



RURAL STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

MOORLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

(For Farmers and Crofters only)

Name of business:

Main Farm Code Number:

Name of farm/croft/common grazing:

Name of farmer/crofter:

.....

Address:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

NOTES ON COMPLETION

1. The Plan must cover at least 10 hectares of moorland. There is no upper limit.
2. A completed Moorland Management Plan must accompany an RSS application which includes any of the moorland options. The Moorland Management Plan is intended to provide a description of the current extent, condition and use of the moorland. It should also detail any proposed changes to the management required to improve the quality and extent of the heather and other vegetation of conservation interest. Where stock disposal is proposed, recent flock composition details are required for the moorland in question and for the IACS business as a whole. Please enter the number of ewes and gimmers recorded in your IACS Business Flock Records at 1 March 2005 and for each of the two preceding years. These figures are required in order to establish the number of ewes to be removed from the moorland and business and the number to be retained during participation in the RSS.
3. The Management Plan must be accompanied by a map, normally at 1:10,000 or 1:25,000 scale showing separately those areas of moorland:
 - (a) which are in good condition (MG)
 - (b) where the vegetation is overgrown or undergrazed (MU)
 - (c) where the vegetation is suppressed and in need of regeneration (MS)

These areas should be labelled MG (1, 2, 3 etc), MU and MS as appropriate. The map should also identify sacrifice/feeding areas and clearly show the proposed Muirburn Programme, any fencing and the **maximum extent** of the area(s) to be covered by a Bracken Eradication Programme (BEP). Heft locations must also be shown together with the number of sheep on each heft in the reference year and following stock disposal.

4. The Plan is divided into five sections. Section 1 seeks details on the overall extent and location of all the moorland on the unit. Sections 2, 3 and 4 seek information about areas of moorland in each of the 3 categories described above. As well as details of location and area, a full description of the vegetation and its condition is required. There should also be a summary of the current management, including grazing patterns, details of any shepherding, supplementary feeding practices and muirburn carried out. Any proposed changes to this management should also be detailed, particularly those which involve management options or capital works proposed eligible for assistance under RSS. Section 5 seeks information on livestock numbers where stock disposal for the benefit of moorland vegetation is proposed. Please ensure details of any muirburn, bracken eradication and fencing required under the Moorland Management Plan are also detailed in the Environmental Audit.
5. When completing section 5, it is important to note that the business is required to dispose of a sufficient number of sheep to reduce the flock of ewes and gimmers it maintains to an agreed size. If the number of ewes and gimmers maintained in the flock was highest in the year of application, the participating business will be obliged to dispose of more ewes than will be covered by the area-based stock disposal payment in order to achieve the agreed *Reduced Flock Size*.
6. The LFASS payment to which you are entitled may be affected following the disposal of sheep.
7. An example of a completed Moorland Management Plan is given at the end of this form. (Please remove the pages containing the example before returning your completed Plan to your local SEERAD office). If you require additional space to complete any of the questions, please do this by attaching additional pages to the relevant page.

SECTION 1 - DETAILS OF ALL MOORLAND ON UNIT

Total area on unit (Ha):

Total area to be managed under RSS Moorland Management Plan (Ha):

Location Reference(s) on map:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

FID Number(s):

.....

SECTION 5 - STOCKING INFORMATION

(to be completed only where stock disposal is proposed)

If this is your IACS business' first agri-environment scheme application containing stock disposal proposals, please complete the Baseline information for your IACS business at Table A. If your IACS business already has an Agri-environment agreement containing stock disposal proposals, you need not complete Table A but go straight to Table B to complete baseline information for the moorland entered into the scheme under this application.

A-Baseline information: IACS Business

1. Please enter Main Farm Code No:
2. Please enter the number of ewes and gimmers recorded in your IACS Business Flock Records at 1 March 2005 and for each of the two preceding years.

Year	Flock Composition				
	Ewes	Gimmers	Total		
2005					
2004				Reference Year*	
2003				Base Flock Number	

*Note: The *Reference Year* taken for baseline data and used to calculate the ewe reduction will be the year with the lowest number of ewes and gimmers (*Base Flock Number*) unless valid evidence to support using a different year is produced.

B-Baseline information: Moorland

3. Please enter farm code of moorland if different from question 1 above:
4. For the same 3 years, please enter flock details relating to the moorland to be entered into the scheme:

Year	Moorland Flock			
	Ewes	Gimmers	Total	Ewe Hogs
2005				
2004				
2003				

5. Enter the lowest number of ewes and gimmers only maintained on the moorland over the 3 year period.

C-Stock disposal for the benefit of moorland vegetation

6. Please enter the total number of *ewes and gimmers* to be removed from the moorland and IACS business for the duration of participation in the RSS, *in return for a stock disposal payment*:

Stock Reduction figure:

If your application is successful, you will receive an area-based payment equivalent to each ewe and gimmer removed under the Scheme.

D-Summary of Stock details during participation in the Scheme

7. Number of ewes/gimmers to be removed from the moorland and IACS business *in return for a stock disposal payment (Stock Reduction figure):**

Equivalent area of moorland.

For the purposes of payment, it is assumed that each ewe disposed of will benefit 0.8 hectare of moorland. The total payment under this option will be limited to the equivalent of 250 hectares of moorland.

8. The number of ewes and gimmers which can be retained on the moorland will not exceed:

(This is determined by reducing the number of ewes and gimmers on the moorland entered at Q5 by the number of ewes and gimmers to be removed (see Q6).

9. Total flock (ewes & gimmers) for the IACS Business will not exceed:**

*This **Reduced Flock Size** is determined by deducting the number of ewes and gimmers to be removed (see Q6) from the **Base Flock Number** maintained by the IACS business in the **Reference year** (Q2). This **Reduced Flock Size** is established at approval of the first agri-environment scheme application involving stock disposal for this business.*

* while participating in the Scheme, the Reduced flock size figure may be temporarily exceeded between the time ewe hoggs become gimmers and the disposal of cast ewes in the Autumn. Any such surplus ewes must be disposed of by 1 January, otherwise increases in ewe/gimmer numbers will be considered a breach of scheme conditions unless additional land has been purchased or leased and proof can be provided to show that the additional land was either purchased or leased with an existing flock or that additional sheep have been purchased to stock the additional land.

SECTION 1 - DETAILS OF ALL MOORLAND ON UNIT

Total area on unit (Ha): 1000 ha

Total area to be managed under RSS Moorland Management Plan (Ha): 800 ha

Location Reference(s) on map: MG1, MG2, MG3, MG4, MS1, MS2 and MU1

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

FID Number(s): NO/12345/12345

.....

SECTION 2 - MOORLAND IN GOOD CONDITION

Total Area (Ha): 550 ha

Location Reference(s) on map:

FID Number(s): MG1, MG2, MG3, MG4

Description of vegetation: MG1, Green Hill and North Hill are largely grass-dominated. The vegetation on these hills is mostly made up of a mixture of bent, fescue and sweet vernal grass on the more productive areas, with mat-grass becoming predominant on poorer parts. Herb species found within this vegetation include tormentil and heath bedstraw, as well as clover, yarrow, cats ear, harebell and heartsease on the slightly better soils. Molinia is the dominant grass on wetter, lower slopes. A few small patches of heather occur on some of the better drained slopes of these hills, and within the wetter, cotton-sedge dominated areas along the western foot of North Hill. Bracken is spreading south from the north march and on the northern slopes of North Hill.

MG2 The upper slopes of Black Hill carry heather in good condition with some grassy patches and areas of blaeberry.

MG3 The vegetation on the southern hill areas shown as in good condition is similar to that at MG2. Heather of differing ages is present due to previous muirburn practices in this area.

MG4 Areas of blanket bog occurring to the north and south of the moorland contain large areas of bog mosses, cotton grass. Heather in these areas is low growing due to exposure rather than grazing pressure.

Existing management (including stocking, grazing patterns, supplementary feeding practices and muirburn):

Ewes, gimmers and hoggs spend virtually all their time on the hill only being taken off for clipping, dipping and other treatments. Stock are hefted and the pattern of hefts and numbers are shown on the map. The more productive grass areas carry a higher stocking density than the areas of heather and blanket bog. Feed blocks are put out for 2 months prior to lambing. Feed sites are changed each year to prevent excessive erosion occurring. 5 to 6 Ha of muirburning is carried out each year on the slopes of Shiel Hill.

Proposed changes to management (e.g. Improving supplementary feeding practices):

MG1 The maximum extent of the area of bracken to be covered by the Bracken Eradication Programme, drawn on the map, is 65 ha

MG2 A muirburn programme will be introduced over some 20 Ha of heather on the upper slopes of Black Hill.

MG3 A muirburn programme will be introduced over some 60 Ha on the Southern Hill.

Feeding sites will be located on areas of low conservation value and rotated during the course of each year

SECTION 3 - UNDERGRAZED/OVERGROWN MOORLAND

Total Area (Ha): 50 ha

Location Reference(s) on map: MU1

FID Number(s):

Description of vegetation: Heather in this area has not been burnt for several years due to adjacent forestry plantation. As the heather becomes more rank the value of the grazing is declining. Occasional young birch trees are regenerating in the area.

Existing management (including stocking, grazing patterns, supplementary feeding practices and muirburn):

The bulk of the undergrazed area is the most southerly heft on the farm. This area carries some 120 ewes and gimmers which are managed and fed as described in the previous section.

Proposed changes to management (e.g. herding required to support changes to grazing regime):

The existing Muirburn programme carried out on Gairlock Hill will be expanded across the burn to Shiel Hill. To safeguard adjoining forestry, a firebreak will be swiped 75m in from the march. This procedure will leave an area of tall heather as cover for raptors. A suckler herd comprising of 25 Aberdeen Angus Cross cows will be grazed on this area from beginning of July to early September to control rank vegetation of low conservation value.

SECTION 4 - SUPPRESSED MOORLAND IN NEED OF REGENERATION

Total Area (Ha): 200 ha

Location Reference(s) on map: MS1, MS2

FID Number(s):

Description of vegetation: MS1 and MS2 Both these areas have a good covering of heather breaking up into a grass/heather mosaic on the lower slopes. Blaeberry becomes more abundant at higher altitudes. The heather is generally short and shows areas of contorted growth which is believed to be due to grazing pressure rather than exposure to wind.

Existing management (including stocking, grazing patterns, supplementary feeding practices and muirburn):
Bracken is expanding on the upper slopes of area MS2. Stock management and feeding are as previously described. The hefting pattern and heft numbers are shown on the map.

Proposed changes to management (Over and above normal hill stock husbandry. Where stock disposal is proposed, full details should be given in section 5):

Areas MS1 and MS2. In order to reduce the grazing pressure on these two areas of suppressed heather and encourage regeneration, 50 ewes from each heft will be removed from the business. The flock will be scanned in February and twin-bearing ewes will be moved to the inbye improved grassland fields where they will remain until after lambing. No hogs will be wintered on the hill. Bracken will be eradicated from an area of moorland extending to a maximum of 30 ha. Supplementary feeding sites are sited within areas that have no conservation interest and will be used in rotation. 500m of march fencing are required to prevent stock from the neighbouring farm from encroaching on these hefts. In all a total of 100 ewes will be removed from the business.

SECTION 5 - STOCKING INFORMATION

(to be completed only where stock disposal is proposed)

If this is your IACS business' first agri-environment scheme application containing stock disposal proposals, please complete the Baseline information for your IACS business at Table A. If your IACS business already has an Agri-environment agreement containing stock disposal proposals, you need not complete Table A but go straight to Table B to complete baseline information for the moorland entered into the scheme under this application.

A-Baseline information: IACS Business

1. Please enter Main Farm Code No: 123/1567
2. Please enter the number of ewes and gimmers recorded in your IACS Business Flock Records at 1 March 2005 and for each of the two preceding years.

Year	Flock Composition			Reference Year*	
	Ewes	Gimmers	Total		
2005	1020	212	1232		
2004	1020	215	1235	Reference Year*	2005
2003	1035	215	1250	Base Flock Number	1232

*Note: The *Reference Year* taken for baseline data and used to calculate the ewe reduction will be the year with the lowest number of ewes and gimmers (*Base Flock Number*) unless valid evidence to support using a different year is produced.

B-Baseline information: Moorland

3. Please enter farm code of moorland if different from question 1 above:
4. For the same 3 years, please enter flock details relating to the moorland to be entered into the scheme:

Year	Moorland Flock			
	Ewes	Gimmers	Total	Ewe Hogs
2005	690	142	832	148
2004	720	140	860	148
2003	710	140	850	148

5. Enter the lowest number of ewes and gimmers only maintained on the moorland over the 3 year period.

832

C-Stock disposal for the benefit of moorland vegetation

6. Please enter the total number of *ewes and gimmers* to be removed from the moorland and IACS business for the duration of participation in the RSS, *in return for a stock disposal payment*:

Stock Reduction figure:	100
-------------------------	-----

If your application is successful, you will receive an area-based payment equivalent to each ewe and gimmer removed under the Scheme.

D-Summary of Stock details during participation in the Scheme

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 7. Number of ewes/gimmers to be removed from the moorland and IACS business <i>in return for a stock disposal payment</i> (Stock Reduction figure):* | 100 |
|--|-----|

Equivalent area of moorland.
For the purposes of payment, it is assumed that each ewe disposed of will benefit 0.8 hectare of moorland. The total payment under this option will be limited to the equivalent of 250 hectares of moorland.

80 hectares

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 8. The number of ewes and gimmers which can be retained on the moorland will not exceed: | 732 |
|--|-----|

(This is determined by reducing the number of ewes and gimmers on the moorland entered at Q5 by the number of ewes and gimmers to be removed (see Q6).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| 9. Total flock (ewes & gimmers) for the IACS Business will not exceed:** | 1,132 |
|--|-------|

*This **Reduced Flock Size** is determined by deducting the number of ewes and gimmers to be removed (see Q6) from the **Base Flock Number** maintained by the IACS business in the **Reference year** (Q2). This **Reduced Flock Size** is established at approval of the first agri-environment scheme application involving stock disposal for this business.*

* while participating in the Scheme, the Reduced flock size figure may be temporarily exceeded between the time ewe hogs become gimmers and the disposal of cast ewes in the Autumn. Any such surplus ewes must be disposed of by 1 January, otherwise increases in ewe/gimmer numbers will be considered a breach of scheme conditions unless additional land has been purchased or leased and proof can be provided to show that the additional land was either purchased or leased with an existing flock or that additional sheep have been purchased to stock the additional land.

