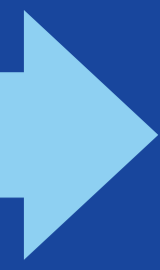


# GO



## Collect sustainable harvest through Good Nutrient Management

### Fertilisers stored securely and safely

- Know your customer – report anything unusual to the Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789321.
- [www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk](http://www.secureyourfertiliser.gov.uk) seeks to raise awareness specifically in the fertiliser and farming sectors.
- Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme (FIAS) – this voluntary assurance scheme, seeks to address some of the security issues around fertiliser.

### Soil analysis up to date

- About 68% of farmers analyse the nutrient content of their soils at least every five years.
- The Fertiliser Manual (RB209) recommends that soil sampling and analysis be done every three to five years to set and maintain a correct fertiliser policy as part of a nutrient management plan.
- Use soil and crop or grass analysis to confirm sulphur and trace element deficiencies, and to help identify any that may be affecting your crops or livestock.

### Soil type of each field known

- Match crops and rotations to the capability of soils on the farm.
- Inspect the structure of soils regularly. Record what you find and draw up a soil management plan for managing your land.
- Match the intended use of each field with the capability of the land so as to minimise the risks of harming the environment.

### Crops to be grown are decided



### Records kept

- Keeping clear and accurate field records of cropping and of all applications of fertilisers, livestock manures and organic manures will help future decisions on nutrient management.
- NVZ rules include requirements for record keeping.

### Mineral fertilisers applied at optimum time and rate

- Achieving the right timing of nutrient application is as important as applying the correct amount. Crop demand varies throughout the season and is greatest when a crop is growing quickly. Rapid development of leaves and roots during the early stages of plant growth is crucial to reach the optimum yield.
- NVZ rules relating to closed periods may also influence timing of nitrogen applications.

### Spreaders for mineral fertilisers calibrated

- Calibrating fertiliser spreaders/sprayers for every different type and batch of fertiliser that each machine will apply helps ensure that the intended rate is applied.
- It is also worth considering tray tests for fertiliser spreaders to check evenness of spread.

# Good Nutrient Management

### Nutrient and manure management plans updated

- When combined with a nutrient management plan, a manure management plan will help you to make the most of your livestock manures to reduce your fertiliser bill and reduce the risk of water pollution.
- A nutrient management plan will help you to make the most efficient use of inorganic fertilisers and maximise the use of nutrients contained in any organic manures that you apply.
- These plans will minimise the risk of pollution resulting from the over-application of nutrients.

### Suitable application technique for manures identified

- Consider applying slurry with a band spreader or injector to reduce odour, run-off and ammonia loss.
- If you broadcast slurry or solid manure to bare land or stubble, you should only do so if soil conditions allow incorporation soon afterwards.
- Pumping slurry from store through an “umbilical pipe system” directly to tractor-mounted application in the field can increase the area treated per day and reduce the risk of soil compaction.

### Manure spreaders are in good working order

- Check all equipment is in good working order before field activity starts.
- Set up spreaders according to manufacturers’ instructions, and adjust to an appropriate application rate and uniformity of spread for the type of manure.
- Avoid spilling slurry while you are filling and moving equipment around the farm; spillages on the road may be an offence, and run-off can enter surface waters via highway drainage.



- A number of tools are available to help farmers make the right decisions about the nutrients that they use.
- The Tried and Tested Nutrient Management Plan is an aid to making nutrient planning and recording simple and practical.
- The Fertiliser Manual (RB209) and PLANET 3 help farmers and land managers better assess the fertiliser required for the range of crops they plan to grow.

- The Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) system assigns an index of 0 to 6 that indicates the likely extent of the background nitrogen supply.
- Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) = the measured amount of mineral nitrogen (nitrate- plus ammonium-N) in the soil profile (Soil Mineral Nitrogen) + estimate of total crop nitrogen content + estimate of mineralisable nitrogen.

- Excess Winter Rainfall is closely related to drainage by which nitrate will be lost through leaching.
- Excess winter rainfall (mm) = Rainfall between the time a soil reaches field capacity and the end of drainage – evapo-transpiration.



- You should apply livestock manures when grass and crops can make efficient use of nitrogen. Spring applications on all soil types make best use of nitrogen in the manures.
- Don't apply livestock manures and dirty water when the soil is waterlogged, frozen or snow-covered.
- If you're in an NVZ, you must comply with the closed period requirements.

### Crop nutrient need calculated after value of spread manure calculated

### Soil Nitrogen Supply calculated

### Excess Winter Rainfall calculated

### History of previous cropping of known

### Optimum time for spreading of manures decided and manure incorporated into the soil quickly

