

FarmPEAT Project

Farming with nature in the midland raised bog landscape.

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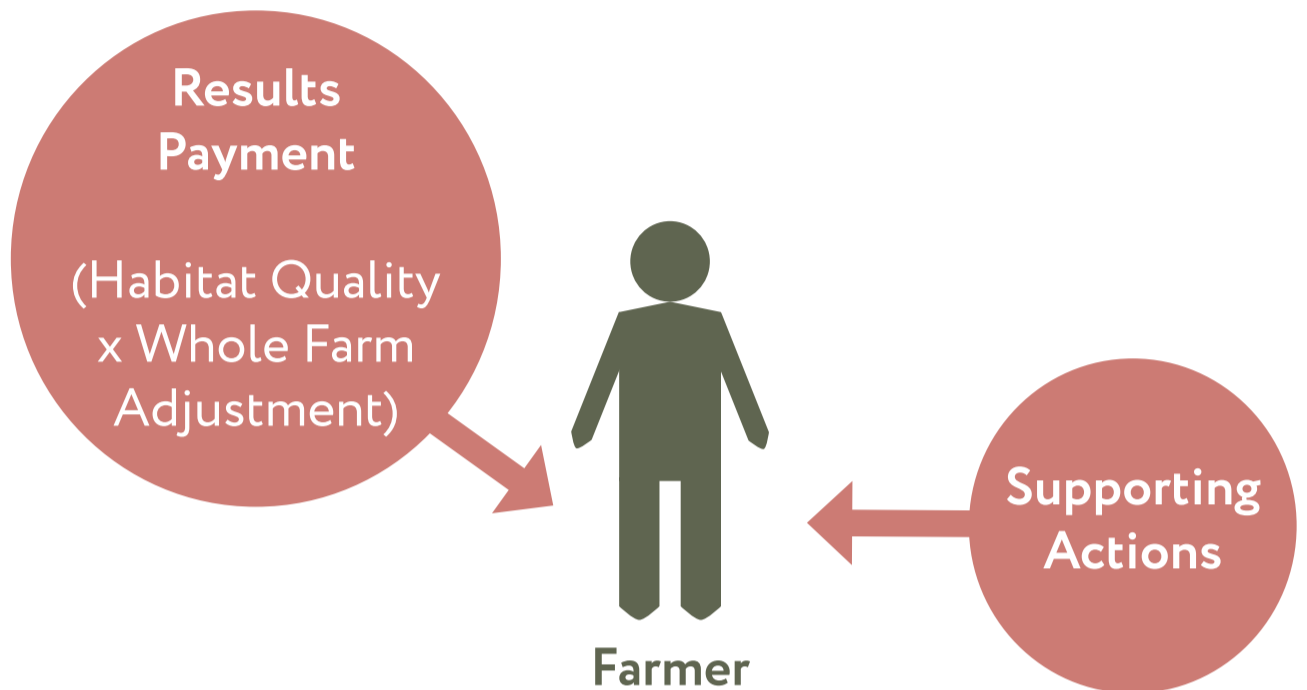
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We are trialling a results-based agri-environmental programme adapted to the Irish midland raised bog landscape. Our aim is to find ways of managing agricultural land on peat for the benefit of climate, biodiversity and water quality.

Our supporting actions include reducing artificial drainage. The permeable dams allow water to move down the drain once it reaches the desired level. The level is set by the central sheet in plastic dams and an adjustable pipe in peat dams.

The water table is raised in the adjacent field without flooding its surface. Desk studies and field visits from experts help to plan and assess any potential impacts on neighbouring land. The dam height can also be adjusted later if needed.



Higher Nature Quality = Higher Payment



Our participating farmers are financially rewarded for maintaining and improving the quality of their habitats.

Each field is scored based on the types of plant species, vegetation structure, drainage features, field boundaries, and other elements.

Plastic Dam:

Peat Dam:



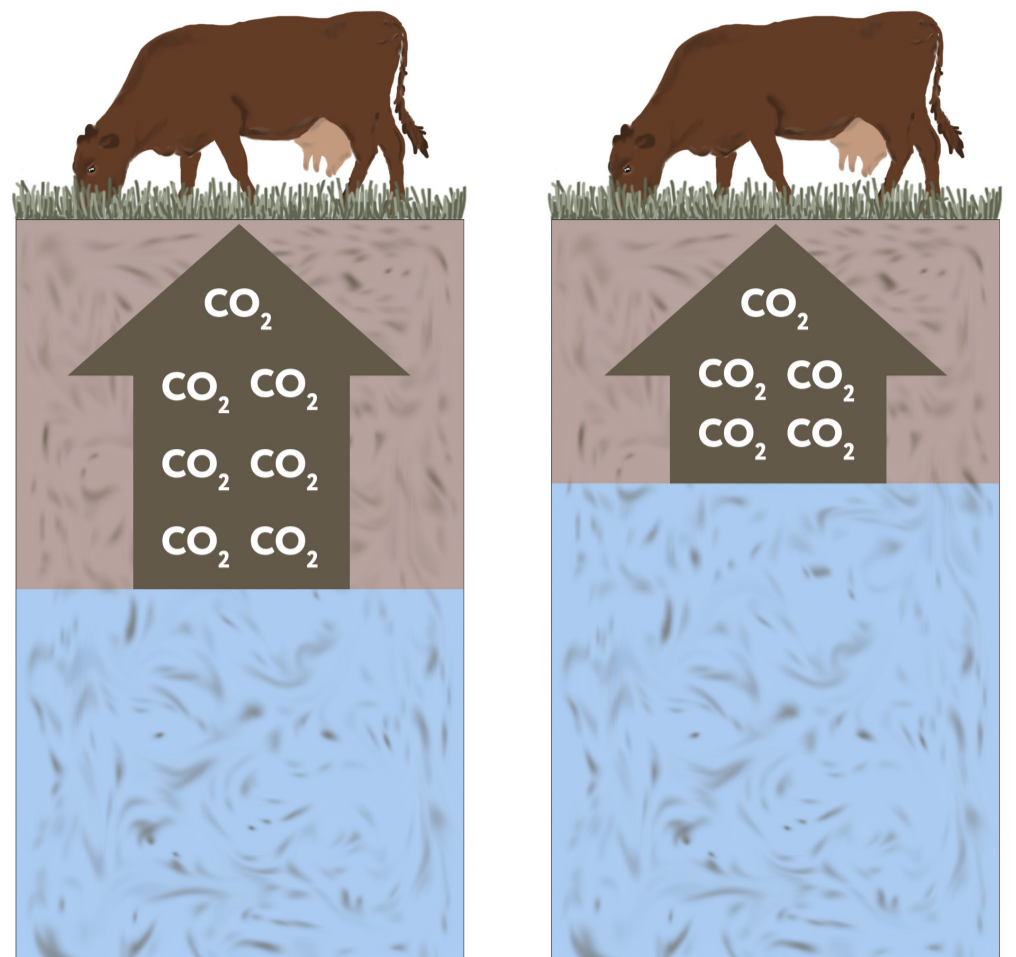
Why should we change how we manage agricultural peat soils?

Agricultural grasslands on peat soils are estimated to emit 8-9 million tCO₂e/yr or 20-25 tCO₂e /ha/yr.

A 10cm water table increase over the entire 335,000ha of peat grasslands equals a 1 million tCO₂/yr emissions reduction.

This is 1.5% of our national emissions total of 68.068 million tCO₂e/yr in 2022.

Slowing the flow of water mitigates climate change by stopping the release of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. It also prevents flooding because water has more time to move into the soil. With no noticeable impact on farming practices!



10cm water table increase = 3 tCO₂e/ha/yr emissions reduction.

Slowing the Flow in Drains



Retain vegetation in your drains by not clearing them out. Water will move slower and the plants also trap sediments, which benefits water quality. Less work to do too, leaving time for other farmwork!



Through FarmPEAT's Love Your Wellies educational and community outreach programme, we deliver workshops and run a competition where young people tell the story of the peat landscape through art.

The FarmPEAT project is an EIP (European Innovation Partnership) project being administered by Nature Based Agri Solutions Ltd. The Project is funded by the EU Recovery Instrument Funding under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2022.

References:

- Duffy et al. (2022) Ireland NIR 2022
- EPA (2023) Latest emissions data
- Evans et al. (2021) Nature



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



The European Agricultural Fund
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