

WELSH GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL POLLUTION MEASURES

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WG Agricultural Pollution Measures

- On 14th November 2018 the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs issued a statement outlining a whole Wales approach to tackling agricultural pollution.
 - Nutrient management planning
 - Sustainable fertiliser applications linked to the requirements of the crop
 - Protection of water from pollution related to when, where and how fertilisers are spread
 - Manure storage standards

Welsh Government Rationale

- Through new Regulation, Welsh Government is seeking to ensure a number of issues are addressed:
 - Agricultural pollution & reputational damage
 - Trade in agricultural produce with the EU
 - Regulatory baseline standards above which payments can be made to farmers for public goods outcomes (first phase)

New Measures

- Details of the regulations are summarised in the following slides

Nutrient Management Planning (NMP)

- Determine the optimum amount of nitrogen that should be spread on the crop (**including grassland**)
- Produce a plan for each calendar year

Information required:

- A field reference
- Area of the field
- Type of crop
- Soil type
- Previous crop
- Soil N Supply (SNS) (& method)
- Month crop will be planted
- Anticipated yield (arable)
- Optimum N accounting for SNS
- Area on which organic manure spread
- Amount of manure to be spread
- Planned date (month)
- Type of organic manure
- Total N content and available N
- Amount of manufactured fertiliser required
- Total N spread on a holding

Calculating the amount of N available from organic manures

- Total amount of nitrogen in livestock manure must be determined using standard figures or sampling and analysis
- Standard figures providing as per NVZ
- Rules on sampling and analysis as per NVZ

Risk Maps

- Risk maps must be produced which are designed to enable you to comply with other measures
- Risk maps will need to show:
 - Each field with area in hectares
 - All surface waters
 - Any boreholes, springs or wells on or within 50m of holding boundary
 - Areas with sandy or shallow soils
 - Land with incline greater than 12°
 - Land within 10m of surface waters
 - Land drains (other than sealed pipe)
 - Sites suitable for temp field heaps
 - Land that has low run-off risk
 - Land within 6m of surface waters (if using precision spreading equipment)

Fertiliser Applications

- Application limits from livestock manure – 170kg/ha to the spreadable areas of the holding as per NVZ
- 250kg/N/ha for an individual field
- 250kg/N/ha for entire holding for grassland farms where additional measures take place
- Total amount of N from manufactured and available in organic manures must not exceed crop limits
- Before spreading fertiliser, carry out field inspection as per NVZ

Fertiliser Applications (continued)

- Before spreading fertiliser, carry out field inspection
- No not spread if soil is waterlogged, flooded or snow covered, is frozen or has been frozen for more than 12 hours in the previous 24 hours
- Spreading accuracy – slurry must be spread using equipment with trajectory below 4m
- Retaining N in soils – rules for incorporation into bare soils and stubble

Fertiliser Applications (continued)

TRANSITIONAL PERIOD TO APPLY

- Closed periods – organic manure with high readily available N (30% or more) must not be spread - e.g grass 15 Oct to 31 Jan; tillage land 1 Oct to 31 Jan
- Rules for organic as per NVZ
- Rules for manufactured N fertiliser must not be spread on grassland 15 Sept to 15 Jan; tillage land 1 Sept to 15 Jan – NVZ exceptions apply
- From end of closed period to end Feb max slurry applied 30 cubic meters per hectare . Three weeks between spreading

Storage of slurry & silage

TRANSITIONAL PERIODS TO APPLY

- Rules relating to separation of slurry as per NVZ
- Storage of organic manure as per NVZ
- Rules on field heaps as per NVZ
- Rules on slurry storage capacity as per NVZ – sufficient storage – pigs and poultry 1 Oct – 1 Apr; other slurry 1 Oct – 1 March (5 months)

Storage of slurry and silage

- SSAFO Exemption (1991)
- Rules for making or storage of silage
- Construction standards
- Notice requiring works

Further measures for nutrient management

- Rules related to record keeping for the above requirements
- Imported and exported manures
- Details of crops sown
- Details of spreading nitrogen fertiliser
- Keeping of information and advice

Timeline

- New Regulations to apply from 1 January 2020
- Transitional periods for some elements to allow farmers time to adapt and ensure compliance

Summary

- Statutory measures around:
 - Nutrient Management Planning
 - Closed periods
 - Storage facilities
 - Limiting N fertiliser applications to crop requirements
 - Limiting quantities of organic materials applied
 - Controlling areas where nitrogen fertilisers can be applied
 - Controls on application methods
 - Preparing plans and record keeping