

Digestate is a by-product of an anaerobic digestion system that produces gas for heat production and power. The following list are key points that are important prior to taking in on to your land as a nutrient source

- Source Digestate from plants that have PAS 110 accreditation and meet the SEPA position statement on use of Digestate for agriculture.
- Digestate that does not meet this standard can still be applied but will need a specific licence to applied according to a SEPA Waste Exemption Licence.
- Get details of the feedstock used in the digestion process.
- Always obtain an **up to date** analysis of the Digestate to be applied
- Check that the Digestate proposed to be applied meets the requirements of the farm assurance scheme for the agricultural products produced.
- Keep assurance schemes notified of applications and keep records that include date off application, type of material and quantities applied.
- Minimum 3-week period between application and livestock grazing must be observed.
- As the digestion process is continuous it is best to have a storage plan to be able to take the Digestate when there is less demand and cost may be lower.
- Digestate is a bulky fertiliser and will cost more to apply than inorganic fertilisers.
- Care must be taken when applying Digestate so as not to compact soil by applying during wet weather due to weight of application equipment.
- Digestate should only be applied when there is a crop demand as its value as a soil improver is limited.
- Digestate can be high in Readily Available Nitrogen (RAN) which can result in considerable losses of nitrogen to the atmosphere if it is applied at the wrong time of year.
- If land is in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) observe the application closed periods for organic materials with a high available nitrogen content.
- If applying Digestate in an NVZ area observe the allowable organic application of **250kg/ha** total organic nitrogen in any 12-month period.
- Applications should not be made
 - Within 10 metres of any ditch, watercourse, pond to surface water
 - Within 50 metres of any spring, well, borehole or reservoir that supplies water for human consumption or for farm dairies.
 - On steep slopes where run-off is a high risk throughout the year