



Slurry and Manure - Know the Rules

Slurry stores must be built in compliance with current regulations (SSAFO Regulations):

- Maintain stores so they do not leak.
- Keep a minimum free board of 750mm for earth bank lagoons and 300mm in all other types of slurry storage systems to ensure they do not overspill.

Don't site temporary field heap middens on waterlogged or shallow soils or within:

- 10m of any ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water (on sloping ground a wider buffer zone may be required).
- 50m of any spring that supplies water for human consumption or any uncapped well or borehole.

Take account of the nutrients in slurry and manure when planning fertiliser applications.

Maintain spreading equipment in a good state of repair.

Don't spread slurry or manure (including sewage sludge):

- Within 10m of any ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water (on sloping ground a wider buffer zone may be required).
- Within 50m of any spring that supplies water for human consumption or any uncapped well or borehole.
- On waterlogged or snow covered ground.
- On shallow soils (average depth of less than 40cm over gravel or fissured rock).

Livestock manures must be incorporated within 2 weeks after spreading on stubbles (this can be delayed in areas prone to wind erosion).

Don't spread slurry on frozen ground. Outwith NVZs, you can spread farm yard manure (FYM) on frozen ground.

In NVZs the additional rules apply:

Prepare a fertiliser and manure management plan, including a Risk Assessment for Manures and Slurries (RAMS) map, which must show the location of temporary field heap middens.

Temporary field heap middens must not be stored for any longer than 12 months in one place and must not be created on a site of a previously cleared heap within 24 months.

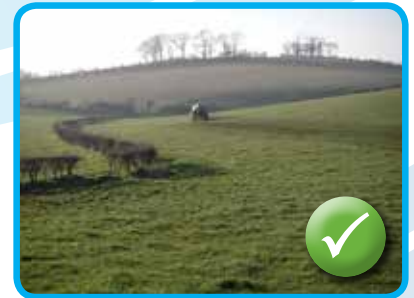
Record movement of livestock manure to and from the farm.

Full requirements are detailed in the NVZ Action Programme

Make sure you have sufficient storage; 22 weeks for cattle slurry and 26 weeks for pig slurry and poultry* manure. *unless stored in a temporary field heap midden.

When applying slurry and manures:

- Observe relevant closed periods and quantitative restrictions. (*quantitative restrictions dates vary depending on crop and soil type – see NVZ Action Programme Rules*).
- Take account of the crop available nitrogen and comply with farm and field based limits. (*max 250kg/N/ha to any individual field in any 12 month period; 170kg/N/ha/year* from livestock manure averaged over area of farm* *derogations available).
- Use of high trajectory raised splash plates is only permitted on growing arable crops.



Keep a minimum of 10m back from a watercourse when spreading slurry.



Temporary field heap middens should be sited at least 10m away from a watercourse.

Slurry and Manure

Slurry and manures are a valuable source of nutrients on the farm but can cause significant problems if they find their way into a ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water. They also contain bacteria and viruses, which could lead to ill health in humans and livestock.

Good practice to protect water quality

- Check weather before spreading; rainfall could wash nutrients off your land.
- Prepare a RAMS map (see The 4 Point Plan for guidance). Ensure staff and contractors follow it.
- Account for all nutrients; PLANET Scotland can produce reports to help you to assess fertiliser requirements, show NVZ compliance and save you money on your fertiliser bill.

How can you benefit from these rules?

Better management of slurry and manure can:

- Increase business profitability by maximising the value of slurries and manures.
- Minimise the risk of local water supplies becoming contaminated.
- Reduce the risk of disease transfer especially if you abstract water from a watercourse or borehole, as your source of livestock drinking water.
- Help to reduce the farm carbon footprint by maximising the value of your fertilisers.
- Contribute to protecting and enhancing local water quality for fish, wildlife and amenity use e.g. bathing beaches.
- Keep on the right side of the regulations and help to protect your farm payment.

Need more information?

For additional information about reducing pollution risks and benefitting the farm business, see www.farmingandwaterscotland.org Alternatively speak to your local agricultural consultant.



This fact sheet is intended to act as a reminder of the rules. To see the rules in more detail, see www.farmingandwaterscotland.org