

Solar Electric Fence Unit

Specification extract · Pages 89–90

What this document is

This is an extract of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) document “ACRES Co-operation Non-Productive Investments Specification”, Version 2.2, July 2026. It contains the pages covering the Solar Electric Fence Unit action (pages 89–90 of the full specification).

Because the specification runs each action straight into the next, the first and last pages of this extract may also show the end or beginning of a neighbouring action. The section for this action starts on page 89 (the printed page number matches the page number in the full document).

Always check the current version

DAFM updates the specification from time to time. The full document is the authoritative version and should be consulted before undertaking any work. It is available from:

Full specification (PDF, opens at this action):

https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/f8e2ccf8/NPI_specifications_July_2026_2.pdf#page=89

ACRES NPI page on gov.ie:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/f5a48-agri-climate-rural-environment-scheme-acres/#non-productive-investments>

About this action on the ACRES CP website

<https://acresireland.ie/action-projects/npi-solar-electric-fence-unit/>

- A drainage bung should be installed to allow easy emptying if the water is soiled.
- Only loose stone gathered from the site can be used in the construction; limestone pavement cannot be lifted or used for construction material.
- There should be no removal of stone from any archaeological monuments, old walls or other built structures.
- Animal escape ramps should be considered to help young mammals or birds escape to prevent fouling of the stored water.
- Only vegetation directly under the unit should be disturbed, do not disturb or remove vegetation in the surrounding area.

Picture 9: Example of a Rainwater Catcher



Source: Caomhnú Árinn

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 fencer unit. The minimum standard is 0.4 Joule of stored energy.
2. The initial location of the mobile solar electric fencer 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 Fencer 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.
5. Only one claim for payment is allowed per approved NPI-Annual Works Plan. This action can only be claimed for payment once delivered in accordance with NPI Specification.

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.

Solar Pumps

Objectives

Provide a solar-powered fixed or a mobile solar water pump unit that is capable of pumping water from a safe supply to livestock water troughs.

Background

Having a well-installed water supply and storage system is vital for appropriate livestock management on scored fields. Water troughs provide alternative drinking points to natural water sources which can become damaged if overused by stock. Solar pumps can be a