

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION OF SEWAGE SLUDGE TO AGRICULTURAL LAND**

- The application of untreated sewage sludge to land used to grow food crops ceased on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1999.
- The application of untreated sewage on land used to grow industrial crops that may also have had a food use was phased out with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2001.
- The application of untreated sewage sludge on agricultural land used to grow non-food crops ceased with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005.

Applications of sewage sludge to farmland are strictly controlled and the regulations require that where sludge is used on agricultural land, usage will be registered and the soil tested by the sludge producers. Your local Sewerage Operator will be able to provide you with further information on the products available in your area. The following publications also contain detailed information and guidance on the use of sewage sludge on agricultural land:

### **The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations, 1989 (amended 1990)**

(DEFRA SI 1989, No 1263 and SI 1990, No 880)

### **The Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990**

(SR 1990, No 245)

### **Code of Practice for Agricultural Use of Sewage Sludge 1996**

This code is available from DEFRA Publications at a charge of £2.50.

Telephone: (08459) 556 000

**Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water (PB0587), Air (PB0618) and Soil (PB0617).** All three codes are available free of charge from DEFRA Publications.

Telephone: (08459) 556 000

### **The Code of Good Practice for the Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA Code), 1997 (Only applies within Scotland)**

Scottish Office 1997.

Available from SEERAD, Telephone: (0131) 244 4768

### **The Safe Sludge Matrix (ADAS 2001)**

[www.adas.co.uk/matrix](http://www.adas.co.uk/matrix)