

National Agricultural Inspections Programme (NAIP)

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Overview of Presentation



- Background on NAIP and EPA's Oversight Role
- Compliance Assurance
- European Commission Requirements
- Pressures causing an impact on water quality
- NAIP Working Group
- Inspection Requirements for 2024

Background and EPA's Role



- Nitrates Action Programme (NAP) is integral part of Ireland's programme of measures to protect water from agriculture pressures
- 5th NAP and Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters Regulations 2022 assigned an enhanced enforcement role to the EPA in relation to the oversight of local authority agricultural inspections:
 - Highlighted a need for improved compliance with the Regulations & strengthened enforcement
 - Develop, implement and oversee a National Agricultural Inspections Programme (NAIP) for local authorities
 - Monitoring and Nitrates Directive Article 10 report
 - Report on the implementation of regulations and recommendations for additional measures
- Third Cycle RBMP states 'local authorities will strengthen the inspection and enforcement relating to agricultural diffuse pollution'.
- Two of the EPA 2024 National Enforcement Priorities (RMCEI) for local authorities relate to reducing the impact of agricultural activities on water quality (Farm yards and farmland)

EPA in consultation with other bodies is to develop a local authority National Agricultural Inspection Programme to protect water quality for the period 2023-2025. The programme is to include the development and delivery of:

- A **risk-based** national inspection plan
- Establish and chair a **NAIP Working Group**
- **Guidance and tools** to assist local authorities in **selecting farms** for inspections (e.g. maps)
- Issue **guidance and provide support** to local authorities in relation to farm inspections
- To **direct local authorities** where they fail to meet the objectives of the NAIP
- **Report to the Minister** every 4 years commencing in October 2024 on progress
- **Make recommendations** to prevent and reduce water pollution from agriculture sources

Compliance assurance



Compliance promotion
LAWPRO, Teagasc, ASSAP, LAs,
NFGWS, EPA, DAFM



Monitoring & Sampling
EPA, LAs
Farm inspections
LAs, DAFM

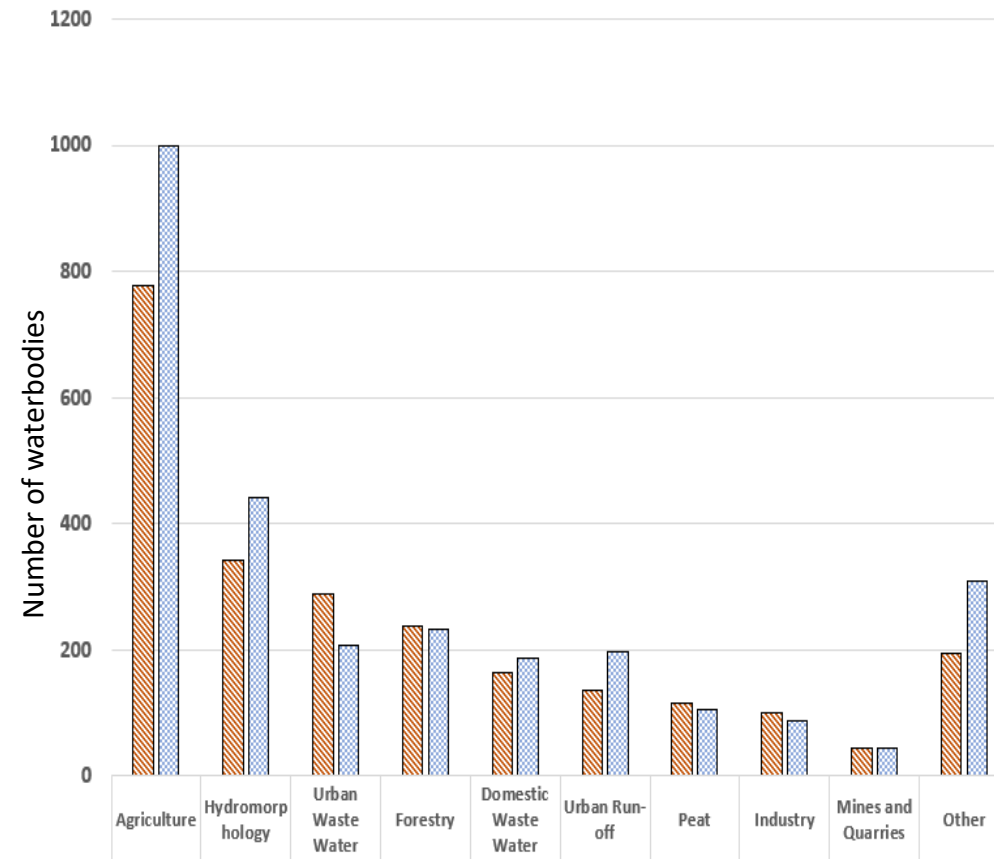


Enforcement
Cross reporting
GAP Regulations, Water
Pollution Act,
LAs, DAFM, IFI, EPA

Pressures causing impacts on water quality



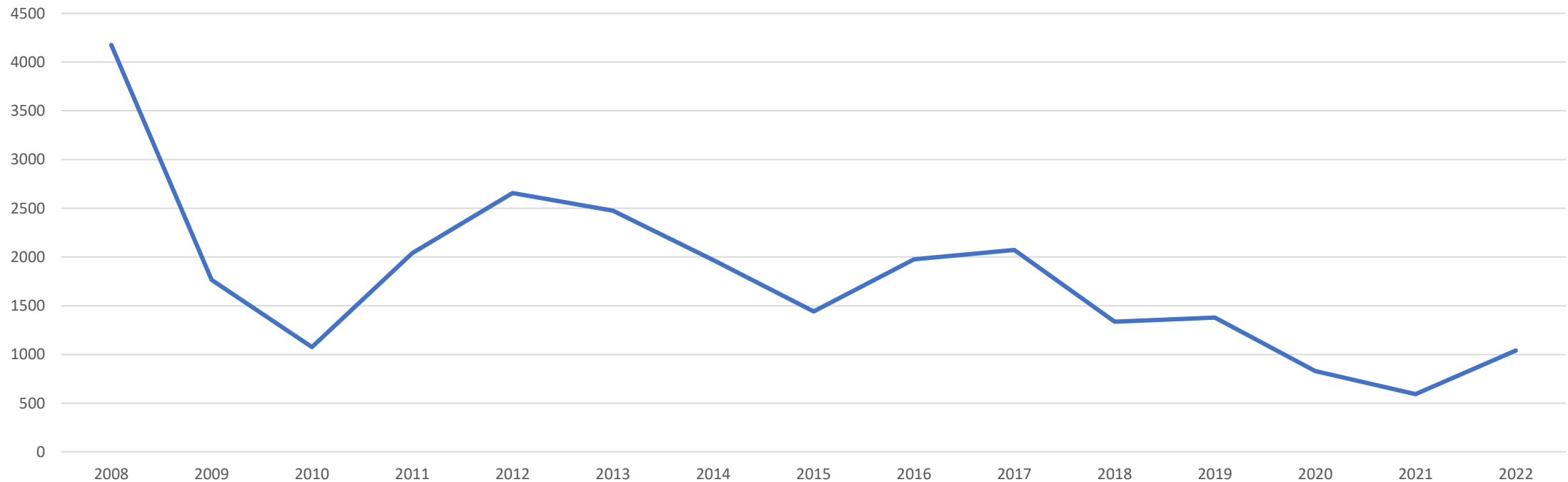
Change in numbers of waterbodies impacted by pressures between the 2nd cycle (orange) and 3rd cycle (blue)



GAP Inspection Numbers 2008 -2022



LA GAP Inspections 2008 - 2022



European Commission want an increased focus on inspections and enforcement



Data required by the European Commission:

- Number of **initial inspections**,
- Number of these initial inspections that are **compliant/non-compliant**,
- **Reasons for non-compliance**,
- Number of **follow-up** inspections,
- Number of follow-up inspections that are compliant/non-compliant,
- The **measures implemented** that resulted in a farm now being **deemed compliant**,
- **Reasons for continued non-compliance**,
- Number of enforcement notices issued,
- Number of non-compliances **cross reported** by local authorities to DAFM for application of administrative penalties,
- Number of **penalties imposed** and details of the penalty, and
- Number of **prosecutions** and nature of the prosecution.

NAIP Working Group under NIECE



NAIP Working Group is chaired by the EPA and comprises of representatives from local authorities, CCMA, DAFM, DHLGH, LAWPRO and IFI

Purpose is to focus local authorities agricultural inspections on the correct issues in the appropriate geographical areas to deliver on better water quality

- Risked based inspection plan, where, what, how, how many, when
- Selection tools
- Guidelines for carrying out inspections and follow up actions
- Defining parameters for tracking inspections and follow up actions
- Update training programme
- Data collection reporting system
- Liaise with existing National Groups



What will the NAIP bring?

- More data on level of compliance, issues and follow up actions.
- More information on measures implemented and effectiveness of measures.
- Consistency of approach.
- More awareness.
- Improved compliance with the GAP Regs/Nitrates Action Plan
- Effective risk-based inspection and enforcement
 - ➡ Water quality maintained and improved.

Inspections



- Undertaken by local authority inspectors
- Smaller number undertaken by the DAFM on behalf of local authorities
- Dedicated resources being recruited in each local authority area
- Requirement in 3rd RBMP for 4,500 farms to be inspected annually
- GAP Inspections counted for NAIP.
- Local authorities may use complaints or planning inspections as an opportunity to undertake a GAP inspection for NAIP reporting, if in an appropriate location.

What is covered on a farm inspection?

Checking for compliance with the GAP Regulations including:

- Adequacy of slurry and soiled water storage
- Management of rainwater
- Evidence of discharges from farmyard
- Management of silage effluent, run-off from silos
- Management of FYM
- Impacts on nearest watercourse
- Impacts from farm roadways
- Impacts from slurry spreading practices if applicable

Guidance on where to inspect

Targeting Agricultural Measures Map Pollutants of concern using a coloured flag system

Navy Flag: Waterbody with measures to reduce phosphorus, sediment, and chemical loss
(‘Break the pathway’)

Red Flag: Waterbody with Measures to reduce organic/ammonium (Target Farmyard)

Orange Flag: Waterbody in areas with Measures to reduce nitrogen losses
(‘Control losses at source’)




White Flag: Waterbody in the **White** areas that need measures to protect
These areas may be At Risk from other pressures

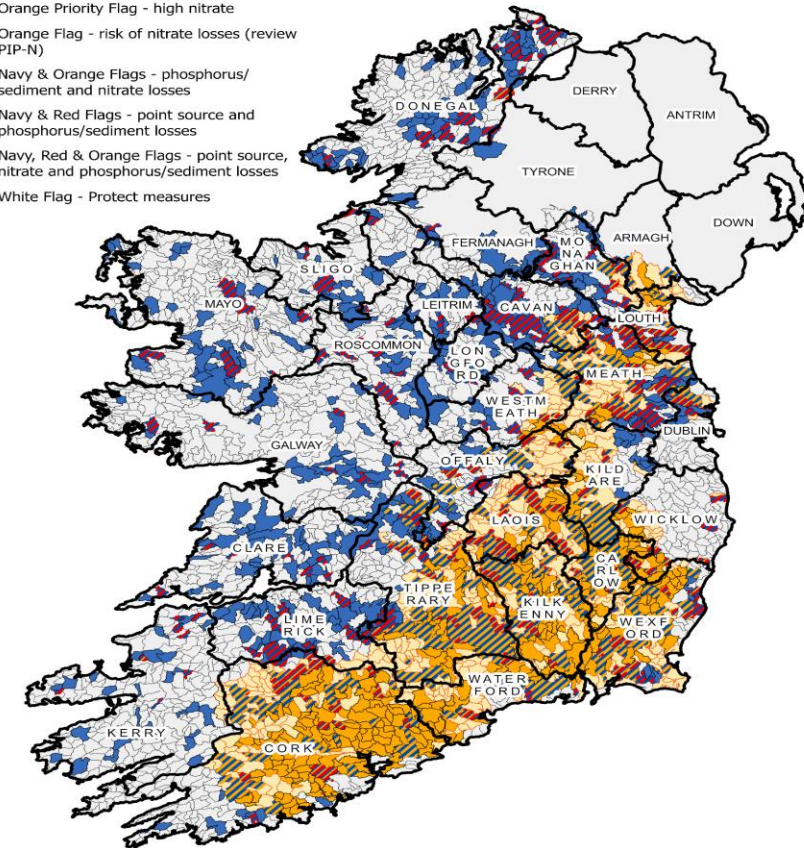
Use in conjunction with Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) Maps

‘The right measure in the right place’

Targeting Agricultural Measures 2024

TargetingAgMeasures

-  Navy Flag - phosphorus/sediment losses
-  Orange Priority Flag - high nitrate
-  Orange Flag - risk of nitrate losses (review PIP-N)
-  Navy & Orange Flags - phosphorus/sediment and nitrate losses
-  Navy & Red Flags - point source and phosphorus/sediment losses
-  Navy, Red & Orange Flags - point source, nitrate and phosphorus/sediment losses
-  White Flag - Protect measures



0 10 20 30 40 50 Kms

Agriculture Inspections 2024



Where to inspect - 2024

- In waterbodies where agriculture is deemed a significant pressure
- In a smaller % of waterbodies where agriculture is not deemed a significant pressure.
- Targeting Agricultural Measures + Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) Maps

Support from EPA to aid local authorities select farms for inspection.

- A list of water bodies that are impacted by agriculture and need measures to improve water quality
- Mapping tools (publicly available on EPA maps website)

What to inspect - 2024

- Inspections of individual farms will be based on pollutant of concern in the waterbody.
- Increased number of farm inspections.
- Further guidance and training in preparation.

Thank you!

Targeting Agricultural Measures 2024

TargetingAgMeasures

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