

Summary Nutrients Action Programme 2019-2022 Regulations

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Useful DAERA Telephone Numbers

Environment For advice about the Nutrients Action Programme Regulations 2019 - 2022, or general information on the environment including cross-compliance and agri-environment schemes.	0300 200 7842
Nutrient Action Programme and Storage Regulations Field Storage Notifications (Poultry litter / AD fibre)	028 9262 3280
Water Pollution Hotline: (confidential hotline to report water pollution)	0800 807 060
Grants and Funding For information on rural development programme funding and agri-environment schemes.	0300 200 7848
Education and Training Advice Education and training courses provided by College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE).	0300 200 7841
DAERA Corporate Services DAERA Headquarters, Press Office, information services and systems, human resources and facilities management.	0300 200 7850
Textphone For people with hearing difficulties.	dial 18001 + number
Calls from non-UK numbers or networks/international calls	+44 (0)28 9049 5780

A list of DAERA contact numbers can be obtained by visiting the Contact section of the DAERA website: www.daera-ni.gov.uk

CAFRE Farm Nutrient Calculators available online at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk are designed to help you meet the requirements of the NAP.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

Website: www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Health and Safety Advice for Farmers

Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland

For advice on safe slurry handling and general farm safety

Website: www.hseni.gov.uk

Telephone: 0800 0320 121

Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

For advice on fire safety

Website: www.nifrs.org

Telephone: 028 9266 4221



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Further details of all the measures can be found in the full Guidance Document at: www.daera-ni.gov.uk

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Summary of Nutrients Action Programme (NAP) 2019-2022 Regulations (Measures in green text show changes from the 2015-2019 Nitrates Action Programme and 2006 Phosphorus Regulations which are now combined)

Nutrients Action Programme 2019-2022 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards	
Closed Spreading Periods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical nitrogen and phosphorus fertiliser must not be applied to grassland from midnight 15 September to midnight 31 January. All types of chemical fertiliser must not be applied to arable land from midnight 15 September to midnight 31 January, unless there is a demonstrable crop requirement. Organic manures, including slurry, poultry litter, digestate, sewage sludge and abattoir waste, must not be applied from midnight 15 October to midnight 31 January. Farmyard manure (FYM) must not be applied from midnight 31 October to midnight 31 January. There is no closed spreading period for dirty water.
Land Application Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All fertilisers, chemical and organic and including dirty water, must not be applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on waterlogged soils, flooded land or land liable to flood; on frozen ground or snow covered ground; if heavy rain is falling or forecast in the next 48 hours; on steep slopes (with an average incline of 20% or more on grassland or 15% or more on all other land) where other significant risks of water pollution exist. The risk factors to be considered include the proximity to waterways/lakes, type and amount of fertiliser to be applied, soil conditions, weather forecast and time to incorporation if applied to arable land. The risk assessment for steeply land is detailed in the NAP Guidance document; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on other land (with an incline of less than 20% for grassland or less than 15% for all other land) where significant risks of water pollution exist. The risk factors to be considered include the proximity to waterways/lakes, amount to be applied, soil conditions, weather forecast and time to incorporation if applied to arable land. The risk assessment for land, other than steeply sloping, is detailed in the NAP Guidance document. Prevent entry of fertilisers to waters and ensure application is accurate, uniform and not in a location or manner likely to cause entry to waters. All types of chemical fertiliser must not be applied within 2m of any waterway. Remember to follow the appropriate risk assessment as detailed in the NAP Guidance. Organic manures including dirty water must not be applied within: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20m of lakes; 50m of a borehole, spring or well; 250m of a borehole used for a public water supply; 15m of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features; 10m of a waterway other than lakes; this distance may be reduced to 3m where slope is less than 10% towards the waterway and where organic manures are spread by bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection OR where adjoining area is less than 1 ha in size OR not more than 50m in width and less than 15m³ in a single application. Remember to follow the appropriate risk assessment as detailed in the NAP Guidance. Application rates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 50m³/ha (4500 gal/ac) or 50 tonnes/ha (20t/ac) of organic manures to be applied at one time, with a minimum of 3 weeks between applications; No more than 50m³/ha (4500 gal/ac) of dirty water to be applied at one time, with a minimum of 2 weeks between applications. Remember to follow the appropriate risk assessment as detailed in the NAP Guidance.

Nutrients Action Programme 2019-2022 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards							
Land Application Restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From midnight 30 September – 15 October and during February: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the buffer zones for spreading slurry are increased: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> from 10m to 15m of any waterway from 20m to 30m for lakes The maximum slurry application rate is reduced from 50m³ (4500gal/ac) to 30m³ (2700 gal/ac). Remember to follow the appropriate risk assessment as detailed in the NAP Guidance. Slurry can only be spread by inverted splashplate, bandspreaders, trailing shoe, trailing hose or soil injection. Dirty water to be spread by same methods as slurry and by irrigation. Sludgigators must not be used. <p>Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment (LESSE) includes bandspreading, dribble bar, trailing hose, trailing shoe, soil incorporation or soil injection methods. LESSE must be used:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1 February 2020 for spreading anaerobic digestate. From 1 February 2021 by slurry contractors. From 1 February 2022 on cattle farms with 200 or more livestock units and pig farms with a total annual livestock manure nitrogen production of 20,000 kg or more from pigs. Where it is not practical to spread on a field using LESSE, slurry can be spread using an inverted splash plate on that field. A record of the field number and the reason for spreading using a splash plate must be kept for inspection. 						
Livestock Manure Nitrogen Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 170kg nitrogen/ha/year farm limit. Farms with at least 80% grassland may apply annually by 1 March to NIEA for a derogation to permit the land application of up to 250kg nitrogen/ha/year from grazing livestock manure. Additional conditions and Cross-Compliance verifiable standards will apply. Further guidance is available from NIEA. 						
Nitrogen and Phosphorus Excretion Rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 11 April 2019 revised nitrogen and phosphorus excretion rates for poultry production systems must be used. From 1 January 2020 revised nitrogen and phosphorus excretion rates for cattle must be used. 						
Overall Nitrogen (N) Fertiliser Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximum kg nitrogen/ha on grassland (apart from nitrogen in livestock manure): <table border="0" style="margin-left: 20px;"> <tr> <td>- Dairy farms*</td> <td>272</td> <td>(8¼ bags**/ac)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>- Other farms</td> <td>222</td> <td>(6¾ bags**/ac)</td> </tr> </table> (When applying chemical nitrogen fertiliser, nitrogen from organic manures other than livestock manure and anaerobic digestate containing digested livestock manure must be subtracted). For non-grassland crops, maximum nitrogen applied (from all types of fertiliser, including livestock manure) must not exceed crop requirement and, for certain arable crops, an N-Max limit applies to the total crop area. <p><i>*More than 50% of nitrogen in livestock manure comes from dairy cattle.</i></p> <p><i>**Approximate number of 50kg bags of a 27% nitrogen type chemical fertiliser.</i></p> 	- Dairy farms*	272	(8¼ bags**/ac)	- Other farms	222	(6¾ bags**/ac)
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High Phosphorus Manures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic manure with more than 0.25 kg of total phosphorus per 1 kg of total nitrogen (e.g. some poultry litter, pig FYM and anaerobic digestate) can only be applied where soil analysis shows there is a crop requirement for phosphorus. From 1 January 2020 a fertilisation plan must be prepared, retained and made available on the holding. 						

Nutrients Action Programme 2019-2022 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards	
Phosphate Fertiliser Application Limits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1 January 2020 new maximum phosphate fertiliser application rates (kg P₂O₅ per ha) for extensively managed grassland (receiving under 60kg chemical N/ha/year or under 120kg manure N/ha/year loading) will apply.
Livestock Manure and Silage Effluent Storage Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 weeks livestock manure storage capacity for pig and poultry enterprises. 22 weeks for other enterprises. When certain criteria are met there are allowances for out-wintering, animals on bedded accommodation, separated cattle slurry, renting additional tanks, poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre stored in a midden or field heap and exporting manure to approved outlets. Livestock manure and silage effluent storage must be maintained and managed to prevent seepage or run-off. Silage and slurry stores constructed or substantially modified after 1 December 2003 must comply with certain construction standards (set out in the NAP Regulations) and be notified to NIEA at least 28 days before they are brought into use. Silage bales must be stored at least 10m from any waterway and stored and managed in such a way as to prevent seepage into the waterway. FYM, poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> may be stored in middens with adequate effluent collection facilities. May be stored in a field heap where they are to be applied, for a maximum of 120 days. Field storage of poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre must be notified to NIEA prior to placement in the field. FYM, poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre heaps must not be stored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the same location of the field year after year; Within 50m of a borehole, spring or well; Within 250m of a borehole used for a public water supply; Within 50m of exposed cavernous or karstified limestone features; On land that is waterlogged, flooded or likely to flood. FYM field heaps must not be stored within 20m of any waterway and 50m of lakes. Poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre must not be stored within 100m of lakes and 40m of any waterway. Poultry litter and anaerobic digestate fibre field heaps must be covered with an impermeable membrane as soon as possible and within 24 hours of placement in the field. Provide storage for dirty water during periods when conditions for land application are unsuitable. From 1 January 2020 new above ground slurry stores must be sited at least 50m from any waterway and fitted with a cover.
Land Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From harvest of certain crops until 15 January of the following year, the controller must manage the land to ensure minimum soil cover and to minimise soil erosion and nutrient run off. Residues of crops harvested late must be left undisturbed until just before sowing the following spring. From 1 January 2020 supplementary livestock feeding sites must be a minimum of 20m from any waterway where there could be a significant risk of pollution occurring from their use. From 1 January 2022 supplementary livestock drinking points must be a minimum of 10m from any waterway where there could be a significant risk of pollution occurring from their use.

Nutrients Action Programme 2019-2022 Legal Requirements and Cross Compliance Verifiable Standards	
Record Keeping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agricultural area, field size and location. Cropping regimes and areas, Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) index for crops other than grassland. Livestock numbers, type, species and time kept. Organic and chemical fertiliser details including imports and exports. From 1 January 2017 - evidence of a crop phosphorus requirement from soil analysis if organic manure with over 0.25kg total phosphorus per 1 kg total nitrogen is applied. From 1 January 2020 a fertilisation plan must be prepared and kept up to date by all grassland farms using chemical phosphorus fertiliser, and all farms using phosphorus rich manure e.g. some poultry manures, pig FYM manures and anaerobic digestate. A soil analysis is required. From 1 January 2020 farms importing anaerobic digestate will require a nutrient content analysis. Storage capacity and, where applicable, details of rental agreements, notification to store poultry litter and or anaerobic digestate fibre in field heaps and associated evidence to support allowances to reduce capacity. Evidence of control over the agricultural area and the right to graze common land. <i>Many of these records already exist on farms, for example, BPS forms, farm maps, herd and flock records and fertiliser receipts. Nitrogen and phosphorus requirements for grassland are set out in the NAP Regulations. Nitrogen and phosphorus requirements for other crops should be determined using the AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209).</i> Records to be ready by 30 June each year for period 1 January to 31 December of previous year. Records to be available for inspection from previous five calendar years. Records relating to the export of organic manure to be submitted annually to NIEA by 31 January of the following year. If you are operating under an approved derogation, you must keep your fertilisation plan on farm and have it ready for inspection by 1 March for that calendar year. Your fertilisation account for the previous calendar year must be submitted to NIEA by 1 March. If you are applying chemical phosphorus fertiliser, applying organic manures with a high phosphorus content (see NAP Guidance) or applying anaerobic digestate you must prepare your fertilisation plan and retain it on farm and have it available for inspection by 1 March for that calendar year.
Compliance with a Notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement Notices issued under the NAP Regulations must be complied with.
Cross-Compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The measures controlling the application of chemical phosphorus fertiliser to land are now a Cross-Compliance requirement.