

Solar Electric Fencer Unit

Objective

To increase farmer's capacity to manage grazing pressures by providing the ability to power electric fences in areas where a mains power supply is not feasible.

Background

The lack of investment in field boundaries, particularly internal boundaries, has led to a decrease in the capacity to targeted grazing within a parcel. This can lead to very uneven distributions in grazing pressure, often resulting in overgrazing at entrances, near watering points and in areas of more palatable vegetation. This in turn leads to the over dominance of rushes and brambles in less favoured areas.

Improved fencing permits the adoption of management techniques like conservation or rotational grazing that can deliver sward improvements.

Site Suitability

- This action can only be selected on parcels with an Eligible hectare > 0.
- This action is available on CP parcels only that will be claimed by the participant for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
- This action can only be selected on fields that have a scorecard submitted and is available on any scorecard.

Requirements

1. Purchase and install a new solar electric fence unit. The minimum standard is 0.4 Joule of stored energy.
2. The initial location of the solar electric fence unit must be identified and marked on the map submitted. Each unit applied for is only eligible for one NPI payment and once claimed must be retained for the remainder of the ACRES contract.
3. The participant must retain receipts for the Solar Fencer for the remainder of the ACRES contract and for twelve months after the date of submission of any claim for payment.
4. Where a Solar Electric Fence Unit has been grant aided under TAMS or any other National/EU funded Agri-environment or Capital investment Scheme from 01 January 2018, this cannot fulfil the requirement for this ACRES Solar Electric Fencer Unit NPI.

Additional Guidance:

Solar electric fencer units/chargers are mobile equipment, they can be placed at any safe and practical location where they can be attached to an electric fence. To ensure adequate operation they should not be placed in the shade. They can be lifted and put into storage when not in use.