



The Heritage Council, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, administers an annual grants scheme to REPS 4 participants for the conservation and repair of traditional farm buildings. The scheme seeks to help in the conservation of the 'ordinary' heritage of buildings that would not normally merit inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures. The grant is available for the conservation of the exterior appearance of traditional farm outbuildings, including roof, walls, windows and doors, and associated structures like historic yard surfaces, gate pillars and gates. The works can be carried out by a building contractor or by the farmer but must be overseen by a competent conservation supervisor. The nature of the scheme determines that the buildings that are offered grants are predominantly in rural areas. The landscape benefit of repair of the building is a consideration in the assessment of grant applications.



*Farm Building in Co. Louth, before and after repair was carried out.*

### Date introduced

2008

### Over-riding purpose

To provide grant support to farmers participating in the REPS 4 scheme for the repair and conservation of traditional farm buildings for their continued agricultural use

### Partners

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

### Programme aims and objectives

- To reduce the risk of disrepair and decay of traditional farm buildings
- To reduce the level of redundancy and underuse of many traditional farm buildings
- To promote the conservation ethos of minimum intervention
- To encourage farmers to take responsibility for the conservation of their farm building, through investment of their own funds and, in some cases, labour
- To ensure that conservation standards are achieved
- To encourage farmers in the practical application of traditional skills, e.g. lime pointing
- To promote cross compliance with other heritage conservation and REPS policies, e.g. the protection of wildlife
- To continue (by condition) the ongoing protection and maintenance of the grant-aided traditional farm building



## Required outcomes and benchmarking

- Expenditure of budget
- Reuse of previously underused and/or vacant farm buildings
- Achievement of conservation standards and cross compliance with other heritage and REPS measures

## Budget

€1,000,000 p.a. (2007 – 2013).

## Programme implementation

2008/09 is the initial year of the scheme. To date Council has approved grant amounts in respect of 43 applications totalling €924,347. The heritage standard of the project is strongly endorsed by requiring the farmer to employ a competent conservation supervisor and to arrange a bat/bird survey prior to commencement. The grant cannot be for more than 75% of the project and as no other public funding can be availed of the farmer must invest his/her own funds to make up the remainder.

## Projects implemented under programme to date

Ongoing

## Details of projects implemented through the programme

Ongoing

## Awards

None yet

## Related Publications/articles

Information booklet

## Details of programme evaluation

The scheme is to be reviewed in consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in May 2009 (following one year in operation)

## Contact

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2009 Irish Landscape Conference

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