

FARM MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN

A simple Farm Manure Management Plan will help identify when and at what rate to spread manures, slurry, dirty water and other organic wastes. Producers will benefit while minimising the risk of causing pollution. It will also help producers assess whether they have enough storage and useable spreading area. Producers are recommended to have storage capacity for 4 months slurry. According to their soil type (currently sandy and/or shallow soils only) producers in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZ's) are required to observe the Autumn Closed Period for spreading.

Full information on the NVZ requirements can be found at:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/nitrate/help.htm>

Genesis QA Scheme Requirements:

Where farm waste is spread on the unit, producers will be expected to have a map of the unit identifying where and when farm waste can be applied and demonstrating that there is enough land area available for manures to be applied without exceeding a total Nitrogen application of 250 kg/ha/year, or the lower rate of 170 kg/ha/year that applies for arable land in NVZ's.

Step 1

Begin with a map of the unit. Identify and estimate each total area size according to the following table (colour codes will help to make it simple):

What	Where	Spreadable Area (ha)	When
Water (BLUE)	Any ditches, watercourses and ponds. Also springs, wells or boreholes where water is used for human consumption or farm dairies, including any on neighbouring land close to the farm boundary.	N/a	DO NOT SPREAD
Non-spreading Areas (WHITE)	Fields where manure would not normally be spread; non-farmed fields, woodlands or fields simply too far away from the farm buildings	N/a	DO NOT SPREAD
Don't Spread Areas (RED)	Areas where manure should not be spread. At least 10 metres either side of all ditches and watercourses; 50 metres around springs, wells and boreholes, steep slopes with a high risk run-off throughout the year; and Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Sites of Specific Scientific Interest, or other land subject to management agreements.	N/a	DO NOT SPREAD
High Risk Areas (YELLOW)	Fields next to watercourses, spring or boreholes with soil at field capacity with moderate slope or slowly permeable soil; where soil depth over fissured rock is less than 30 cm; with effective pipe or field drains.		Use throughout the year subject to ground conditions, but restrict application rates in winter.
Very High Risk Areas (ORANGE)	Fields likely to flood sometime in most winters; next to watercourses, spring or boreholes where surface is severely compacted or waterlogged or have a steep slope and the soil is at field capacity or have a moderate slope and slowly permeable soil.		Avoid in winter and in a dry summer when soil cracks down to the drains, or when the soil is compacted.
Low Risk Areas (GREEN)	All other areas not already marked.		Can be used throughout the year.
Total spreadable area available:			

Step 2

Calculate the area required to spread the manure produced on the farm in a year without exceeding a total nitrogen application rate of 250 kg/ha or 170 kg/ha. The guidelines below are a very simple indication - producers are advised to refer to the publications listed below for further and fuller advice).

Type of Livestock	Land area/pig at 250 kg/ha	Land area/pig at 170 kg/ha	Total number of pigs	Total area required
Maiden gilts	0.052 ha	0.076 ha		
Breeding sows and boars	0.080 ha	0.118 ha		
Weaners 4 – 8 weeks	0.013 ha	0.019 ha		
Growers 8 – 12 weeks	0.025 ha	0.037 ha		
Finishers over 12 weeks	0.042 ha	0.062 ha		
			Total Area Required	

If the total *spreadable area available* exceeds the *total area required* – the plan is complete.

If the total *spreadable area available* is less than the *total area required* then a more detailed plan or alternative action is required.

Record Keeping

Remember if you are in an NVZ, you are required to keep accurate records of when, where and how much manure/slurry was spread. These must be held for at least 5 years.

Benefits of a Plan

- Experience has shown that following a Farm Manure Management Plan reduces pollution risk;
- Retaining NPK for crop growth by minimising losses will save on the farms bagged fertiliser bill;
- If producers use contractors for muck spreading, a plan will provide a simple way of keeping them fully informed about pollution risks on the farm;
- Following a plan will help producers to comply with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water;
- Such a plan may be required if producers intend to carry out improvements involving less than four months storage of slurry or dirty water;
- A plan provides evidence that effective procedures are in place.

Useful Publications and References

The DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Air (PB0618), Water (PB0587) and Soil (PB0617) available from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/cogap.htm>

Full guidance for farms within NVZ's including: Manure Planning in NVZ's (PB5504), Guidelines for Farmers in NVZ's (PB5505) are available from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/water/quality/nitrate/help.htm>

Alternatively hard copies of the above DEFRA publications can be obtained from: DEFRA Publications on 08459 556000

Full guidance on making optimum use of manures and slurry can be found in the DEFRA publication: **Fertiliser Recommendations for Agricultural and Horticultural Crops** (RB209) 7th Edition, 2000 (ISBN 0 11 243058 9). This is a priced publication available from The Stationery Office on 0870 600 5522 or it can be downloaded free of charge from: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/land-manage/nutrient/fert/rb209/index.htm>