



**Farming for Water EIP 2024-2027**

**Agricultural Community Animator  
Application Form**

**Applications online only**

**[Surveys | Online Consultation Portal of the Waters and Communities Office](#)**

Queries to **[info@watereip.ie](mailto:info@watereip.ie)**

**By 4pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**CLOSING DATE WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO**



## Introduction

### Water European Innovation Partnership Agriculture (EIP-Agri) Project – Farming for Water EIP

LAWPRO in partnership with Teagasc and Dairy Industry Ireland (DII) is leading the Farming for Water EIP, a European Innovation Partnership Agriculture (EIP-Agri) project. A budget of €60m has been allocated to the project. This will be the first national integrated Agri-environment EIP focusing on paying farmers for “measures in the right place” to address water quality issues and promote multiple benefits through a partnership of the public and private sectors. The project aims to engage up to 15,000 farmers through a locally advisor led targeted approach.

The measures will contribute to protecting and restoring water quality and benefit biodiversity, flood mitigation and ecosystem climate resilience. These measures take a nature-based approach, and it is intended to integrate the learning for other sectors (e.g., forestry, urban nature-based sustainable drainage systems) to develop best practice at the scale required. Measures will be designed and implemented, in collaboration with farmers, and will be targeted specifically to address local challenges. The project will provide lessons learned to inform future water and agriculture policy and operations in this area.

## Context

### The Community Catchment Partnership Approach

In support of the objectives of the project, we seek applications from interested community led organisations to work in partnership with the project to host Agricultural Community Animator scientific posts. These posts will be supported by the Farming for WaterEIP project team and have access to the necessary supports in terms of training and catchment science. A focus of the post is to communicate and promote the importance of good agricultural practices to protect and restore water quality. There are 5 Community Animator posts available.

The core aims will be to:-

- Recruit farmers into the Farming for WaterEIP project based on local public objectives relevant to the selected target area.
- Leverage experience and synergies with community led work to enhance the reach and impact of the Farming for WaterEIP.
- Promote and showcase areas of best practice.
- Contribute nationally to the promotion of a “caring for water” approach based on local examples and experiences.

## Budget

The available budget is:

- €68,745 per annum for salaries (inclusive of PRSI and pension contributions)
- €6,000 per annum for travel and subsistence.
- €13,888 per annum for overheads.

Funding will be provided once the Community Animator is appointed. Funding will be paid on a quarterly basis in arrears based on the standard reporting criteria.



## The role of Agricultural Community Animator

Each Agricultural Community Animator will be based within a locally-led community catchment partnership/organisation. The posts will incorporate community participation innovation into the project model. Embedded within selected community catchment partnerships or equivalent community organisations, these posts will work with the wider Farming for Water EIP project team following the catchment science approach contextualised to the selected catchment area. The focus will be on multiple benefits as well as water quality, and a minimum target number of farms set for engagement to carry out the animation and community integration work. These positions will also be responsible for leveraging social inclusion and other funding and support where relevant, in addition to supporting the communication of the Farming for Water EIP project philosophy, through the community networks and local and national media to assist in “winning hearts and minds” of farmers.

The Community Animator will report to the Farming for Water EIP Assistant Project manager. Five posts will be funded across the country and it will be expected that these posts will participate in training and relevant meetings as the post required.

The funding for the post of Community Animator will be allocated on an annual basis until the scheduled end of the project (December 2027).

## Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Recruit farmers into the Farming for WaterEIP based on local public objectives relevant to the project target area. It is expected that a minimum of 35 applicant farmers per year over the lifetime of the project will be recruited by each Community Animator.
- Leverage experience and synergies with community led work to enhance the reach and impact of the Farming for WaterEIP.
- Promote and showcase areas of best practice.
- Contribute nationally to the promotion of a “caring for water” approach based on local examples and experiences.
- Convene public meetings as required and liaise with the farming community with the in target areas.
- Contribute to the development of guidance documents and training material.
- Apply for grant aid on behalf of farmers to implement agreed water quality measures.
- Carry out farm walks with farmers identified as suitable for the scheme.
- Design and develop Rain Water Management Plans or other plans as required by the project.
- Recommend and agree measures with applications.
- Completion and submit applications.
- Cross check to ensure there are no double payments for measures.
- Follow up and validate measures to enable payments where required.
- Carry out periodic checks to ensure measures are in place and advise farmers on maintenance of measures.
- Support the wider EIP Team and Teagasc ASSAP and the Dairy Sector Agricultural Advisors.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, including GDPR and environmental laws and regulations.



## Applicant Organisation Desirable Requirements

- Community organisations or catchment partnerships with a proven track record working in the protection and restoration of water quality or biodiversity.
- Community organisations or catchment partnerships with a track record in the delivery of water quality measures on the ground in partnership with farming communities.
- Community organisations or catchment partnerships with a track record in administering schemes and initiatives.
- Community organisations or catchment partnerships with demonstrable capacity to host staff and provide administrative support.
- Community organisations or catchment partnerships with the capacity to work at both catchment and multi catchment scale.
- Community organisations or catchment partnerships may partner with other organisations to focus on particular river catchments.
- Community organisations or catchment partnerships located in Priority Areas for Action (PAA) impacted by agricultural activities are encouraged to apply but consideration will be given to applications from all areas.

## Who can apply?

Not-for-profit non-governmental water focused organisations with demonstrated catchment relevance can apply to host an Agricultural Community Animator to support the delivery of the Farming for Water EIP Project.

Organisations that fit the following criteria are eligible to apply:

- **Company Type:** Your not-for-profit organisation must be established as a Company limited by guarantee (CLG)
- **Constitution requirements:** The constitution of the organisation must prohibit the payment of remuneration to the directors.
- **Proven Delivery:** Organisations that have proven delivery in the area of water quality improvement projects including projects funded under the Community Water Development Fund administered by LAWPRO.

## Ineligible Organisations.

Private companies, individuals, public bodies or state agencies are not eligible to apply for funding under this scheme.

## How and when to apply

You must apply through LAWPRO's online grants system located on our website [www.lawwaters.ie](http://www.lawwaters.ie). We only accept forms submitted online. We do not provide or accept paper forms. To consider your application, we must receive your online application along with supporting documents by: Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 4pm. Applications, or additional information will not be accepted after this time. We will let you know, in writing, whether your application is successful or not within four weeks of the deadline.

Please Note: Only one application can be made per organisation.



## What we can fund:

- Employment costs for the post of Agricultural Community Animator including salary, pension contributions and PRSI.
- Travel and subsistence for the contracted staff related to the deliver of the Farming for Water EIP work programme.
- Contribution towards the organisation's overheads supporting the work of the Agricultural Community Animator.

National Living Wage: LAWPRO supports organisations paying employees the real living wage.

## Information to be submitted.

You must submit the following information as part your application:

1. A description of the relevance of your organisation's work plan in supporting the implementation of the Farming for Water EIP Project.
2. A description of the overall capacity and ability of your organisation to deliver the requirements of the Community Animator post.
3. Examples demonstrating your capacity to engage communities and farmers in your area.
4. Examples of previous implementation of measures or projects to protect water quality and biodiversity.
5. Details of your procedures for the communications of best practice and lessons learned with regard to water quality.
6. A description of how your organisation propose to communicate best practice and lessons learned in support of the Farming for Water EIP Project.
7. A description of the proposed catchment area, impacted by an agricultural pressure, that the Community Animator will be assigned to.
8. Details of the water quality and other relevant co-benefits that the selection of this catchment will deliver through the work plan.
9. Details of the public good story of your local catchment that your community organisation would like to communicate to the wider agricultural community (e.g., drinking water, biodiversity, tourism, heritage etc.)
10. A description of the additional supports the applicant group can bring to the delivery of the project to increase its impact.
11. Details of the financial controls, value for money and governance of your organisation.
12. A minimum of two letters of support from key stakeholders or other organisations you work closely with.
13. Any other relevant information in support of your application.



## Terms and conditions

- The information supplied by the organisation must be accurate and complete. Misinformation may lead to disqualification and/or the repayment of any grant made.
- All information provided in respect of the application for funding will be held on the LAWPRO portal in line with GDPR. The Freedom of Information Act applies to all records held by Local Authorities.
- It is the responsibility of each organisation to ensure that it has proper procedures and policies in place including appropriate insurance where relevant.
- The logos of the Water EIP, EIP Agri, Government of Ireland, Teagasc, Dairy Industry Ireland, LAWPRO, must be displayed in all materials associated with the Community Animator post.
- Late applications will not be considered.
- Breaches of the terms and conditions of the grants scheme may result in sanctions including disbarment from future applications.
- Please ensure the application form is completed in full. Incomplete forms will not be considered.
- A written agreement between the successful organisation and the Farming for Water EIP/ LAWPRO will be put in place if successful.
- To process your application, it may be necessary for LAWPRO to collect personal data from you. Such information will be processed in line with the Local Authority's privacy statement.
- The Water EIP office is located in Heffernan House, Rossmore, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary, and Community Animators will be required to attend meetings at this location on an on-going basis.



## How we Assess your Application

Once your application is submitted, we will check it first to make sure your organisation meets the criteria for eligibility and that all supporting information has been provided. Applications that do not pass this stage will not be assessed further.

Applications that pass the initial checking stage proceed through the following stages:

- a) An internal review and shortlisting. Applications must score at least 10 marks under each heading to pass.
- b) Senior management approval of recommended applications.

This is a competitive process and funding will be allocated to applications that score highest against the four criteria listed in the table below.

Criteria	Marks
Relevance of work plan to support the delivery of the Farming for Water EIP and the River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027 and the work of LAWPRO.	25
Organisational capacity, including track record of delivery to date and the feasibility to deliver work plan	25
Financial, value for money and governance information	25
Impact of funding, measurable against water quality actions	25

Assessors will consider applications using their professional judgment based on the information you provide within the application, knowledge of the previous work of your organisation, and the competitive context in which all applications are evaluated.

Each criterion will be scored 1 - 25. The scores are indicative and are based on the contents of the application.

**Poor (0-5):** The information provided lacks the detail and content to allow an assessment against the criteria to take place.

**Not Sufficient (6-10):** While the application answers the criteria at a minimum level, there are areas where detail is missing, or the information is unclear.

**Sufficient (11-15):** The application has addressed most of the criteria. There are some gaps.

**Good (16-20):** The application addresses the criteria very well. Any gaps are minor, and not material to addressing criteria.

**Excellent (21-25):** Indicates the application addresses all relevant aspects of the Criteria. There are no gaps, all concerns are addressed.



### Criteria 1: Relevance of work plan to support the delivery of the Farming for Water EIP and the River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027 and the work of LAWPRO.

We will assess:

- The outcomes of your proposal to support the objectives of the Farming for Water EIP.
- The outcomes of your proposal to support the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan 2022 – 2027.
- Audience: There is strong consideration given to the audience, and the specific means of engagement with farmers and local groups in the targeted catchment.

We will consider:

- The kind of work your organisation does. This will include the catchment context in which your organisation operates and the track record of delivery to date.
- The expected outputs of your work programme. This will include what measures and actions your organisation plans to take in 2024 in relation to water quality and integrated catchment management.

### Criteria 2: Organisational Capacity and Feasibility to deliver work plan

We will assess:

- The track record of your organisation. We will review the feasibility of the multi annual work plan (2024-2027).
- The quality and availability of your organisation team and other resources to achieve the actions as set out in the multi annual work plan (2024-2027).
- Quality, innovation & creativity - The community organisation must demonstrate clear values and strong participative approaches. It is original, innovative, and introduces new ideas, perspectives, and methods of engagement.

### Criteria 3: Financial, value for money and governance information

We will assess:

- The feasibility of your budget to the outputs detailed in your workplan.
- The financial resilience of the organisation (including financial controls, financial planning and any planned developments for 2024 and beyond).
- The quality and completeness of the financial information you provide.
- Consideration will be given to whether your organisation is more able to

support the activity from your own reserves than other applicants that are applying, or whether you have more funding avenues open to you than other applicants.

- Whether the work plan represents reasonable value for money in terms of the amount of funding provided when compared with the outputs and results it will achieve.
- Ability to leverage and access additional resources and programmes to support the Farming for Water EIP objectives.

#### Criteria 4: Impact of Funding

We will consider:

- Your planned actions and measurable outcomes.
- The overall positive environmental impact of your work plan.
- Impact - There is transformative potential regarding improving water quality, with the desired outcomes and longer-term impacts of the project well considered and thought through. There is a clear approach to how the impact will be evaluated and communicated.
- Geographical area – How aligned the proposed location is with the priority areas and resource requirements of the project.
- Scalability - The community organisation considers the potential for knowledge exchange, longevity, additional showcasing, scaling up or further development.