

# Fact Sheet – Storage of Silage

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The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 have been introduced to reduce losses of pollutants from agriculture to the environment by setting rules for certain farming practices.

The regulations replaced the existing Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil (SSAFO) standards for silage making, storage of silage effluent and for silage storage systems on 1 April 2021, which apply to all farms. In practice, the requirements have not changed, but they are now also a cross compliance requirement.

### Silage safety zones

- Silage stored in silos must not be made or stored within 10 metres of any waterbody.
- Baled silage must be sealed in an impermeable membrane or bagged and not made, stored, opened or unwrapped within 10 metres of any waterbody.
- Field silage (silage stored on open land) must not be made or stored within 50 metres of a 'protected water supply course'. You must also notify Natural Resources Wales (NRW) 14 days before the field site is used.

### Managing silage effluent

- Care must be taken to collect and store silage effluent without causing pollution.
- Silage effluent can be used for feeding to livestock or, following dilution, may be spread onto agricultural land as a fertiliser. The silage effluent will also be subject to the regulations on storage and spreading of organic manures that have high available nitrogen.

### Silage storage construction requirements

- You do not need to store baled silage (wrapped or bagged) on a specially constructed base, but you must ensure that if it is stored directly on the ground it does not leak effluent into water.
- You must ensure any silage storage system meets the construction requirements of the regulations.
- NRW can serve a notice requiring action to be taken to improve existing installations where it considers that there is a significant risk of pollution.

### Constructing or modifying a silage store

- If you need to build a new store or silo, or substantially enlarge or reconstruct an existing store, a minimum of 14 days' notice must be issued to NRW in writing before construction begins.

Detailed guidance can be found at [gov.wales/land-management](https://gov.wales/land-management)