

Useful DARD Telephone Numbers

Environment

0300 200 7842

For advice about the Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 and Phosphorus Regulations, or general information on the environment.

Cross-Compliance

0300 200 7848

For general enquiries about cross-compliance requirements.

Education and Training

0300 200 7841

Education and training courses provided by College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).

DARD Corporate Services

0300 200 7850

DARD Headquarters, Press Office, information services and systems, human resources and facilities management.

Textphone

dial 18001 + number

For people with hearing difficulties.

Calls from non-UK numbers or networks/international calls

+44 (0)28 9049 5780

A list of DARD contact numbers can be obtained by visiting the Contact Us section of the DARD web-site - www.dardni.gov.uk

CAFRE Farm Nutrient Calculators available on-line at www.dardni.gov.uk are designed to help you meet the requirements of the NAP.

Department of the Environment (DOE) Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Web-site: www.doeni.gov.uk/niea

Water Management Unit, 17 Antrim Rd, Lisburn,
BT28 3AL

General Enquiries 028 9262 3100

Nitrates Regulations 028 9262 3184

SSAFO Regulations 028 9262 3190

Groundwater Authorisations 028 9262 3445

Sewage Sludge to Land 028 9262 3445

Water Pollution Hotline 0800 80 70 60
(A 24-hour confidential hotline for reporting pollution incidents)

Health and Safety Advice for Farmers

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

For advice on safe slurry handling and general farm safety

Web-site: farmsafe.hseni.gov.uk

Telephone: 0800 0320 121

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

For advice on fire safety

Website: www.nifrs.org

Telephone: 028 9266 4221



Summary

Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 & Phosphorus Regulations

Further details of all the measures can be found in the full Guidance Document at www.dardni.gov.uk and www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/

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Summary of Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) 2015-2018 and Phosphorus Regulations

(Measures in blue show changes from the 2011-2014 Nitrates Action Programme and 2006 Phosphorus Regulations)

Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards	
Closed Spreading Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser must not be applied to grassland from midnight 15 September to midnight 31 January. All types of chemical fertiliser must not be applied to arable land from midnight 15 September to midnight 31 January, unless there is a demonstrable crop requirement. Organic manures, including slurry, poultry litter, digestate, sewage sludge and abattoir waste, must not be applied from midnight 15 October to midnight 31 January. Farmyard manure (FYM) must not be applied from midnight 31 October to midnight 31 January. There is no closed spreading period for dirty water.
Land Application Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fertilisers, chemical and organic and including dirty water, must not be applied:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on waterlogged soils, flooded land or land liable to flood; on frozen ground or snow covered ground; if heavy rain is falling or forecast in the next 48 hours; on steep slopes (with an average incline of 20% or more on grassland or 15% or more on all other land) where other significant risks of water pollution exist. Risk factors to be considered include the proximity to waterways, the length of time to incorporation, the type and amount of fertiliser being applied and/or the soil and weather conditions; on less steep slopes (with an average incline of 15% or more on grassland or 12% or more on all other land), organic manures must not be applied within 30m of lakes and 15m of other waterways; chemical fertilisers must not be applied within 10m of lakes and 5m of other waterways. Prevent entry of fertilisers to waters and ensure application is accurate, uniform and not in a location or manner likely to cause entry to waters. All types of chemical fertiliser must not be applied within 2m of any waterway. Organic manures including dirty water must not be applied within:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20m of lakes; 50m of a borehole, spring or well; 250m of a borehole used for a public water supply; 15m of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features; 10m of a waterway other than lakes; this distance may be reduced to 3m where slope is less than 10% towards the waterway and where organic manures are spread by bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection OR where adjoining area is less than 1 ha in size OR not more than 50m in width. Application rates:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 50m³/ha (4500 gal/ac) or 50 tonnes/ha (20t/ac) of organic manures to be applied at one time, with a minimum of 3 weeks between applications; No more than 50m³/ha (4500 gal/ac) of dirty water to be applied at one time, with a minimum of 2 weeks between applications. Slurry can only be spread by inverted splashplate, bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection. Dirty water to be spread by same methods as slurry and by irrigation. Sludgigators must not be used.
Livestock Manure Nitrogen Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 170kg nitrogen/ha/year farm limit. Farms with at least 80% grassland may apply annually by 1 March to NIEA for a derogation to permit the land application of up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year from grazing livestock manure. Additional conditions and Cross-Compliance verifiable standards will apply. Further guidance is available from NIEA.

Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards	
Overall Nitrogen (N) Fertiliser Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum kg nitrogen/ha on grassland (apart from nitrogen in livestock manure): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dairy farms* 272 (8¼ bags**/ac) Other farms 222 (6¼ bags**/ac) <p>(When applying chemical nitrogen fertiliser, nitrogen from organic manures other than livestock manure and anaerobic digestate containing digested livestock manure must be subtracted).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For non-grassland crops, maximum nitrogen applied (from all types of fertiliser, including livestock manure) must not exceed crop requirement and, for certain arable crops, an N-Max limit applies to the total crop area. <p><i>*More than 50% of nitrogen in livestock manure comes from dairy cattle.</i> <i>**Approximate number of 50kg bags of a 27% nitrogen type chemical fertiliser.</i></p>
High Phosphorus Manures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1 January 2017, organic manure with more than 0.25 kg of total phosphorus per 1 kg of total nitrogen (e.g. some anaerobic digestates) can only be applied where soil analysis shows there is a crop requirement for phosphorus.
Livestock Manure and Silage Effluent Storage Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 weeks livestock manure storage capacity for pig and poultry enterprises. 22 weeks for other enterprises. When certain criteria are met there are allowances for out-wintering, animals on bedded accommodation, separated cattle slurry, renting additional tanks, poultry litter stored in a midden or field heap and exporting manure to approved outlets. Livestock manure and silage effluent storage must be maintained and managed to prevent seepage or run-off. Silage and slurry stores constructed or substantially modified after 1 December 2003 must comply with certain construction standards (set out in the NAP Regulations) and be notified to NIEA at least 28 days before they are brought into use Silage bales must be stored at least 10m from any waterway and stored and managed in such a way as to prevent seepage into the waterway. FYM and poultry litter storage:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> both may be stored in middens with adequate effluent collection facilities. both may be stored in a field heap where they are to be applied for a maximum of 120 days. field storage of poultry litter is subject to authorisation by NIEA FYM and poultry litter field heaps must not be stored:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in the same location of the field year after year; within 50m of a borehole, spring or well; within 250m of a borehole used for a public water supply; within 50m of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features; on land that is waterlogged, flooded or likely to flood. FYM field heaps must not be stored within 20m of any waterway and 50m of lakes. Poultry litter field heaps must not be stored within 100m of lakes and 40m of a waterway. Poultry litter field heaps must be covered with an impermeable membrane as soon as possible and within 24 hours of placement in the field. Provide storage for dirty water during periods when conditions for land application are unsuitable.

Nitrates Action Programme 2015-2018 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards	
Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From harvest of certain crops until 15 January of the following year, the controller must manage the land to ensure minimum soil cover and to minimise soil erosion and nutrient run off. Residues of crops harvested late must be left undisturbed until just before sowing the following spring.
Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural area, field size and location. Cropping regimes and areas, Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) index for crops other than grassland. Livestock numbers, type, species and time kept. Organic and chemical fertiliser details including imports and exports. From 1 January 2017 - evidence of a crop phosphorus requirement from soil analysis if organic manure with over 0.25kg total phosphorus per 1 kg total nitrogen is applied. Storage capacity and, where applicable, details of rental agreements, authorisation to store poultry litter in field heaps and associated evidence to support allowances to reduce capacity. Evidence of control over the agricultural area (including controllers' agreements) and the right to graze common land. From 2015 you will not need to keep controller agreements, but you will still need to produce them for the calendar years 2010-2014 if selected for an inspection. <p><i>Many of these records already exist on farms, for example, SAF/IACS forms, farm maps, herd and flock records and fertiliser receipts. Nitrogen and phosphorus requirements for grassland are set out in the NAP and Phosphorus Regulations. Nitrogen and phosphorus requirements for other crops should be determined using the DEFRA Fertiliser Manual (RB209). Records must also be kept for the Phosphorus Regulations (see below).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records to be ready by 30 June each year for period 1 January to 31 December of previous year. Records to be available for inspection from previous five calendar years. Records relating to the export of organic manure to be submitted annually to NIEA by 31 January of the following year. If you are operating under an approved derogation, you must keep your fertilisation plan on farm and have it ready for inspection by 1 March for that calendar year. Your fertilisation account for the previous calendar year must be submitted to NIEA by 1 March.
Compliance with a Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement Notices issued under the NAP Regulations must be complied with.

Phosphorus Regulations Legal Requirements
<p>Compliance with the Phosphorus Regulations is a legal requirement but is not a verifiable standard under cross compliance:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical fertilisers containing phosphorus must only be applied where soil analysis shows a crop requirement. Records must be kept to demonstrate this. New values for phosphorus recommendations for grassland and phosphorus availabilities for organic manures. Enforcement Notices issued under the Phosphorus Regulations must be complied with.

Full details of all measures can be found in the NAP Guidance Document 2015-2018 and at www.dardni.gov.uk and www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/