

Greening Checklist for 2026 Ecological Focus Areas

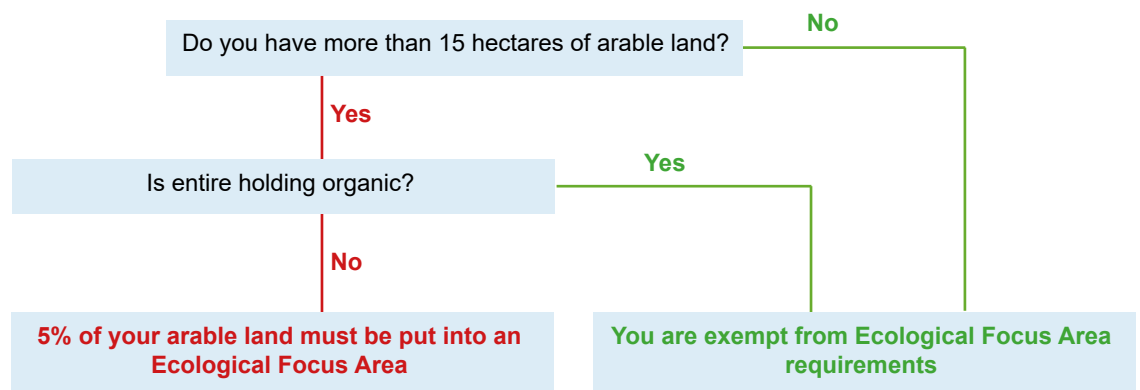


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An Ecological Focus Area (EFA) is an area of land upon which you carry out agricultural practices that are beneficial for the climate and environment. If you have arable land on your holding you may need to comply with the rules associated with EFAs. If your land is certified as organic or is in organic conversion, the EFA requirements do not apply to you. Depending on the area of arable land and grassland you grow you may also be exempt from the requirements. Use the flow chart below to check.

Note: For the purposes of calculating your EFA requirements, arable land includes all the land used to grow arable crops, fallow, temporary grassland, leguminous crops and herbaceous crops that you claim for the BPS.



Answer each question below with a **yes**, **no** or **n/a** to help check if you are complying with the rules for the 2026 scheme year. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.

If you have 15 hectares or more of arable land and are not exempt, have you put at least 5% of your calculated arable area into one or more of the following seven EFA options:

- Fallow land (1 hectare = 1 hectare of EFA)?
- Margins (1 hectare = 1.5 hectares of EFA)?
- Catch crops (1 hectare = 0.30 hectares of EFA)?
- Green cover (1 hectare = 0.30 hectares of EFA)?
- Nitrogen-fixing crops (1 hectare = 1 hectare of EFA)?
- Agro-forestry (1 hectare = 1 hectare of EFA)?
- Hedges (whole hedge: 100m = 0.10 hectare of EFA; half hedge: 100m = 0.05 hectares of EFA)?

- Low input grassland (1 hectare = 0.2 hectare of EFA)?
- Herb and legume-rich pastures (1 hectare = 1.5 hectares of EFA)?
- Agroforestry low density planting (1 hectare = 2 hectares of EFA)?
- Unharvested crop (1 hectare = 1.5 hectares of EFA)?

Note: Each EFA option has its own management requirements. Review the options carefully to ensure you meet all the requirements: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/basic-payment-scheme/basic-payment-scheme-full-guidance/greening-guidance-2026/efa-ecological-focus-areas//>

Use the relevant EFA checklists to check you are compliant with the rules associated with each option.

The detail contained within this information note represents a summary of the key scheme requirements. To ensure compliance with all aspects of the scheme, please refer to the full scheme guidance which is available at: www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/basic-payment-scheme/basic-payment-scheme-full-guidance/greening---bps/greening-guidance-2026/