Farm Self-Assessment Checklist

Be ready for a Local Authority (NAIP) inspection

Farmer name: _____ **Date checked:** _____

Tip: Walk the farmyard when it is raining as it can help to identify potential water quality risks

✓ or **X** each box as appropriate.

1 - Clean water and soiled water separation

- [ ] All gutters and downpipes work and connect to clean-water drains or outlets
- [ ] No roof water enters slurry tanks or soiled-water channels
- [ ] Clean water does not flow through collecting yards
- [ ] Is water entering the yard area from surrounding fields or roads
- [ ] Are all drains leaving the yard clean and in good condition?

Note: This is only a problem where clean water mixes with soiled water or slurry

Issues identified: _____

2 - Soiled water and dairy washings management

- [ ] Excess soiled water storage is available (as per regulations)
- [ ] All soiled water is collected and stored, with no discharge to drains, watercourses or groundwater
- [ ] Silage slabs and feed aprons are clean and free from contaminated runoff
- [ ] Soiled water areas are minimised

Issues identified: _____

3 - Slurry storage and management

- [ ] Slurry tanks, channels and transfer pipes are structurally sound, with no leaks
- [ ] Excess slurry storage is available (as per regulations)
- [ ] All slurry is collected and stored

Note: Rainfall on unroofed animal standing/feeding areas must be included in slurry storage requirements. Where dairy washings or soiled-water areas are stored with slurry, 16/18/20/22 weeks storage is required for the material from these areas.

Issues identified: _____

4 - Farmyard manure (FYM)

- [ ] Enough FYM storage is available
- [ ] FYM is stored on concrete with effluent channels and seepage storage
- [ ] FYM heaps are minimum distances away from wells, drains and watercourses
- [ ] Transfer/loading areas are tidy and runoff is collected
- [ ] Seepage from loose sheds is collected

Note: FYM cannot be field stored during the FYM closed period.
Poultry litter cannot be field stored at any time of year.

Issues identified: _____

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5 - Silage facilities

- ☐ Silage slab is in good condition, with no cracks or damage allowing leakage
- ☐ Effluent collection system is operational
- ☐ Effluent storage tanks have adequate capacity (7 m^3 / 100 tonnes)
- ☐ There is no evidence of silage-effluent discharge
- ☐ Bales stored on concrete and stacked more than two high have effluent collection/storage

Note: Silage bales should be at least 20 m from a drain or watercourse where collection and storage facilities are not available

Issues identified: _____

6 - Other potential pollution risks

- ☐ No point-source discharges enter drains, watercourses or groundwater from the farmyard
- ☐ Pesticides, farm chemicals, fuels and oils are stored securely in a bunded area
- ☐ Sheep handling areas are clean; drainage from dip-tub and holding pens returns to the tub or is collected
- ☐ Supplementary feeder locations are at least 20m from a drain or watercourse
- ☐ If GSR >170 kg N/ha, watercourses are fenced back 1.5m, no drinking points & troughs are sited > 20m away
- ☐ Farm roads are cambered away from drains and water courses and exclude bovines
- ☐ Any other issues on farm

Issues identified: _____

7 - Nutrient management and fertiliser use

- ☐ Current Nutrient Management Plan is available and National Fertiliser Database is up to date
- ☐ Slurry and manure application records are complete
- ☐ LESS is used on farms stocked at greater than 100 kgs organic N per hectare
- ☐ Buffer zones are being adhered to (3m, 5m, 6m, 10m, 25m, 50m, 250m)
- ☐ No chemical P or N or organic fertiliser is spread during the closed period
- ☐ Fertiliser is spread only when ground conditions, growth rates and the weather forecast are suitable

Issues identified: _____

8 - Documents to have available

- ☐ Nutrient Management Plan
- ☐ Fertiliser purchase records
- ☐ Slurry export/import records (if applicable)
- ☐ Farm maps
- ☐ Soil samples (in date)
- ☐ Farmyard plan including organic manure storage details and winter stock numbers

Outline the actions required for the issues identified

Section	Action Required	Minor Issue	Major Issue
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			

Further information is available on **www.teagasc.ie/waterquality** or on **www.epa.ie**
Note: the checklist is for guidance purposes only and is not a full Local Authority inspection