

The farmer led approach...Opportunities.



Managing your nutrients well.

Understanding the soil and the nutrient value of your farming system is vital to understanding your impacts on the environment and improving your business efficiency whilst reducing risks to water quality across Wales.

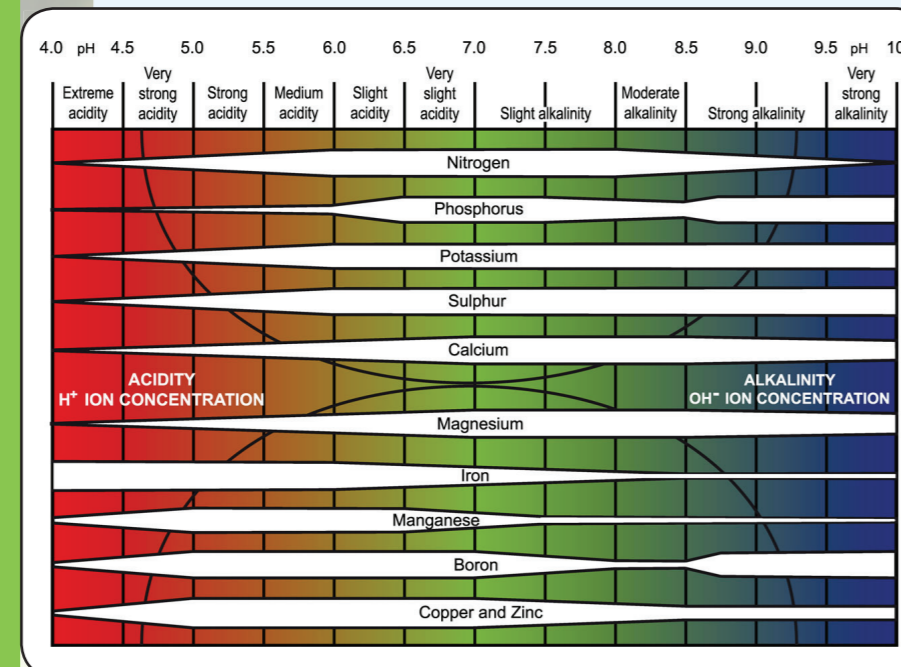
Farmers wishing to maximise crop yield potentials, while also streamlining costs should look at matching nutrient inputs (fertilisers and organic manures) to crop demand so;

- yield is optimised
- nutrient use is minimised
- minimises N, P, and soil losses to the environment

Know your soils

Model ref B.1.

Only 30% of the soils in Wales are thought to be where they should be in terms of pH. Knowing your soils enables you to manage nutrients more effectively.



APPT

Apply the right **Amount**
Using the right **Product**
In the right **Place**
At the right **Time**

- ### Checklist
- soil sampling
 - soil compaction tests
 - nutrient management plans
 - Risk maps
 - Knowledge sharing

Including soil supply + organic manures (livestock manures, sewage sludge, digestate, compost and industrial waste) residual nitrogen in your soil

Know your catchment

Where a water body is failing due to diffuse rural pollution you can find out from the Natural Resources Wales's online Water Watch Map Gallery. This is a web application to help explore and obtain detailed information about local catchments and individual bodies of water.

Access Water Watch Wales at <https://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/>

Measuring the cumulative effects of managing nutrients on farm and changing behaviours within the industry demonstrates the value water quality has to our sector. This allows agriculture to bench mark its performance against other potential polluters and capture the multiple benefits good farming practices deliver, on farm, and within our water courses.



Why focus on nutrients.....

Model ref B.1.

$$\text{Fertilizer needed} = \text{Crop requirement} + \text{Nutrients from other sources}$$

By working with nutrient management on your farm multiple benefits can be delivered to your business and the environment. Understanding the soil and nutrient needs of your farm enables you to match nutrient inputs (fertilisers and organic manures) to crop demand. This increases flexibility and resilience for your business allowing you to spread slurry and manure at the best times and have peace of mind that your farm is not at risk of polluting your land and the wider environment.

- ### Benefits.....
- Reduced environmental risks due to field losses of excess nutrients
 - Best value from fertilisers and organic manures used
 - Enhanced crop yield and quality
 - Potential cost savings when all nutrient inputs are accounted for
 - Improved crop and livestock performance from a balanced supply of nutrients

Environment

Model ref. B.2. / B.3. / B.5. / B.6.

Maximising environment within your farm can deliver multiple benefits to water quality and provide opportunities in the future for accessing public goods and services. Consider some of these environmental solutions to help you manage your nutrient risks, such as ;

- Habitat corridors
- Buffer strips
- Wetland areas
- Field margins
- Tree planting and habitat creation
- Soil health
- Water quality



FACT
Rivers drain nearly **75%** of the earth's land surface.

