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NFU Cymru Briefing – Welsh Government's Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach

Following consultation on proposals for a licensing scheme earlier this year, Welsh Government has published [guidance](#) on the Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach.

The Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach is a one-year scheme to allow a higher rate of nitrogen application from grazing livestock manures. The Approach will run for the calendar year starting on 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024 and allows for the application of grazing livestock manures either by direct deposition or spreading above 170 kg of nitrogen per hectare (kg/N/ha) to a maximum of 250 kg/N/ha subject to certain conditions.

No other measures contained within the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 (the Regulations) are impacted by the Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach.

This NFU Cymru Briefing provides a summary of the requirements, as follows:

Qualifying Grassland Holdings

- The holding must be maintained to ensure at least 80% of the agricultural area is sown with grass during the relevant period.
- Holdings or land previously within an NVZ is not eligible.

Notification of Natural Resources Wales (NRW) – By 31 March 2024

- Holdings participating in the Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach must submit a notification to NRW (NotificationENMA@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk) by 31 March 2024.
- A copy of the enhanced nutrient management plan (below) must be submitted alongside the notification to NRW
- Compliance with the requirements of the Enhanced Nutrient Management Approach will not be assessed at the point of submission. Assessment of enhanced nutrient management plans will be undertaken during inspections.

Livestock manure to be applied to the holding during the relevant period

- Only livestock manure produced by the livestock on the holding can be applied whether directly by animal or by spreading.
- The amount of nitrogen applied to the holding from grazing livestock manure, whether directly by animal or by spreading, must not exceed 250 kg/N/ha
- The amount of nitrogen applied to the holding from non-grazing livestock manure, whether directly by animal or by spreading, must not exceed 170 kg/N/ha
- Where grazing livestock manure is applied in combination with non-grazing livestock manure, the application rates for grazing and non-grazing livestock manures are not additive, i.e. you cannot 'top-up' above 170 kg/N/ha of non-grazing livestock manure with any manure from grazing livestock.

Enhanced Nutrient Management Plan Requirements

The enhanced nutrient management plan can be completed in a format of choice but must record the following requirements in addition to the nitrogen requirements contained in the Regulations:

- The occupier must calculate the optimum amount of phosphate fertiliser (kg) that should be spread on the crop taking into account the soil phosphorus index and produce an enhanced nutrient management plan for the spreading of phosphate fertiliser
- The planning of the spreading of fertiliser must include a risk map and take into account:
 - The soil phosphorus index for each area of the holding with the same cropping regime, nutrient management regime and soil type,
 - The optimum amount of phosphate fertiliser (kg) that should be spread on the crop, taking into account the soil phosphorus index,
 - The amount of nitrogen (kg) likely to be available for uptake by the crop from any organic manure intended to be spread for crop uptake in the growing season
 - The amount of phosphate (kg) likely to be supplied to meet the requirement of the crop from any organic manure spread or intended to be spread
 - The amount of manufactured nitrogen fertiliser (kg) required
 - The amount of manufactured phosphate fertiliser (kg) required

Soil sampling analysis – by 30 March 2024

- The occupier must undertake soil sampling analysis of at least every five hectares of the agricultural area of the holding with the same cropping regime, nutrient management regime and soil type. The results of this soil analysis must be used for the purposes of determining the soil phosphorus index.
- The results of previous analysis may be used where they meet the requirements above provided the sampling analysis undertaken was carried out between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2023. They can also be used in combination with additional analysis undertaken before 30 March 2024.
- Where phosphorus soil sampling analysis has not been carried out (as above) this must be undertaken before 30 March 2024.

Total phosphorus spread on a holding

- The total amount of phosphate from both manufactured phosphate fertiliser and phosphate from organic manure in the growing season in which it is spread must not exceed stated values (see full guidance).
- Spreading phosphate fertiliser on grass and other crops above the stated values is permitted subject to prior receipt of written advice from a person who is FACTS registered.

Nitrogen and phosphate produced by animals during the relevant period

- A record must be made of the expected number and category of livestock to be kept on the holding.
- The total amount of nitrogen and phosphate (kg) in manure expected to be produced by the livestock on the holding must be calculated.

Livestock manure intended to be sent off the holding

- A record must be made of the type and amount of livestock manure that is intended to be sent off the holding.
- The nitrogen content (kg) of the manure must be assessed and recorded by 1 March 2024.

Risk maps

- In addition to the risk mapping requirements of the Regulations, risk maps must also show each field marked with a reference number or identifying number to enable cross referencing to the fields recorded in the enhanced nutrient management plan and be updated by 31 March 2023.
- Changes to the risk map and field references must be updated on the risk map within one month of change.

Additional Environmental Requirements

- Before spreading organic manure, the total phosphate content (kg) must be recorded.
- Before spreading manufactured phosphate fertiliser, record the amount of phosphate (kg) and the planned month for spreading. The amount of phosphate required from phosphate fertiliser should be equal to the optimum amount of phosphate required by the crop less the amount of phosphate that will be supplied for crop uptake from the spreading of any organic manure.
- Precision spreading equipment must be used for the spreading of slurry except where it would not be reasonably practicable to do so.
- Grass on the holding must not be ploughed if it is:
 - Temporary grassland on sandy soils between 1 July and 31 December
 - Grass on sandy soils before 16 January 2024 where livestock manure has been spread on that grass between 1 September 2023 and 31 December 2023, and
 - Grass on soils that are not sandy soils before 16 January 2024 where livestock manure has been spread on that grass between 15 October 2023 and 15 January 2024
- Where any grass on the holding is ploughed, the land must be sown with a crop of high nitrogen demand within four weeks or sown with grass within six weeks.
- Crop rotation must not include leguminous or other plants fixing atmospheric nitrogen except for grass with less than 50% clover, or any leguminous plants that are under-sown with grass.
- All soil must be protected by ensuring that all land is covered by crops, stubbles, residues or other vegetation at all times, except where establishing such cover would create a significant risk of soil erosion.
- Where land has been harvested using a combine harvester, forage harvester or mower, the occupier must ensure that from the first day after harvest to 31 December 2024, specified conditions (see full guidance) must be met.
- Supplementary feeding locations for livestock must not be located within 20 metres of a watercourse and supplementary drinking locations for livestock must not be located within 10m of a water course on any land.
- No organic manure can be spread within 15m of surface water unless using precision spreading equipment in which case no organic manure can be spread within 10m of surface water.

Record Keeping Requirements

The following additional records must be kept:

- Before spreading organic manure, the total phosphate content in kg must be recorded
- Before spreading of any manufactured phosphate fertiliser the amount of phosphate (kg) required by the crop less the amount of phosphate supplied for crop uptake from any organic manure and the planned month for spreading.
- Records of crops sown - if phosphate fertiliser is intended to be spread during the relevant period, the occupier must record within 1 week of the crop sown and the date of sowing.

- When spreading organic manure the total phosphorus content (kg) and, when spreading manufactured phosphate fertiliser the date of spreading and the amount of phosphate spread
- The date of ploughing grass within 1 week of the ploughing occurring

Fertilisation accounts to be submitted to NRW – By 31 March 2025

The following information in the form of a fertilisation account must be submitted to NRW by e-mail to NotificationENMA@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk by 31 March 2025.

- Total agricultural area of the holding in ha
- The area of holding in ha covered by the following crops
 - Grass
 - Winter wheat
 - Spring wheat
 - Winter barley
 - Spring barley
 - Winter oilseed rape
 - Sugar beet
 - Potatoes
 - Forage maize
 - Other crops
- The number and category of animals kept on the holding
- The amount of nitrogen and phosphate in kg in the manure produced
- The amount, type and characteristics of livestock manure sent off the holding
- The amount of nitrogen and phosphate (kg) in the manure sent off the holding
- The weight (tonnes) and nitrogen content (kg) of all manufactured nitrogen fertiliser stocks kept on the holding during the relevant period
- The weight (tonnes) and **nitrogen** content (kg) of all manufactured phosphate fertiliser stocks kept on the holding during the relevant period
- The weight (tonnes) and nitrogen content (kg) of all manufactured nitrogen fertiliser stocks brought on to and sent off the holding during the relevant period
- The weight (tonnes) and nitrogen content (kg) of all manufactured phosphate fertiliser stocks brought on to and sent off the holding during the relevant period

For further information you are referred to the full [Welsh Government Guidance](#).

Further information and guidance on the Control of Agricultural Pollution Regulations can be accessed [here](#).