

Agricultural Pollution Regulations

Fact Sheet – Nutrient Management Plans

UPDATED JANUARY 2023

From 1 January 2023, the spreading of fertilisers will require a Nutrient Management Plan to meet the requirements of The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

A Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is an important tool in managing the application of fertilisers for efficient crop growth and to reduce the risks of pollution.

Maximum nitrogen limits by crop type

- The total nitrogen applied to a crop from organic manures and manufactured fertilisers must not exceed the crop limits set out in the regulations, taking into account the soil nitrogen supply.

Nitrogen limits for the spreading of manures

- Across the whole holding, you must not exceed a limit of 170kg of nitrogen per hectare from all livestock manure, including directly deposited by the animal or by spreading within any calendar year (starting April 2023).
- A limit of 250kg/ha of nitrogen applies to the spreading of organic manure to any field for any 12 month period.

Other considerations

- The planned spreading of manures may affect your manure or slurry storage requirements.
- You will need to consider the features identified in your risk map and how it affects the land available to you for the spreading of organic manures.
- You may consider exporting any excess manures from your holding, or importing additional manures if you have identified any nutrient deficits. The import or export of manures must be recorded.

Nutrient management planning

- Welsh Government's Guidance for Farmers and Land Managers provide templates for Nutrient Management Plans, however, you can maintain your own records provided the criteria of the regulations are met, making any necessary additions or adjustments as required.
- Copies of Nutrient Management Plans must be stored for a minimum of 5 years and must be made available for inspection if requested.
- Exemptions from certain nutrient management planning requirements are provided for farms with low nutrient inputs.

Welsh Government's Guidance for Farmers and Land Managers can be found at gov.wales/land-management