



NatureBid Auction Measure Specification

Maize Management



The late harvest of forage maize can present a high risk of soil damage and can limit opportunities to address soil structural issues or successfully establish sufficient green vegetative cover, resulting in reduced infiltration and increased risks of run-off, flooding and diffuse pollution.

Selecting earlier maturing varieties can allow a larger working window after harvest to address compaction and implement measures to reduce the likelihood of runoff over winter. The payment from this measure could contribute to recompensing the yield penalties associated with early maturing varieties, and in addition, reduce the adverse impacts of this crop on water quality and localised flooding.

Requirements

Harvest the maize crop by **1st October 2022**, then perform a primary cultivation **within the 3 days following harvest**. This could include ploughing, contour ploughing or the use of deeper working tines to address the compaction caused by the maize harvest and to produce a rough surface resilient to winter rainfall and improved infiltration.

You can then either leave this ground rough cultivated over winter, or have the option of establishing a green cover crop by the **10th October 2022**. Choose large seeded varieties which will establish quickly: winter cereals, rye corn, or hybrid/tetraploid rye grasses have good autumn vigour. Avoid overworking the soil, establish in as coarse a seedbed as practical and avoid over consolidation.

PLEASE NOTE: As part of this option, we will require participants to bid for *Buffers to Intercept Run-Off* along any run-off receptors adjacent to the field. You will be paid separately for this measure and cannot be paid for both Maize Management and Buffers in the same area. Receptors include watercourses (including ditches), roads, or properties. If you are successful in bidding for the Maize Management measure in a field but are not willing to use the Buffer option, we may disqualify your bid.



To comply with this measure, we will require photos to be taken on the **date of harvest, date of cultivation** and **date of crop establishment** and these will need to be submitted to FWAG SW.

Further requirements

- There should be **no nutrient enrichment (slurry, digestate, etc)** of fields entered into the Maize Management measure **between 10th October 2022 and 14th February 2023**
- Fields already receiving funding through other sources including through an agri-environment scheme, such as SW5: Enhanced Management of Maize Crops under Countryside Stewardship will not be eligible for this measure
- If compaction has not been remediated upon inspection, funding may be withdrawn

Please note: this measure will not be funded where maize is grown on high risk fields that are not appropriate for the crop. If you are successful in bidding for this measure, FWAG SW can assess the risk of soil erosion and run-off on your maize ground and can make recommendations on how to mitigate these risks. As part of this measure, you are agreeing to adopt best practice across the whole of your maize acreage.

FWAG SW can provide site specific advice on maize variety group selection to help ensure the above deadlines are met—please contact us to discuss.



Option 1: Address compaction and leave surface rough cultivated to increase infiltration and reduce winter run-off



Option 2: Address any compaction caused by the maize harvest then establish a vigorous growing green cover

