



Farmer-focused biodiversity and agricultural knowledge network

Restore your bog, protect your land, get rewarded



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Geographical location:

Ireland and other areas with blanket bog habitat



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If you farm land with blanket bog, there is now a clear, practical guide to bringing degraded peatland back to life - and there are real benefits for your farm and your income when you do.

Blanket bog restoration tackles the most common problems found on farmed peatland: bare and eroding peat, drainage ditches that are drying out the bog, turf banks, peat hags, and invasive species such as self-sown conifers and *Rhododendron ponticum*. Left untreated, these problems steadily worsen - causing soil loss, poor water quality, and a bog that becomes harder and costlier to manage over time.

The actions needed are straightforward and well-proven. Blocking drainage ditches using peat, timber, stone, or plastic dams raises water levels and stabilises the ground. Bare peat can be protected with coir logs or geotextile matting, and larger eroded banks can be reshaped with a digger so that vegetation grows back naturally. Invasive trees and shrubs can be removed with basic hand tools or a chainsaw.

What's in it for you?

A restored bog holds water better, reducing drought stress on the wider farm and cutting flood risk downstream. Stabilised peat soils are less vulnerable to erosion and long-term land degradation. Across Europe, farmers who carry out restoration works can access a growing range of supports - including agri-environment scheme payments, national nature restoration funds, and emerging private finance such as biodiversity and carbon credits. The stronger and wetter your bog, the more valuable it becomes as a long-term asset, both as farmland and as a source of ecosystem service payments.

Restoration works are most effective when planned with local technical advice, and in many cases can be carried out by local contractors or the farmer directly.

Further Information on farmbionet.eu

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