



Government Circular No. 18/05

**THE FARM AND HORTICULTURAL IMPROVEMENT
(AMENDMENT) SCHEME 2005**

1. Citation and commencement

This Scheme may be cited as the Farm and Horticultural Improvement (Amendment) Scheme 2005 and shall come into operation on the 1st August 2005.

2. Interpretation

In this Scheme, “the principal Scheme” means the Farm and Horticultural Improvement Scheme 1999¹.

3. Amendment of the principal Scheme

In the principal Scheme –

(a) in paragraph 2 –

(i) after the definition of “approved” insert –

“ “bee keeper” means a person who is involved in the keeping of bees for the commercial production of honey, and “bee keeping” shall be construed accordingly;”;

(ii) in the definition of “horticultural produce”, in sub-paragraph (b) after “fungi,” insert “maincrop potatoes and other field vegetables”;

(b) in paragraph 3 –

(i) in paragraph (d), for “criteria.” substitute “criteria;”;

(ii) after paragraph (d) insert –

“(e) a bee keeper.”

¹ GC 51/99: amended by GC 21/03

- (c) in paragraph 6 –
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (7)(a), for “24, 25, 27 and 28 of Schedule 1” substitute “12, 25, 26 and 29 of Schedule 1 or entries in Schedule 4 relating to bee keeping”;
 - (ii) in sub-paragraph (7)(c), for “entries 3 to 26 of Schedule 1 and entries 1 to 19 of Schedule 2” substitute “entries 3 to 25 and 27 and 28 of Schedule 1 and entries 2 to 18 of Schedule 2”;
- (d) in paragraph 8 –
 - (i) in sub-paragraph (2A), for “Column 3” substitute “Column 2”;
 - (ii) after sub-paragraph (2A) insert –
 - “ (2B) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph and paragraphs 11 and 12, the amount of any grant payable to a bee keeper towards expenditure in respect of the purchase of equipment specified in Column 1 of Schedule 4 shall be the percentage of that expenditure specified in Column 2 of the Schedule opposite the entry relating to the equipment.”;
- (e) for Schedule 1, 2 and 3, substitute –

**ELIGIBLE AGRICULTURAL WORKS, FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS
AND RATES OF GRANT**

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Agricultural business Rate of grant</i></p>
<p>1. Provision, replacement or improvement of fixed disposal facilities for the handling, storage and treatment of agricultural effluents and waste.</p>	<p>60%</p>
<p>2. Provision, replacement or improvement of equipment for the treatment and disposal of agricultural effluents and waste.</p> <p>3. Provision of facilities for the safe storage and disposal of agricultural fuels.</p> <p>4. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent buildings intended for the storage of grain.</p> <p>5. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent structures intended for the ensiling of grass.</p> <p>6. Provision of purpose built containers or stores for agricultural chemicals and medicines.</p> <p>7. Permanent fittings to buildings designed for Health and Safety purposes.</p> <p>8. Provision, replacement or improvement of concrete yards.</p> <p>9. Provision or replacement of pens, dips, crushes or other facilities designed and intended for use in connection with the gathering, treatment, management or handling of sheep or cattle.</p> <p>10. Provision, replacement or improvement of hedges and walls made from traditional materials.</p> <p>11. Eradication of bracken by means other than soil cultivation.</p> <p>12. Annual certification and inspection fees payable to an organisation recognised by the Department for setting standards for organic production.</p>	<p>50%</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Agricultural business Rate of grant</i></p>
<p>13. Provision, replacement or improvement of milking and associated equipment, bulk milk tanks and geothermal pumps.</p> <p>14. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent dairy and parlour buildings including wall coverings and associated collecting yards, including internal fittings and those designed for Health and Safety purposes.</p> <p>15. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent buildings for cattle, sheep and pigs including internal fittings and those designed for Health and Safety purposes.</p> <p>16. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent buildings, including internal fixtures, intended for poultry production, but excluding battery cage production.</p> <p>17. Professional fees incurred in the preparation of plans for capital projects.</p>	<p>40%</p>
<p>18. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent buildings for the storage of agricultural production including internal fittings and those designed for Health and Safety purposes.</p> <p>19. Provision, replacement or improvement of facilities for the supply of electricity for agricultural purposes.</p> <p>20. Provision, replacement or improvement of facilities for the supply of water, including the provision, replacement or improvement of facilities for water storage.</p>	<p>35%</p>
<p>21. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent buildings for the housing of agricultural equipment, excluding any internal fittings other than those designed for Health and Safety purposes.</p> <p>22. Field drainage, including under-drainage.</p> <p>23. Replacement or improvement of existing roads, hard-standings, bridges.</p>	<p>30%</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Agricultural business Rate of grant</i></p>
<p>24. Provision, replacement or improvement of permanent boundary fences and gates.</p> <p>25. Purchase and rear of pullets intended for egg production but excluding birds for battery cage production.</p> <p>26. Re-seeding and regeneration of grassland and laying down of permanent pasture by direct re-seeding.</p>	<p>25%</p>
<p>27. Provision, replacement of sheep or cattle grids.</p> <p>28. Provision of natural shelter belts.</p>	<p>20%</p>
<p>29. Re-seeding of grassland and laying down of permanent pasture by under-sowing in cereals for harvesting as grain.</p>	<p>12.5%</p>

ELIGIBLE HORTICULTURAL PRODUCTION BUSINESS WORKS, FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS AND RATES OF GRANT

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Horticultural Production Rate of grant</i></p>
<p>1. Annual certification and inspection fees payable to an organisation recognised by the Department for setting standards for organic production.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">50%</p>
<p>2. Provision or enlargement of horticultural production buildings and glasshouses.</p> <p>3. Provision, installation or replacement of fixed and permanent glasshouse heating systems, including systems to monitor and control temperatures.</p> <p>4. Supply and installation of thermal insulation.</p> <p>5. Supply and installation of plant or equipment for the control of temperature or atmosphere in glasshouses.</p> <p>6. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the storage or preparation for market of horticultural produce.</p> <p>7. Works for the sterilisation of soil by heat treatment.</p> <p>8. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the irrigation of crops in the open, or in glasshouses using collected rainwater.</p> <p>9. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the control of pests and diseases of horticultural produce by non-chemical or biological treatment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">40%</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 1</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Column 2</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Horticultural Production Rate of grant</i></p>
<p>10. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the production or harvesting of horticultural produce.</p> <p>11. Plant or equipment (but excluding tractors) designed and intended for the cultivation of horticultural crops and produce.</p> <p>12. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the grading, weighing and sizing of horticultural produce.</p> <p>13. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the management of pests and diseases.</p> <p>14. Purchase of peat substitute for use as a growing medium and not intended for re-sale.</p> <p>15. Purchase of packaging material embossed with an approved logo.</p>	<p>35%</p>
<p>16. Works for the sterilisation of soil by chemical treatment.</p> <p>17. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the irrigation of crops in the open, or in glasshouses.</p> <p>18. Plant or equipment designed and intended for the packing of horticultural produce.</p>	<p>30%</p>

SCHEDULE 3

ELIGIBLE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND RATE OF GRANT

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Ancillary agricultural business Rate of grant</i>
1. Mobile agricultural equipment eligible for purchase under Schedule 1 by an eligible agricultural business.	50%

ELIGIBLE BEE KEEPING EQUIPMENT AND RATE OF GRANT

<i>Column 1</i> <i>Kind of work, facility or improvement</i>	<i>Column 2</i> <i>Bee keeping Rate of grant</i>
1. Hives, separators, extraction equipment, protective clothing, bottles, jars and containers, but not queens or sugar.	25%

MADE 14th June 2005

R. W. Henderson

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

EXPLANATORY NOTE*(This note is not part of the Scheme)*

This Scheme amends the Farm and Horticultural Scheme 1999 by –

- (a) reintroducing support for bee keepers who are involved in the commercial production of honey;
- (b) making further provision for the payment of grant in respect of –
 - (i) the growing of main crop potatoes and other field vegetables;
 - (ii) professional fees incurred in the preparation of plans for capital projects;
- (c) removing the eligibility for grant in respect of the purchase of peat as a growing medium, though peat substitute remains eligible;
- (d) generally increasing the rates of grant available to ancillary farm businesses and for horticultural production.