

Catch crop kept over winter

Goal	Improve winter habitat and forage for wild fauna
Short description of the measure	As a retreat catch crops that are left over winter are particularly important for wild animals. Seeding of catch crops e.g. Mustard, Phacelia, summer rape, summer vetch, which are likely to freeze off. They will be damaged with the first frost, but the plant remains in the field and guarantee easy soil cultivation in spring.
Timeframe (When to start a measure and anticipated time for implementation)	When to start: with the cultivation of catch crop Anticipated time for implementation: until next year spring (end of March), at least end of February
How auditors can assess if the measure has been implemented in a good quality?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Catch crop kept over winter ▪ The application of the measure can be controlled in the register book 
Additional information the auditor need for verification (if any)	
	 <p>The plant left overs provide the hare in winter cover and retreat possibilities.</p>
	 <p>Promotion of insects through a food supply during the flowering phase. Catch crops kept over winter additionally provides insects room to overwinter.</p>
	 <p>Catch crops kept over winter provide food and shelter in winter for field birds such as winter guests and finches.</p>

Indicator/key data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total size of area (ha) kept with catch crops over winter
Reference	

Further information: [Knowledge Pool](#)

This Action Fact Sheet belongs to the training package for auditors of standard organisations and companies and was developed within the project LIFE Food & Biodiversity (Biodiversity in Standards and Labels of for the Food Industry). The main objective of the project is to improve the biodiversity performance of standards and sourcing requirements in the food industry by helping standard organisations to integrate efficient biodiversity criteria into their schemes and motivating food processing companies and retailers to include comprehensive biodiversity criteria into their sourcing guidelines.

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