Soils, Nutrients and Fertiliser Factsheet

Why protected urea?

Using protected urea in grassland results in lower nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions than CAN and lower ammonia losses than urea. This makes it the most sustainable fertiliser N source for meeting both greenhouse gas and ammonia loss emission commitments

Is protected urea cost effective?

Protected urea is up to 20% cheaper per kg N than CAN

N Туре	Urea 46%	Protected urea	CAN (27% N)
Cost €/kg N	€1.96	€2.06	€2.59
Urea €900/t, Protected urea €950/t, CAN €700/t (Jan 2022)			

Costs may vary depending on fertiliser price

How do grass yields compare?

In a number of grassland experiments (Teagasc Johnstown Castle, Moorepark, Athenry, Ballyhaise and Clonakilty) there was no difference in grass yield when protected urea was compared to CAN



Protected

urea

PROTECTED

Where can I get a list of protected urea products?

Log onto: https://www.teagasc.ie/crops/soil--soil-fertility/



Tips for achieving best results with protected urea

Develop a fertiliser plan for the farm to determine your protected urea and compound fertiliser needs for the year ahead

Contact your fertiliser supplier early and order the protected urea fertiliser you need

Calibrate your fertiliser spreader to ensure the correct application rate and spreading width for protected urea

Protected urea can be applied throughout the growing season, but as with all fertilisers avoid applications when soils are too cold or wet, or under drought conditions

Protected urea delivers lower emissions at a lower cost



AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Deirdre Hennessy, Seamus Kearney, Mark Plunkett, David Wall, Mark Moore (Editor), Pat Murphy, Stan Lalor, were the main contributors to this series of leaflets. Numerous colleagues from Teagasc AGRIP, CELUP, REDP, Signpost, PR dept. and advisory service also participated.