Supporting High Nature Value Farming in the Irish Uplands

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Work of HNV Ireland project (2010-2014)

• EFNCP, IT Sligo partnerships (Heritage Council funded)
• Work with a range of partners (e.g. Uplands Working Group)
• Aim to ensure that HNV farming in Ireland receives workable, appropriately-funded support in the 2014-2020 CAP round, with a package of complementary well-designed measures which can achieve concrete positive results for HNV farmers and the taxpayer.
• 3 months left: plan to concentrate on
  • Where actions are best located (GLAS, GLAS+ and Local Targeted AES)
  • Ensuring complementarity between measures
  • Securing results on commonages (a much neglected 8.5% of our agricultural land base)
Outline

• Extensive farming systems: sustaining upland communities and maintaining upland landscapes for generations.

• Increasingly under threat from changes in farm practice and land abandonment.

• This forum is organised to discuss how measures included in Ireland’s draft RDP can support HNV farming in the Irish Uplands.
Key Questions

• How proposed agri-environment measures (GLAS, GLAS+ and Locally Led Agri-environment schemes) will work in a HNV upland setting?

• How do we ensure that commonage farmers (majority of farmers in Upland areas) are not disadvantaged?

• Can practical delivery mechanism be developed for commonages?