



IRISH NATURA & HILL FARMERS ASSOCIATION (INHFA)



**Citizens Assembly
on Biodiversity Loss**

**15th October 2022
Aideen McGloin**



IRISH
NATURA & HILL FARMERS
ASSOCIATION (INHFA)

Seeking Fairness not Favouritism

Who are the Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association (INHFA)?

1. Set up in 2015-16.
2. Represent farmers on hill, designated and environmentally valuable land.
3. Nationwide organisation working to highlight the challenges faced by farmers in the more marginalised areas of the country.
4. Working for recognition of the environmental good/products of farming as well as the food we produce.



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* Successes

- * Farmers respond to policy.

But what if the policy is poor...

- * *‘....whatever is required to maintain the area in an eligible state. Existing **areas of scrub must be controlled** to prevent the further encroachment of briars and other woody species into the parcel. Action must be taken to **prevent the development of new scrub. Hedgerows must be maintained to prevent them from expanding into the parcel. Drains must be maintained** so that they continue to function **and to prevent the development of ineligible wet areas** within the parcel’*

Department of Agriculture’s Land Eligibility Guidelines 2015-2022

- * If the farmer does not comply they lose area
= income.



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Barriers to Success:

- * Imposition of rules from a distance often with little or no consultation.
- * INHFA members feel their livelihoods and way of life is being sacrificed for the nations balance sheet
- * Don't trust policy-makers



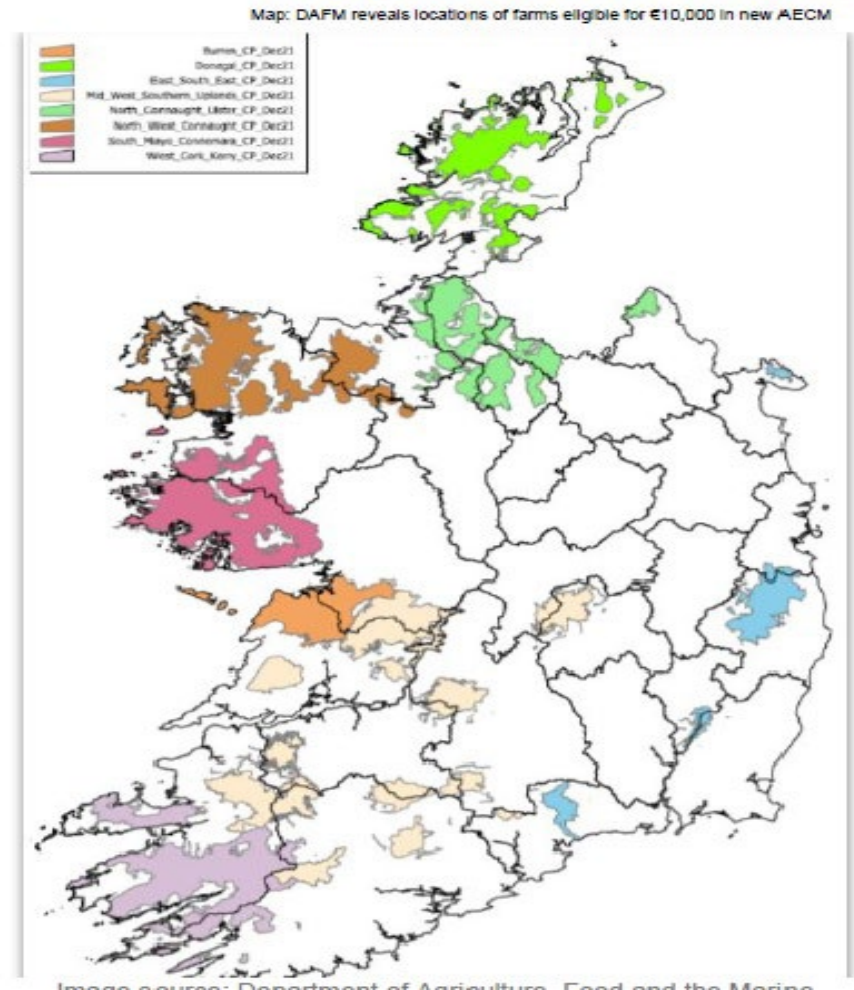


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New AECM Scheme

Will be in 'most appropriate' areas....?!

Is Biodiversity not important in all areas of the country?





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Improve Agriculture & Biodiversity

- * Design interventions with farmers
- * Create an equivalent reward/ market for biodiversity and space for nature
- * Commitments to long term
- * Treat farmers with respect and fairness- rebuild trust

