

NITRATES

This newsletter affects every farmer in the country – read carefully

October 2022

Section A

All farms –

Are you aware of these changes?

Use your camera on the QR codes for more information.

Soil samples and chemical fertiliser

- 10% cut to chemical nitrogen (N) allowance across all stocking rates from 2022.
- From 2023 soil samples are required for all farms stocked above 130kg/ha grassland stocking rate (GSR) and all arable ground.
- Tillage farms importing organic manures must take soil samples for the start of 2023.
- No chemical phosphorus (P) is allowed on tillage farms in 2023 where there are no samples to prove that the lands are P index 1, 2 or 3.
- Do you import organic manures? Then you should soil sample this autumn to ensure compliance with the DAFM fertiliser register in 2023.



LESS is mandatory on all farms with a GSR of 150kg/ha starting January 1, 2023.

Slurry and soiled water

- All slurry must be applied by **October 8, 2022** and by **October 1, 2023**.
- Soiled water storage requirements increasing from three weeks in 2023 to four weeks in 2024.

- No roadway runoff to watercourses or waters (use QR code on Section B on next page).

Slurry spreading and LESS

- Low-emission slurry spreading (LESS) mandatory on all farms with a GSR:
 - o 150kg/ha + from 2023;
 - o 130kg/ha + from 2024; and,
 - o 100kg/ha + from 2025.
- LESS for slurry produced and spread from pigs from **January 1, 2023**.

Section B

Requirements for a farm with grassland stocking rate >170kg/ha (non-derogation)

Soil sampling

- Must soil sample by 2022 or assume index 4 for P until samples taken in 2022. Farms in this category can no longer use chemical P if there are no soil samples on the farm.

Lime

- Four-year liming plan – minimum of 25% of requirement to be spread in year one of soil analysis.

Slurry

- All slurry on farm must be spread by LESS.
- All slurry must be applied by **October 8, 2022**.
- Sufficient slurry storage in place (16/18/22 weeks of storage).

- Soiled water storage requirements increasing from three weeks in 2023 to four weeks in 2024.

Crude protein

- Max of 15% crude protein in ration fed to dairy cows applies for the period **April 15, 2022 to September 30, 2022**.

Farm roadways and watercourses

- No roadway runoff is allowed to watercourses or waters.
- Water troughs must be >20m from watercourses.
- Fence watercourses 1.5m from top of bank.
- Fence watercourse crossings.
- No drinking points.



Section C

Mandatory Derogation Applicant Requirements from 2022

Lime

- Four-year liming plan with a minimum of 25% of requirement to be spread in year one of soil analysis and the balance spread over the remaining three years.
Prioritise this in years one and two after the soil results as this will allow pH to return to normal when re-sampled in year four.

Soil sampling

- Soil samples are needed every four years (max

5ha/sample but recommended to be <4ha).

- If parts of your farm are in the Teagasc/EPA high soil organic matter (OM) map (peat soils) then an OM percentage analysis is also required.

Slurry and soiled water

- LESS for all slurry spread on farm.
- 50% of slurry must be applied by **June 15, 2022**.
- All slurry must be applied by **October 8, 2022**.
- Sufficient slurry storage in place (16/18/22 weeks).



- Soiled water storage requirements increasing from three weeks in 2023 to four weeks in 2024.

Crude protein

- Max 15% crude protein in rations applies for the period **April 15, 2022 to September 30, 2022 (animals older than two years)**.

Farm roadways and watercourses

- No roadway runoff is allowed to watercourses or waters.
- Water troughs must be >20m from watercourses.
- Fence watercourses 1.5m from top of bank.
- Fence watercourse crossings.
- No drinking points.

Clover

- Must include clover in grass seed mixtures (1.5kg/ha naked clover seed or 2.5kg/ha pelleted).

Ploughing

- If ploughing grassland, then this must be done between **March 1 and May 31**. You cannot plough grassland outside of these dates.

Hedgerow management

- Hedgerow management plan (allow a minimum of one white/blackthorn to mature in every hedgerow or cut hedgerows in rotation on a three-year cycle).

Grass measuring and recording

- Must complete a minimum 20 grass measurements on software (PastureBase Ireland) in 2022 if 20 measurements completed in 2021.
- If new to derogation (see training section below as well) or if course completed in 2021, option to:
 - 1) do 20 grass walks in 2022 recorded on software (17 during March to September and three during October to November); or
 - 2) attend two half-day training courses (five hours) on software for grass measuring and grass measuring techniques plus record a minimum of three grass recordings on PastureBase Ireland.

Training

- New applicants or applicants who did not apply in 2020 or 2021 must also complete all three training programmes by **December 31, 2022** in:
 - 1) nutrient use efficiency and phosphorous (P) build-up;
 - 2) farming sustainability and water quality regulations; and,
 - 3) grassland management.

Section D

Nitrates Action Plan information (all farms)

Table 1: New prohibited periods for soiled water spreading.

Effective from	Application prohibited from
March 11, 2022	December 21-31
January 1, 2023	December 10-31
January 1, 2024 (except winter milk producers)	December 1-31
January 1, 2025 (for winter milk producers)	December 1-31



Table 2: Changes to prohibited period for slurry spreading.

Effective from	Application prohibited from
March 11, 2022 January 1, 2023 onwards	October 8 October 1

Table 3: Annual dairy cow nutrient excretion rates from January 1, 2023.

Three-year rolling average herd milk yield (kg)	N excretion rate (kg/cow)	P excretion rate (kg/cow)
<4,500	80	12.0
4,501-6,500	92	13.6
>6,501	106	15.8

Table 4: Annual maximum fertilisation rates of nitrogen on grassland.

Grassland stocking rate (kg N/ha/year)	Maximum chemical nitrogen (kg/ha)
≤130	114
131-170	185
171-210	254
211-250	225
>250	225

Table 5: Soil sampling requirement.

Effective from	Soil sampling mandatory for
March 11, 2022	Those stocked at >170kg N/ha
January 1, 2023	Those stocked at >130kg N/ha
January 1, 2023	All arable land

Table 6: Phased introduction of LESS.

Effective from	LESS mandatory for those stocked at
January 2023	>150kg N/ha
January 2024	>130kg N/ha
January 2025	>100kg N/ha

Table 7: Storage periods for cattle manure and prohibited periods for spreading fertilisers, organic manure and soiled water.

Zone	Storage period	Prohibited application periods			
		Chemical fertilisers (N and P)	Organic fertilisers* (other than FYM)	Farmyard manure (FYM)	Soiled water (on holdings producing milk in all zones)
A	16 weeks	Sept 15 – Jan 26	Oct 1 – Jan 12	Nov 1 – Jan 12	
B	18 weeks	Sept 15 – Jan 29	Oct 1 – Jan 15	Nov 1 – Jan 15	December 21-31 2022
C (Donegal, Leitrim)	20 weeks	Sept 15 – Feb 14	Oct 1 – Jan 31	Nov 1 – Jan 31	December 10-31 2023
D (Cavan, Monaghan)	22 weeks	Sept 15 – Feb 14	Oct 1 – Jan 31	Nov 1 – Jan 31	December 1-31 2024 (except winter milk producers)

* Note: The prohibited period for application of organic fertilisers starts on October 8 for each zone in 2022 and on October 1 for each zone from 2023 onwards.