



Nutrient Management Plan

Created by the industry, for the industry





Introduction

In this second edition of the *Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan*, the industry (AIC, BGS, CLA, LEAF and NFU) has worked together to deliver an aid to making nutrient planning and recording simple and practical for you and your farm.

By using this plan you can manage your nutrients efficiently to save money and reduce environmental risks. The plan will also help you meet the latest NVZ regulations in a step-by-step, manageable way.

By working together we believe we can ensure we remain a profitable and responsible industry.

The guidance is an aid to nutrient management planning and can help users meet the requirements of the NVZ regulations, where these apply. Whilst the Professional Nutrient Management Group (Industry) has used its best endeavours to ensure the accuracy of the guidance, we cannot accept any responsibility or liability from its use.

Supported by –



Ensure any adviser you use for crop nutrient decisions is a current FACTS Qualified Adviser.



This Nutrient Management Plan is designed to be used in conjunction with Defra AHDB *Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*. For specific guidance in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales consult the relevant national body (see page 15).





Nutrient Management Plan

This *Nutrient Management Plan* is intended to be used alongside the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* and *Defra NVZ Guidance* for complying with the rules for Nitrate Vulnerable Zones in England. The *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* gives detailed nutrient recommendations for crops and grass together with standard values for the nutrient contents of organic manures. NVZ rules described in this plan are those current in 2018.

Good nutrient management is one of the keys to farm profitability. Broadly, applying nutrients at recommended rates doubles the yield of most crops. Getting things wrong risks yields, profits, the environment and compliance with regulations. Statutory rules for nitrogen management apply in NVZs.

The Nutrient Management Plan includes two recording sheets:

- Farm Record Sheet, for the whole farm;
- Field Record Sheet, for each field.

Completing these forms through the season creates a record of nutrient planning and use.

The Plan also provides useful information sources on nutrient spreading guidance, soil analysis services, professional advice, nutrient storage and fertiliser security.

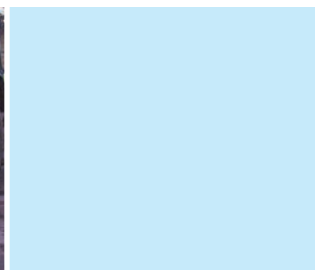
Priorities in nutrient management change during the season. The *Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan* takes you through the main stages in the season, identifying priorities at each stage. While this nutrient plan is designed for farmer use, if in doubt complete with your FACTS Qualified Adviser (FQA).

Some general points will help you get the best from nutrients you apply and avoid unnecessary losses that can impact air quality (ammonia, greenhouse gases), water quality and ecology:

- **Do incorporate** poultry manure, slurry or liquid digested sludge spread onto stubble or bare ground within 24 hours of application at the latest (unless slurry is applied by band spreader or injected) and 12 hours if possible. 24 hours is a requirement in NVZs (Defra NVZ Guidance), preferably as soon as possible within 12 hours (Defra COGAP for reducing ammonia emissions).
- **Do incorporate** any other organic manures within 24 hours if land is sloping or within 50m of surface water that could receive run-off (Defra NVZ Guidance), preferably as soon as possible within 12 hours (Defra COGAP for reducing ammonia emissions).

- **Do not** apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers, or organic manures, if there is a high risk of run-off, taking account of the slope of the land, land drains, ground cover, proximity to surface water, weather conditions and soil type. Again, this is a requirement in NVZs (Defra NVZ Guidance) and a sensible precaution to prevent nutrient waste.
- **Do not** apply organic manures within 10m of surface water (6m if using precision spreading equipment for slurry, sewage sludge or anaerobic digestate) or within 50m of a borehole, well or spring. (Defra NVZ Guidance).
- **Do not** apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers within 2m of surface water (Defra NVZ Guidance) or any fertilisers within 2m of the centre of a hedgerow or within 1m of the edge of a watercourse or ditch. (Cross-compliance requirement).

- **Never** apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers, or organic manures, if soil is water-logged, flooded or snow-covered or has been frozen for more than 12 of the preceding 24 hours. This is a requirement in NVZs (Defra NVZ Guidance). Nitrogen applied under such conditions would be at high risk of loss by leaching or run-off.



General

1. Enter details of all fertiliser and organic manure applications in Part B of the *Field Record Sheets*.

Nutrient content of organic manures – both total and crop available nutrient contents – are given in section 2 of the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.

In NVZs, the standard values for percentage availability of livestock manure N in NVZ Guidance must be used to calculate the crop available N for Nmax. For other organic manures, establish crop available N from suppliers analysis, sampling and analysis or RB209. Use the Organic Manure Sheet for planned and completed manure applications before transferring information to the *Field Record Sheet*. Total nitrogen is needed for checking NVZ field limit and crop available nitrogen (equivalent to fertiliser nitrogen) for adjusting fertiliser N rates and Nmax. If the soil index is 0 or 1 or the crop is especially responsive (eg potatoes, vegetables), use the available P₂O₅ or K₂O content to adjust fertiliser applications. Otherwise, use the total content.

2. Ensure there is a current (less than four years old) soil analysis report for every field. If not, get samples taken and analysed for P, K, Mg and pH.

Fields should be sampled every 3 to 5 years (see page 16 for soil analytical laboratories). Always take samples for a particular field at the same time of year: Autumn is usually most convenient for arable crops but spring may be better for grassland. Enter P and K Indices in the *Field Record Sheet*.

Target soil Indices for P are 2 and for K are 2-. Try to avoid Indices falling below these targets – it is expensive to raise Indices and full yield may not be achieved at low Indices even where nutrient recommendations are followed.

Indices higher than the target are unnecessary and there may be greater risk of phosphorus-enriched soil particles moving to surface waters.

On some sand soils, leaching over winter can lead to significant potassium loss. It may not be possible to maintain these soils at K Index 2- and a target Index of 1+ (100mg K/l) is more suitable. If so, apply the potash maintenance rate at this Index.

3. Start completing the *Farm Record Sheet* for the coming crop.

Ensure any adviser you use for crop nutrient decisions is a current FACTS Qualified Adviser (FQA).

If you calibrated or tray tested any fertiliser spreaders during the past year, enter dates in the *Farm Record Sheet*.

High rainfall means a total of over 700mm (28 inches)/year; medium is 600–700mm (24–28 inches); low is under 600mm (24 inches). If you have a rain gauge or access to local weather data, it is best to leave this entry until spring as current winter rainfall may differ from the average. Rainfall over winter affects how much soil nitrogen carries over to spring and hence a crop's fertiliser requirement.

4. Start completing *Field Record Sheets* for current or coming crops.

Use one sheet for each field and enter field name, area, current and previous crop and last liming date.





Late Summer/Autumn

Grassland

Closed periods in NVZs for spreading organic manures with high readily-available nitrogen (eg. slurry and poultry manure) begin on 1 September on sandy or shallow soils and on 15 October on all other soils (Defra NVZ Guidance).

Closed period in NVZs for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers begins on 15 September.

5. Decide when to stop applying nitrogen to grazed grass.

Grass can take up nitrogen in autumn but the dry-matter yield response usually is smaller than earlier in the year. Don't confuse grass greening with growth and try to leave short grass over winter.

6. Decide which fields will be used for first cut silage next year.

If any have a soil K Index of 0 or 1, apply some potash (30–60 kg K₂O/ha) this autumn.

Arable

Closed periods in NVZs for spreading organic manures with high readily-available nitrogen (eg. slurry and poultry manure) begin on 1 August on sandy or shallow soils and on 1 October on all other soils (Defra NVZ Guidance). On sandy or shallow soils, the closed period begins on 15 September if a crop has been planted on or before 15 September.

Closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers begins on 1 September. Applications are permitted for some crops during the closed period (Defra NVZ Guidance).

7. Use soil P, K and Mg Indices to decide on applications to every field. Enter the recommended applications of phosphate and potash in Part A of the *Field Record Sheet*.

Recommendations for applying phosphate, potash and magnesium are in Section 4 of the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*. It is not necessary to apply the exact amount of phosphate or potash required for each crop in a given year but, over a rotation, total amounts applied should meet the crops' total requirements. So, for example, a small over-application in one year can be adjusted by applying less than the recommended amount the next year.

8. If soil Index is 0 or 1, apply phosphate or potash and mix into the seedbed of autumn-sown crops. At higher Indices, phosphate or potash can be applied either in autumn or in spring for autumn-sown crops.

If soil is sandy, some potash could be lost by leaching over winter. In this case, potash application could be delayed until spring at K Index 1.



General

Closed period in NVZs for applying organic manures with high readily available nitrogen (eg. slurry and poultry manure) ends on 31 December on sandy or shallow soils and on 31 January on all other soils (Defra NVZ Guidance).

Between end of the closed period and the last day of February, do not apply more than 30 cu. m/ha of slurry or 8t/ha of poultry manure at any one time with at least three weeks between applications (Defra NVZ Guidance).

Closed period for applying manufactured nitrogen fertilisers ends on 15 January (Defra NVZ Guidance).

9. Complete final entries in Farm Record Sheet and Field Record Sheets for the past crop. If in an NVZ, check compliance with the Nmax limit and the livestock manure N limits for the past calendar year.

Use Defra NVZ Guidance to check compliance with Nmax. The information you will need for each crop in each field for which Nmax applies, is the crop area and the amount of N applied in manufactured fertilisers plus the amount of crop available N applied in organic manures (take from the Grey box in Part B of the Field Record Sheet). If organic manure is to be applied to the field, and not just manufactured nitrogen fertilisers, you must first establish the total amount of nitrogen in the manure (using the standard values in the *Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* or by sampling and analysis) and, for livestock manures, calculate the available nitrogen in it using the percentages provided in Defra NVZ Guidance.

To check compliance with the farm limit, use the procedure and tables in Defra NVZ Guidance. You will need records of any organic manure imported to, or exported from, the holding. If you keep livestock, you will need records of livestock types and the time they were kept on farm together with standard figures for production and nitrogen content of livestock manure (described in Defra NVZ Guidance).

10. If in an NVZ, check the field limit for organic manure nitrogen 250kg total N/ha was not exceeded in any field during any 12 month rolling period (see *Field Records Sheets*). Up to 500kg total N/ha every two years is allowed for PAS100 compost.

11. Make sure documents you might need in the coming year are available.

AHDB *Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*, Defra NVZ Guidance, *Guide to Cross Compliance*, *ELS Handbook*, *Countryside Stewardship manuals* and *Defra Protecting our Water, Soil and Air: A code of Good Agricultural Practice for Farmers, Growers and Land Managers*. All can be downloaded free from Defra's website (www.gov.uk).

12. Make sure you have a recording system for information you need to keep during the year.

The *Farm Record Sheet* and *Field Record Sheets* will hold much of this information, but you also need to record:

- Livestock: numbers and types; days spent on the holding and manure nitrogen produced. This is for the livestock manure nitrogen farm limit calculation (Defra NVZ Guidance).
- Any movement of organic manures to, or from, the farm together with details of manure type, amount, nitrogen content and supplier, or recipient (Defra NVZ Guidance).
- Details of a contingency plan if manure export arrangements fail.
- Manure storage calculation showing capacity for poultry manure and slurry (Defra NVZ Guidance).
- Fields in which poultry or other organic manures are stored (show on a risk map and record dates of site use) (Defra NVZ Guidance).
- Copy of the Field Risk Map.

13. Check the condition of fertiliser and manure spreaders. Organise any necessary repairs or maintenance. Enter dates of checks in the *Farm Record Sheet*.

14. Calibrate fertiliser spreaders/sprayers for every different type and batch of fertiliser that each machine will apply in spring. This helps ensure that the intended rate is applied. Enter calibration dates in the *Farm Record Sheet*.



Winter

15. Consider tray tests for fertiliser spreaders to check evenness of spread. Calibration will not check evenness of spread. Enter test dates in the *Farm Record Sheet*.

Tray-testing is best done by an experienced technician so there may be a cost involved. Bearing in mind the cost of fertiliser and the extra yield good spreading brings, professional tray-testing can be worthwhile. Results are given as a 'coefficient of variation' or 'CV' expressed as a percentage. The higher the CV, the less evenly fertiliser spreads. A CV of 10–15% is acceptable in a tray-test and will prevent crop striping. Surveys indicate that CVs of 30% or more are common for spreaders in use. Improving CV from 30% to 10% will bring a yield benefit of around 0.25t/ha in wheat. (See *Fertiliser Spreaders – Choosing, Maintaining and Using* available from AIC).

16. Take a longer-term look at application methods used for any organic manures.

A large proportion of readily available nitrogen in manures can be lost to air if it remains on the soil surface, even for a few hours. Rapid incorporation or use of shallow injection, trailing hose or trailing shoe equipment will minimise nitrogen loss and help get best value from manure.

17. Where any livestock are kept, examine all feeds used to ensure protein (N) and phosphorus contents do not exceed animal requirement.

Nutrients from manufactured feeds can be a large proportion of the farm's total input. Some nutrients end up in manures and can be difficult to use efficiently without loss of nitrogen or phosphorus to water or air.

18. Examine your fertiliser storage and security arrangements.

Apart from being valuable products, some fertilisers (nitrogen-based) can be a security risk in the wrong hands. There is more advice and a *Five Point Plan for fertiliser security* at www.gov.uk/government/publications/secure-your-fertiliser/secure-your-fertiliser

It is recommended that fertilisers are purchased from a FIAS (Fertiliser Industry Assurance Scheme) registered supplier:

Grassland

19. Decide on the amount of nitrogen, phosphate and potash needed in every field and enter this in Part A of the *Field Record Sheet*.

Recommendations for nitrogen use in grassland are in section 3 of *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.

Arable

20. If you intend to use soil mineral nitrogen testing to find the Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) Index, organise this before first application, ideally in February or March.

The Soil Mineral Nitrogen measurements described in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* involve soil sampling to 90cm. At least 15–20 individual soil cores should be bulked to give one sample representing the field. This is difficult to do manually and mechanised soil sampling is advisable.

21. Where you know the SNS Index for a field, decide on the amount of nitrogen needed in every field. Enter this and the Index in Part A of the *Field Record Sheet*.

Recommendations for nitrogen use in different crops are in sections 4, 5 and 6 of the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.



Spring/Early Summer

General

22. Enter details of all fertiliser and organic manure applications in Part B of the *Field Record Sheets*.

Nutrient contents of organic manures (both total and crop available) are given in section 2 of the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.

In NVZs, the standard values in Defra NVZ Guidance must be used to calculate the crop available N content of livestock manures for Nmax. For other organic manures, establish crop available N from suppliers analysis, sampling and analysis or Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) or MANNER-NPK. Use the *Organic Manure* for planned and completed manure applications before transferring information to use the Organic Manure Sheet for planned and completed manure applications before transferring information to the Field Record Sheet. Total nitrogen will be needed for checking the NVZ field limit and crop available nitrogen (equivalent to fertiliser nitrogen) for adjusting fertiliser application rates and Nmax. If the soil index is 0 or 1 or the crop is especially responsive (eg potatoes, vegetables), use the available P₂O₅ or K₂O content to adjust fertiliser applications. Otherwise, use the total content.

23. If in an NVZ, check you can comply with Nmax this year.

Use Defra NVZ Guidance to check compliance with Nmax. The information you will need for each crop in each field for which Nmax applies, is the crop area and the amount of N required by the crop (take from the Grey shaded box in Part A of the Field Record Sheet). If organic manure is to be applied to the field, and not just manufactured nitrogen fertilisers, you must first establish the total amount of nitrogen in the manure (using the standard values in *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide* or by sampling and analysis) and calculate the available nitrogen in it using the percentages provided in Defra NVZ Guidance for livestock manures or from supplier's analysis, sampling and analysis or *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide* for other manures.

Grassland

24. Decide when first to apply nitrogen. This will normally be about one month before livestock are turned out. Enter the expected amount to be applied over the season in Part A of the Field Record Sheet.

Nitrogen should first be applied when grass growth starts and ground conditions allow. Grass growth begins when the soil at 10cm exceeds 5 deg C for at least 4 or 5 days (ie it is reliably warming. However, don't apply nitrogen unless ground is dry enough to allow spreading without soil damage.

Arable

25. Identify the SNS Index for every field and enter this in Part A of the Field Record Sheet.

The Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS) Index is the basis for nitrogen recommendations and will be needed for every field. There are two ways to find the SNS Index – from tables in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* or through soil testing. To use the tables (Section 4, *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*), you need to know soil type, crop grown last year and rainfall. There are three tables for low, moderate and high rainfall, use the appropriate table for all fields. Ideally, excess winter rainfall for the current winter is needed but in most cases, it is adequate to use average rainfall and adjust the table used if the current winter is exceptionally drier or wetter than average.

If the field has been ploughed out from grass in the past three years, you will need to look also at the table for ploughed-out grass (Section 4, *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*). Check the SNS Index in this table, compare it with the one in the previous tables for arable cropping and use the highest of the two values.

Soil testing for available nitrogen can involve sampling to 90cm for use with the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* (full details in Section 4) or to shallower depths for some commercial recommendation systems.

26. Use the SNS Index to decide on the amount of nitrogen needed in every field and enter this and the Index in Part A of the *Field Record Sheet*.

Recommendations for nitrogen use in different crops are in sections 4, 5 and 6 of the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.

The following pages can be photocopied to create your own records. Alternatively, there are downloads available from www.nutrientmanagement.org

- copies of the following record pages can be downloaded.
- an interactive Excel spreadsheet version of the following record pages which completes relevant calculations for you and enable electronic records to be kept.
- A3 farm and field record sheets. *Please note these files are for printing A3 paper (which most high street printers offer).*

Farm Record Sheet

(Complete as appropriate. Superscripts refer to numbered points in the text.)

Farm address and occupier:
Total cropped/grass area (excluding woodland, roads and hard standing) ha:
FACTS Qualified Adviser: ³ (name and number)

Rainfall (high/medium/low): ³	All, or part, farm in NVZ: Yes / No
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Any of these used on the farm? (tick or enter):

AHDB Nutrient Management Guide <input type="checkbox"/>	PLANET <input type="checkbox"/>	MANNER-NPK <input type="checkbox"/>	Code of Good Agricultural Practice <input type="checkbox"/>
ELS handbook <input type="checkbox"/>	NVZ Guidance <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry guidance <input type="checkbox"/>	Countryside Stewardship manuals <input type="checkbox"/>

Last fertiliser spreader/sprayer(s) checks before this crop year:

Model	Date inspected	Date calibrated	Date tray-tested

Spreaders/sprayers

- Check the mechanical condition of equipment in spring and at intervals through the season.
- Calibrate fertiliser spreaders/sprayers to check rate of application before use in spring and whenever the type or batch of fertiliser product being applied changes.
- Check fertiliser spread pattern using trays every year. Also, check after equipment has been serviced or parts replaced or when adapting the machine for headland applications.
- Ensure operators are properly trained to use equipment.
- Avoid application when conditions are poor, for example, windy or too humid.

Fertiliser spreader/sprayer(s) checks during this crop year:^{14, 15}

Model	Date inspected	Date calibrated	Date tray-tested

Manure/slurry spreader(s):¹⁶

Model	Capacity	Date inspected

Notes (include any requirements identified for next season):



Nutrient Management Plan

Field Record Sheet

(Complete as appropriate, one sheet per field. Superscripts refer to numbered points in the text.)

PART A: PLANS

Field name/ref:		Total area (ha):	Harvest year:
Soil type:	Subsoil (eg clay):	Cropped area (ha):	Soil depth (cm):

Last soil analysis ² date:	pH:	P Index:	K Index:	Mg Index:
Last limed (month/year):		SNS Index ^{21,26} :		

Last crop (if arable):	Yield (t/ha):	Residues removed: Yes / No
Last management (if grass):	This season's crop:	Expected yield if arable (t/ha):

N recommendation system used (e.g. RB209)	
P ₂ O ₅ policy: maintenance / run-down / build-up:	K ₂ O policy: maintenance / run-down / build-up:

		Amount (kg/ha):				
		N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	MgO	SO ₃
Nutrients required ^{7,19,26}	(A)					
Allowance for livestock manure nutrients (from Organic Manure Sheet)	(B)					
Allowance for other organic manure nutrients	(C)					
Nutrients needed from fertilisers	(A) minus (B) minus (C)					

Notes (include planned use of sodium, micronutrients, etc, and any problems identified during the season or requirements for the next season.):



Nutrient Management Plan

Field Record Sheet

(Complete as appropriate, one page per field. Superscripts refer to numbered points in the Tried and Tested Plan)

PART B: RECORDS

If arable, date crop established:	Yield achieved (t/ha):
If grass, management (eg grazing, silage, hay):	

Fertilisers applied ^{1,23}							
Name/analysis	Date	Fertiliser rate applied (kg/ha)	Amount (kg/ha)				
			N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	MgO	SO ₃
		Total [Ⓓ]					

Nutrients applied in livestock manures (from Organic Manure Sheet B) (kg/ha) ^{1,23} :	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	MgO	SO ₃
Total [Ⓔ]					
Crop available [Ⓕ]					

Nutrients applied in other organic manures (from Organic Manure Sheet) (kg/ha) ²³ :	N	P ₂ O ₅	K ₂ O	MgO	SO ₃
Total [Ⓖ]					
Crop available [Ⓖ]					

Total applied in organic manures ¹⁰	[Ⓔ] plus [Ⓖ]				
Total applied in fertilisers+organic manures (kg/ha)	[Ⓓ] plus [Ⓔ] plus [Ⓖ]				

Crop available supplied in fertilisers+organic manures (kg/ha)	[Ⓓ] plus [Ⓕ] plus [Ⓖ]				
Phosphate and potash removed in crop (Section 4 RB209)	[Ⓘ]				
Phosphate and potash balance (kg/ha)	[Ⓓ] plus [Ⓔ] plus [Ⓖ] minus [Ⓘ]				
Grain protein % (if cereals):					

If you are in an NVZ:

Total nitrogen applied in organic manures ([Ⓔ] plus [Ⓖ] above) must not exceed 250kg N/ha (up to 500kg total N/ha every two years for PAS100 compost).

For planning nitrogen use (Defra NVZ Guidance), where organic manure is to be applied, you can use the crop available N percentages from the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*. However, if you are calculating compliance with Nmax in an NVZ where livestock manure is applied, you **must** use the crop available N percentages provided in Defra NVZ Guidance.

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY TO CREATE YOUR OWN FARM RECORDS

Organic Manure Sheet

Livestock and other organic manures are valuable sources of crop nutrients. A little time spent calculating nutrient contents and application rates will be re-paid many times over. Two general points:

- You need to calculate nitrogen application rates separately for livestock manures and other organic manures (eg sewage sludge, compost, industrial waste etc). This is because in NVZs, the field limit is based on all organic manures but the whole farm limit is based only on livestock manures.

Livestock manures = FYM, slurry and poultry manures

Organic manures = Livestock manures plus sewage sludge, compost and organic wastes applied

- When calculating the fertiliser-equivalent of phosphate and potash in manures, use the total contents where soil Indices are at, or higher than, the target (2 for P and 2 or 2- for K) but use available contents where Indices are below target or the crop is very responsive (eg potatoes, vegetables). This is because at target Indices or higher, phosphate or potash are applied to replace amounts removed in the crop (no yield response is expected in the current crop). Where Indices are below target, some response could occur and it is better to use available phosphate or potash to calculate the manure's fertiliser value.

Typical nutrient contents for different organic manure types are in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.

In NVZs, the standard values in Defra NVZ Guidance must be used to calculate the crop available N content of livestock manures for Nmax; not the values in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.

The table overleaf is intended to help organise the information you need and to calculate nutrient application rates. To complete the table overleaf, follow these steps:

- For every planned, or completed, manure application enter: application date; manure type; application rate; and incorporation method.
- Nutrient contents in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* are in kg/t or kg/m³. Methods for converting between units are shown.
- Find the heading for the manure type in Section 2 of the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)*.
- The first table under the heading shows total nitrogen content in the manure. Multiply this content by the application rate and enter the total nitrogen application rate in kg/ha.
- The second table under the heading in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* shows the percentage of total nitrogen that is crop available (fertiliser-equivalent) in different situations. Enter the appropriate '% available' value in the table and multiply this by the total nitrogen application rate to give the rate of crop available nitrogen applied. Enter this in the table.
- The next table under the heading in the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* shows typical total and available phosphate and potash contents of the manure. Multiply the total P₂O₅ and total K₂O contents by the manure application rate to give the rates of total phosphate and potash applications. Enter these in the table.
- Take the '% available' values for phosphate and potash from the *AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* and multiply these by the rates of total phosphate and potash application to give rates of available phosphate and potash applied. Enter these in the table. Where soil index requires available nutrient to be used.
- Once details for all planned or completed manure applications are entered, add up the columns of total and available nutrient applications to give total amounts of total and available nutrients applied in livestock and other organic manure. These totals should be transferred to the Field Records Sheet.



Nutrient Management Plan

Organic Manure Sheet

(see the Organic materials section of the AHDB Nutrient Management Guide or in Defra NVZ Guidance.)

PART A: PLANNING

Field name/ref:	Soil type:
Crop:	

Livestock manures only				Nutrients to be applied									
				N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O					
Date	Type	Rate t/ha	Method ^a	Slurry DM %	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Avail. (kg/ha)	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Avail. (kg/ha)	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Avail. (kg/ha)
Nutrients in livestock manures (kg/ha)													

Other organic manures				Nutrients to be applied								
				N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O				
Date	Type	Rate t/ha	Method ^a	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Avail. (kg/ha)	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Avail. (kg/ha)	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Avail. (kg/ha)
Nutrients in other organic manures (kg/ha)												
Total nutrients to be applied												

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY TO CREATE YOUR OWN FARM RECORDS

a. Surface applied, incorporated within 6 or 24 hours, broadcast, shallow injected etc.



Nutrient Management Plan

Organic Manure Sheet

(see the Organic materials section of the AHDB Nutrient Management Guide and Defra NVZ Guidance.)

PART B: RECORDING

Field name/ref:	Soil type:
Crop:	

Livestock manures only				Nutrients applied						
Date	Type	Rate t/ha	Method ^a	Slurry DM %	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
					Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.
Nutrients in livestock manures (kg/ha):				Ⓐ						

Other organic manures				Nutrients applied					
Date	Type	Rate t/ha	Method ^a	N		P ₂ O ₅		K ₂ O	
				Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.	Total (kg/ha)	% avail.
Nutrients in other organic manures (kg/ha):				Ⓑ					
Total nutrients to be applied:				Ⓐ plus Ⓑ					

PLEASE PHOTOCOPY TO CREATE YOUR OWN FARM RECORDS

a. Surface applied, incorporated within 6 or 24 hours, bandspread, shallow injected etc.



Sources of Information

ADAS

www.adas.co.uk

The *Safe Sludge Matrix – Guidelines for the Application of Sewage Sludge to Agricultural Land (2001)* can be found at adlib.everysite.co.uk/resources/000/094/727/SSMatrix.pdf

Agricultural Industries Confederation (AIC)

www.agindustries.org.uk

(select Fertiliser then Publications Codes of practice and Guidance)

AHDB

www.ahdb.org.uk

The *Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)* is at www.ahdb.org.uk/rb209

Catchment Sensitive Farming

provides advice to farmers in priority areas of England on soil and nutrient management to improve soil, air and water quality. For more information search www.gov.uk for Catchment Sensitive Farming. For a list of your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers visit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/catchment-sensitive-farming-officer-contacts

Grant funding is available for farm infrastructure, land management and equipment for environmental and economic benefits via Countryside Stewardship or Countryside Productivity schemes.

Defra

www.gov.uk

Information on NVZs at www.gov.uk/nitrate-vulnerable-zones *Protecting Our Water, Soil and Air* at www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air

The *Code of Good Agricultural Practice for reducing ammonia emissions* is at www.gov.uk/government/publications/code-of-good-agricultural-practice-for-reducing-ammonia-emissions

FACTS

www.basis-reg.com

FACTS Members' site with online library at www.factsinfo.org.uk

LEAF

www.leafuk.org

Information on LEAF Sustainable Farming Review, an integrated farm management tool, can be found at leafuk.org/farming/leaf-sustainable-farming-review

Natural England

www.naturalengland.org.uk

Information on Catchment Sensitive Farming at www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming

Planet Nutrient Management

www.planet4farmers.co.uk

PLANET and MANNER-NPK software

Tried and tested

www.nutrientmanagement.org

Other publications include *New to Nutrient Management Guide*, *Think Manures*, *Feed Planning for Cattle and Sheep* and the *Farm and Field record sheets* etc. Information on thinksoils is at www.nutrientmanagement.org/thinksoils/

For specific guidance in Northern Ireland

Daera: www.daera-ni.gov.uk/

Guidance on the Nitrates Action Programme and the Phosphorus Regulations is at www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/nitrates-action-programme-nap-and-phosphorus-regulations-2015-2018

For specific guidance in Scotland

Guidance on NVZs and the PEPFAA code of practice can be found at **Change to** www.gov.scot/policies/agriculture-and-the-environment/

For specific guidance in Wales

Guidance on NVZs is at

gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/waterflooding/nitrates-directive/?lang=en

Soil sampling and analysis

A list of laboratories is maintained on the www.nutrientmanagement.org website, or call 02476 858896.

Routine soil analysis will cover P, K, Mg and pH. In England and Wales, soil indices are based on the Olsen method of analysis for soil P and on ammonium nitrate extraction for soil K and Mg.

Guidance on soil sampling and analysis is contained in: *Soil Analysis, key to nutrient management planning* (Potash Development Association, Leaflet 24)



Partners and Supporters

The professional nutrient management group:



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LINKING ENVIRONMENT AND FARMING
Integrated Farm Management

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FACTS
www.basis-reg.com/facts

HDC
<https://horticulture.ahdb.org.uk/>

Natural England
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england

Processors and Growers Research
Organisation
www.pgro.org

Royal Society for Protection of
Birds www.rspb.org.uk



Nutrient management glossary I

Ammonia	A gas that is emitted when manures are stored and spread and after application of urea fertilisers. Although not a greenhouse gas, ammonia contributes to formation of small particles in air that affect human health and to nitrogen enrichment that damages sensitive natural vegetation.
Biosolids	Treated sewage sludge.
Broiler/turkey litter	A mixture of bedding material and poultry excreta which is sufficiently dry to be stored in a stack without slumping.
Closed period	Period of the year when nitrogen fertilisers or certain manures should not be applied unless specifically permitted. Closed periods apply within NVZs.
Coefficient of variation (CV) (fertiliser or manure spreading)	Measure of the unevenness of application of fertilisers or manures. CV of 0% indicates perfectly even spreading, unachievable in practice. Correct operation of a well set-up spreader should give a CV of 10% for fertilisers and 25% for manures under field conditions.
Compost	Organic material produced by aerobic decomposition of biodegradable organic materials.
Crop available nitrogen	The total nitrogen content of organic manure that is available for crop uptake in the growing season in which it is spread on land.
Crop nitrogen requirement	The amount of crop available nitrogen that must be applied to achieve the economically optimum yield.
Denitrification	Microbial conversion of nitrate and nitrite in anaerobic soil to nitrogen gas and some nitrous oxide.
Deposition	Transfer of nutrients from the atmosphere to the soil or to plant surfaces. The nutrients, mainly nitrogen and sulphur, may be dissolved in rainwater (wet deposition) or transferred in particulate or gaseous forms (dry deposition).
Dirty water	Lightly contaminated run-off from lightly fouled concrete yards or from the dairy/parlour that is collected separately from slurry. It does not include liquids from weeping-wall stores, strainer boxes, slurry separators or silage effluent which are rich in nitrogen and regarded as slurries.
Economic optimum (nitrogen rate)	Rate of nitrogen application that achieves the greatest economic return from a crop, taking account of crop value and nitrogen cost.
Efficiency factor (manures)	Percentage of total nitrogen in a manure that is available to the next crop. There are mandatory minimum values in NVZs for use when estimating the nitrogen contribution of manures.
Eutrophication	Enrichment of ecosystems by nitrogen or phosphorus. In water it causes algae and higher forms of plant life to grow too fast. This disturbs the balance of organisms present in the water and the quality of the water concerned. On land, it can stimulate the growth of certain plants which then become dominant so that natural diversity is lost.
Excess rainfall	Rainfall between the time when the soil profile becomes fully wetted in the autumn (field capacity) and the end of drainage in the spring, less evapo-transpiration during this period (i.e., water lost through the growing crop).
Farmyard manure (FYM)	Livestock excreta that is mixed with straw bedding material and can be stacked in a heap without slumping.
Fluid fertiliser	Pumpable fertiliser in which nutrients are dissolved in water (solutions) or held partly as very finely divided particles in suspension (suspensions).



Nutrient management glossary 2

Frozen hard	Soil that has been frozen for more than 12 of the preceding 24 hours. Days when soil is frozen overnight but thaws out during the day do not count.
Granular fertiliser	Fertiliser in which particles are formed by rolling a mixture of liquid and dry components in a drum or pan. Typically, particles are in the 2–4mm diameter range.
Greenhouse gas	Gas such as carbon dioxide, methane or nitrous oxide that contributes to global warming by absorbing infra-red radiation that otherwise would escape to space.
Layer manure	Poultry excreta with little or no bedding.
Leaching	Process by which soluble materials, such as nitrate or sulphate, are removed from soil by drainage water passing through it.
Lime requirement	Amount of standard limestone needed in tonnes/ha to increase soil pH from the measured value to a higher specified value (often 6.5 for arable crops). Determined by a chemical test.
Livestock manure	Dung and urine from livestock or a mixture of litter, dung and urine, even in processed organic form. Includes FYM, slurry, poultry litter, poultry manure, separated manures, granular or pelletised manures.
Maintenance application (phosphate or potash)	Amount of phosphate or potash that must be applied to replace the amount removed from a field at harvest (including that in any straw, tops or haulm removed).
Major nutrient	Nitrogen, phosphate and potassium that are needed in relatively large amounts by crops (see also Secondary nutrients <i>and</i> Micronutrients).
Manufactured fertiliser	Any fertiliser that is manufactured by an industrial process. Includes conventional straight and NPK products (solid or fluid), organo-mineral fertilisers, rock phosphates, slags, ashed poultry manure, liming materials that contain nutrients.
Micronutrient	Boron, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, zinc that are needed in very small amounts by crops (see also Major nutrients). Cobalt and selenium are taken up in small amounts by crops and are needed in human and livestock diets.
Mineral nitrogen	Nitrogen in ammonium and nitrate forms.
Mineralisable nitrogen	Organic nitrogen that is readily converted to ammonium and nitrate, for example during spring.
Mineralisation	Microbial breakdown of organic matter in the soil, releasing nutrients in available, inorganic forms.
Neutralising value (NV)	Percentage calcium oxide (CaO) equivalent in a material. 100kg of a material with a neutralising value of 52% will have the same neutralising value as 52kg pure CaO. NV is determined by a laboratory test.
Nitrogen uptake efficiency	Uptake of nitrogen from soil, fertiliser or manure expressed as a percentage of nitrogen supply from that source.
Nitrogen use efficiency	Ratio of additional yield produced to the amount of nitrogen applied to achieve that increase. Often expressed as kg additional yield per kg N applied.

Nitrous oxide (N₂O)	A strong greenhouse gas that is emitted naturally from soils. The amount emitted is related to supply of mineral nitrogen in the soil so increases with application of manures and fertilisers, incorporation of crop residues and growth of legumes and is greater in organic and peaty soils than in other soils.
Nutrient budget	An account of gains and losses of nutrients in an agricultural system, often used in Nutrient management .
Nutrient management	A process for ensuring that nutrient supplies match, but do not exceed, crop needs on a farm so optimising financial performance while minimising impact on the wider environment.
Offtake	Amount of a nutrient contained in the harvested crop (including straw, tops or haulm) and removed from the field. Usually applied to phosphate and potash.
Olsen P	Concentration of available P in soil determined by a standard method (developed by Olsen) involving extraction with sodium bicarbonate solution. The main method used in the UK and the basis for the Soil Index for P.
Organic manure	Any bulky organic nitrogen source of livestock, human or plant origin, including livestock manures.
Readily available nitrogen	Nitrogen that is present in livestock and other organic manures in molecular forms that can be taken up immediately by the crop (ammonium or nitrate or, in poultry manure, uric-acid N). High in slurries and poultry manures (typically 35 – 70% of total N) and low in FYM.
Safe Sludge Matrix	Guidance on sewage sludge use for different crops agreed by Water UK and the British Retail Consortium.
Secondary nutrient	Magnesium, sulphur, calcium or sodium that are needed in moderate amounts by crops.
Slurry	Excreta of livestock (other than poultry), including any bedding, rainwater and washings mixed with it, that can be pumped or discharged by gravity. The liquid fraction of separated slurry is also defined as slurry.
SNS Index	Soil Nitrogen Supply expressed in seven bands or Indices, each associated with a range in kg N/ha.
Soil Index (P, K or Mg)	Concentration of available P, K or Mg, as determined by standard analytical methods, expressed in bands or Indices.
Soil Mineral Nitrogen (SMN)	Ammonium and nitrate nitrogen measured by the standard analytical method and expressed in kg N/ha.
Soil Nitrogen Supply (SNS)	The amount of nitrogen (kg N/ha) in the soil that becomes available for uptake by the crop in the growing season, taking account of nitrogen losses.
Solid manure	Organic manure which can be stacked in a freestanding heap without slumping.
Target Soil Index	Lowest soil P or K index at which there is a high probability crop yield will not be limited by P or K supply. See Soil Index (P, K or Mg).
Volatilization	Loss of nitrogen as ammonia from the soil to the atmosphere.
Water-soluble phosphate	Phosphate, expressed as P ₂ O ₅ , that is measured by the statutory method for fertiliser analysis. Not necessarily a measure of available phosphate – high water-solubility indicates high availability but low water-solubility does not necessarily indicate low availability.



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A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

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