

# **THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL GAME COUNCILS**

## **GUIDELINES FOR A NATIONAL GREY PARTRIDGE GRANT**

This proposition follows on from a Resolution from Carlow to the 2017 AGM, which was withdrawn on the grounds that the Game Development Sub-Committee would look at the merits of setting up an NARGC grant for Clubs wanting to participate in Grey Partridge Projects, to try and reintroduce Grey Partridge into our countryside.

Following discussions at a meeting of all Regional Game Development and Predator Control Officers, it was agreed to proceed with the National Grey Partridge Scheme for Clubs and for the Game Development Sub-Committee to draw up the criteria for Clubs wishing to participate. The following recommendations therefore are to be part of an application consideration for Clubs:

1. Clubs or, a group of Clubs, must have the backing of their Regional Game Council/s and a minimum five-year Partridge Project Plan.
2. Applicants must have game cover crop in place or have access to land where game cover crop can be planted.
3. Applicants must undertake to only release native Grey Partridge.
4. Applicants must show that they own or have access to the land where the rearing pens are located for the duration of the project.
5. Applicants must show their commitment to predator control by submitting their previous three-year Predator Control records.
6. Application Forms are to be submitted to the National Game Development Officer before December 31st annually.
7. Priority will be given to one application per Regional Game Council.

## **ON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION**

The National Game Development Officer and/or his nominee/s will visit the applicant Club together with an NARGC Associate Member from one of the existing Projects to see if the Club and its environs meet the criteria. All applicants to be assessed within one month of their application being received. If Clubs are unsuccessful, a reason as to why they were unsuccessful and the steps they need to take before re-applying will be advised.

## **SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS**

Clubs that have been accepted for an NARGC grant for a Grey Partridge Project will be invited to one of the existing Projects to see all that is involved in running a Project. They will then be visited by an NARGC Associate Member from one of the existing Projects to advise on the construction of pens and their location, on predator control, game cover crop and best Partridge husbandry and that Advisor will also be available to the Club for further consultation, if required. Pairs of native Grey Partridge will be supplied free of charge for the first five years to the maximum of five pairs in any one year. A member of the Game Development Sub-Committee may visit the Project to monitor and report on its progress. Grants to be paid annually on the submission of original receipts to the National Game Development Officer before the September 1st annually. Receipts for pen construction, feeders and drinkers, fencing, predator control, game crop, tagging or lease payments to landowners for use of land for game crop will be accepted.

The amount of grants payable will be dependent on the number of applications in any one year. At the moment, a maximum pool of €16,000 per annum is proposed for payment.

The NARGC will in time produce a "Best Practice Guidelines" booklet with contributions from existing Grey Partridge Project Managers.