt from 2024, deferred till 2025*

- Compulsory use of LESS is being phased in
  - o 2023, compulsory usage of LESS will be introduced for all farmers operating above 150kg livestock N/ha in the previous year.
  - o 2024 compulsory usage of LESS will be introduced for all farmers operating above 130kg livestock N/ha
  - o 2025 compulsory usage of LESS will be introduced for all farmers operating above 100kg livestock N/ha.
  - o This requirement to use LESS also applies to the application of pig slurry on any holding from 1st January 2023.
  - o TAMS 2023 - proposed 50% grant rate for LESS but eligibility for LESS grant is phased out after it becomes compulsory based on stocking rate
- Mandatory Soil Sampling - Currently all farmers >170kg/ha stocking rate must have soil samples taken and must assume Phos Index 4 until soils are taken but from 2023 all farmers over 130kg/ha must have soil samples taken
  - o If no soils taken then Phos. Index 4 assumed & zero allowance to use chemical Phos or import slurry
- Nitrates Banding - Rating for dairy cows nitrogen excretion to change based on milk yield (current rate is 89kg per cow)

Milk Yield (kgs)		Excretion Rate
Band 1	<4500kg	80kg organic N/cow
Band 2	4500 – 6500kg	92kg organic N/cow
Band 3	>6500kg	106kg organic N/cow

Farmers in Band 3 will feel the brunt of this measure the most as it represents a 20% increase in organic N produced on farm.

They will have to look at options to avoid penalties such as renting extra land, offloading heifers via contract rearing, cutting cow numbers or exporting slurry.