

10.6 Lapwing Fallow Plots

Definition: lapwing will nest in fields of spring cereals or potatoes, especially if there is damp, grazing land nearby for chick feeding. A fallow plot is an area left fallow, from when it is created in the spring (or in the previous autumn), until 31 July. Fallow plots allow lapwing to nest without disturbance. Large, open arable fields with nesting lapwing are eligible. The option can be introduced as whole or part fields or as plots within fields.

Aims: to maintain and increase the breeding success of lapwing nesting on arable farmland by providing suitable breeding, nesting and feeding conditions.

Biodiversity objectives: this option contributes to the NI Biodiversity Action Plan targets for the Lapwing, Yellowhammer, Chough and Irish hare. The NI priority species - Reed bunting, Tree sparrow and Linnet - will also benefit.

Management requirements

- Must not be sited on land used to fulfil set aside requirements.
- The minimum fallow plot size is 1ha and the maximum is 2ha.
- The fallow plot must be in place by 20th March.
- Following cultivation, no operations (further cultivation, rolling, cutting, grazing, spraying, pesticides, farmyard manure, sewage sludge, fertiliser/lime application or drainage) are permitted on the fallow plot.
- The fallow plot must be kept in place until 31st July.
- Fallow plots must not be used for access, turning, storage of materials or any other activity.

Further advice

Fallow plots are best created by cultivations between 15 February and 20 March, or during the previous autumn if spring cultivations are not possible. Severe infestations of annual grass weeds may be controlled by the use of glyphosate before cultivation. Control of serious infestations of grass or noxious weeds on the fallow plot may be permitted in exceptional circumstances and requires the written permission of DARD.

Management plans are provided for participants in the Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes

