

Control of

Agricultural Pollution Regulations

The regulations came into force on 1 April 2021. They establish a regulatory baseline, to ensure all farm businesses operate to a minimum standard and protect Welsh waterbodies from the impact of agricultural pollution.

WHAT TO EXPECT?

Some farm businesses will see minimal or no impact, others will need **time and support** to become compliant.

A **phased approach** will provide time for you to prepare and make any changes needed.

Don't panic, every farm is different, so take the time to **read the guidance available in detail**, before making any assumptions about the impact on your business.

Support is available from **Farming Connect** and the **Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations Helpline** operated by ADAS.

In areas previously within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, there is no phased approach and all of the rules will apply from **1 April 2021**.



TRANSITION PERIODS

The requirements that apply from 1 April 2021 include:

- Silage storage requirements - these remain the same as Silage Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (SSAFO).
- Closed periods for spreading manufactured nitrogen fertiliser.
- Organic manure applied to bare soil must be incorporated within 24 hours in most circumstances.
- Before spreading, the field must be inspected. If there is a significant risk of nitrogen getting into surface water, taking into account factors such as weather and ground conditions (e.g. frozen/waterlogged ground), slope of higher than 20%, soil type and the proximity to land drains.
- Notify Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 14 days before construction begins on a new or improved slurry or silage store.

The requirements that apply from 1 January 2023 include:

- Maintaining a risk map.
- A nutrient management plan must be produced, taking into account the soil nitrogen supply and crop requirement.
- Fertiliser inputs must not exceed specified crop limits.
- No more than 170kg/ha of nitrogen from livestock manure can be applied each year, averaged over the holding, either directly deposited by the animal or by spreading.
- A limit of 250kg/ha applies to the spreading of organic manure to any field each year.

The requirements that apply from 1 August 2024 include:

- Closed periods for organic manures with a high readily available nitrogen content. This is usually slurry, poultry manure or liquid digested sludge.
- Sufficient storage must be provided to contain the slurry collected over a 5-month period, or 6-months for pig slurry and poultry manure, where appropriate.

SUPPORT AVAILABLE:

www.gov.wales/farmingconnect

Agricultural Pollution Regulations Helpline operated by ADAS - **01974 847 000**

Detailed guidance can be found on Welsh Government's website - gov.wales/land-management