

Gurteen Agricultural College

Environmental and Sustainable
Farming

Level 6 Certification

In association with

Susliving

Module 3

Farming and Wildlife Habitats and Bio-
diversity

Farming & Wildlife Habitats & Biodiversity

Ireland has a very rich & varied biodiversity. Biodiversity is the amount of animal and plant life in a given area or ecosystem. The more diverse an area is, the better it is for the environment.

There is a range of farm wildlife habitats in Ireland :

- ✓ Arable land _____
- ✓ Grassland _____
- ✓ Peatland _____
- ✓ Woodland _____
- ✓ Scrub _____
- ✓ Hedgerow _____
- ✓ Field margins _____

There are different designated habitats :

NHA – National Heritage Areas	}	
SAC – Special Areas of Conservation	}	part of EU Natura 2000 Network
SPA – Special Protection Areas	}	

Measures to protect farm biodiversity & wildlife habitats :-

1. Diversity in farming practices
2. Agri-Environmental Schemes
3. Components of Sustainable Farming (water, air, soil, climate)
4. E.U. Directives
5. National Biodiversity Plan

Hedgerow management :

- ✓ Selection – choose the correct plant species
- ✓ Establishment – plan and action
- ✓ Maintenance – looking after the planted hedge
- ✓ Rejuvenation – keep the hedge healthy and vigorous over the years.

Carry out a Biodiversity audit of a farm :

1. Awareness survey
2. Review
3. Habitat map
4. Action plan
5. Aim & Targets

Reference : National Parks & Wildlife Service – see www.npws.ie
National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016