

1.4 Farm Waste Management

Definition: farm waste management covers the responsible storage, collection and disposal of all farm waste and the preparation and implementation of a farm waste management plan.

Aim: responsible farm waste management aims to improve the quality of our watercourses beyond a level that is required by current legislation and GFP and will improve the visual appearance of the farm and farmyard.

Biodiversity objectives: to improve water quality.

Management requirements

- Responsibly store, use and dispose of all farm wastes, for example slurry, silage effluent, dirty water, plastics and rubbish
- Remove rubbish and derelict equipment
- Remove eyesores
- Produce a Farm Waste Management Plan as outlined in the sections below
- Implement the Farm Waste Management plan throughout the duration of the scheme, and update the plan annually

Further advice

Retain, and refer to, a copy of the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution of Water, Air and Soil for farm waste management guidance.

The Farm Waste Management Plan

The Farm Waste Management Plan must take into account the collection, storage and disposal of all farm wastes. Implementation of the plan will reduce the risk of pollution and prevent the loss of valuable nutrients in slurry and farmyard manure. The plan consists of two parts:

Part 1 – a completed Farm Waste Checklist for the farm. The checklist completed as part of the ESAS/CMS audit may be used as an initial Part I of the Farm Waste Management Plan, ***after you have signed it***. The purpose of the checklist is to identify remedial works and changes in management practice that are required to ensure a high standard of farm waste management.

Part 2 – a completed Farm Waste Application Plan. This plan is a copy of your farm map showing areas of the farm that are suitable and unsuitable for spreading agricultural wastes.

Part 1. Farm Waste Checklist with identified remedial works/changes in management practice (see Annex 1).

This is a record of the condition of farm waste facilities and management practices as observed at the date of completion. Completion of the checklist will enable you to audit your farmyard and farm to ensure that farm waste management standards, including disposal of manures, silage effluent, waste plastics, fallen animals and veterinary wastes are managed to a standard beyond current legislation and Good Farming Practice. The checklist must be continually kept under review and updated annually. Keep the whole farm free of rubbish, litter and anything that would detract from the appearance of the countryside.

Note: A pollution incident detected by the enforcing authority (Environment and Heritage Service, Department of the Environment) may result in prosecution and lead to a reduction in your agri-environment scheme and/or LFACA scheme payments.

Remedial works/changes in management practice required to improve your farm waste management should be listed on the last page of the Farm Waste Checklist (see Annex 2).

Part 2. Farm Waste Application Plan (see Annex 3)

A farm waste application plan is a copy of your farm map colour coded as follows:

BLUE – waterways including any on the farm boundary.

RED – areas where organic wastes should never be applied.

ORANGE – areas from which there is a high risk of pollution occurring (may be part or whole fields). Farm wastes may be applied to these areas at certain times of the year, but before spreading always ensure that there is no risk of pollution occurring.

GREEN – all remaining areas. These can be used for spreading at any time of the year when land and weather conditions are suitable.

WHITE – areas not normally used for spreading organic wastes and mark them with an X.

Further information on the preparation of a Farm Waste Management Plan is available through the 'Dealing with Farm Wastes' training workshop, which you are expected to attend, organised by CAFRE or by reference to the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Prevention of Pollution.

Annex 1

FARM WASTE CHECKLIST

Business Reference No _____

		Y N N/A	COMMENTS / ACTION REQUIRED
1. Silos	Is all silage effluent collected from silos?		
	Are all effluent channels in good condition?		
	Are silo floors in good condition?		
	Are any silo walls cracked?		
	Are all wall/floor joints in good condition?		
	Are concrete aprons in good condition?		
	Are any silos overfilled?		
2. Effluent/slurry tanks	Are free board requirements (750 mm for earthbank and lined earthbank lagoons and 300 mm for all other tanks) adhered to? (Freeboard is the unfilled depth at the top of a slurry or effluent tank or compound).		
	Do any tanks leak or have overflow pipes?		
	Is there sufficient storage capacity to comply with current legislation?		
3. Middens	Is all run-off from middens collected?		
	Are middens structurally sound?		
	Are middens overfilled at any time of the year?		

Annex 1

FARM WASTE CHECKLIST

Business Reference No _____

		Y N N/A	COMMENTS / ACTION REQUIRED
	Are temporary field heaps sited at least 10 metres from watercourses, open field drains or drains backfilled to the surface with stones/aggregate, 50 metres from boreholes, 250 metres from any borehole used for a public water supply?		
4. Straw bedded houses	Is run-off from straw bedded houses collected or contained?		
5. Watercourses on the farm	Are all watercourses/drains free from contamination from the farm?		
6. Clean water	Are all spoutings and downspouts in place?		
	Is all water from roofs and other clean water kept separate from dirty water?		
7. Dirty water	Is all dirty water being collected?		
	Can dirty water enter the storm-water system?		
	Are all dairy washings (including milking parlour and pit washings) collected?		
	Are dirty water and dairy washings collected in separate tanks?		
8. Big bales	Are big bales stored at least 10 metres away from watercourses and field drains and at least 50 metres from any boreholes?		
	If stored on concrete is run-off collected?		

Annex 1

FARM WASTE CHECKLIST

Business Reference No _____

		Y N N/A	COMMENTS / ACTION REQUIRED
	Are bale wrappings and plastics disposed of in accordance with CoGAP?		
9. Oil storage	Is there any oil spillage around tanks?		
	Do agricultural fuel oil tanks with capacity greater than 1250 litres installed after July 2003 comply with the Control of Pollution Regulations? (SSAFO 2003)		
10. Pesticides and sheep dip	Have you applied for or received authorisation from DOE Environment and Heritage Service for the disposal of dilute pesticides, washings and spent sheep dip?		
	Are all dilute pesticides, washings and spent sheep dip disposed of according to the Groundwater Regulations?		
	Is run-off from dipping operations collected?		
	Are “approval withdrawn” pesticides disposed of to a licensed waste disposal contractor?		
	Are pesticide containers disposed of in accordance with CoGAP?		
11. Spreading farm waste	Do you ensure that farm waste is not spread within 10 metres of watercourses or within 50 metres of a borehole or well?		

Annex 1

FARM WASTE CHECKLIST

Business Reference No _____

		Y N N/A	COMMENTS / ACTION REQUIRED
	Do you ever spread slurry in unsuitable conditions i.e. on snow covered waterlogged or frozen land?		
12. Other organic wastes	Do you spread abattoir waste, sewage sludge, creamery waste etc. on your land?		
	If YES, is this being carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation and COGAP?		
13. Fallen animals	Are all fallen animals disposed of:		
	Through the National Fallen Stock Scheme?		
	To an approved rendering plant?		
	To an authorised 'Collector and Final User'		
	In an incinerator that complies with the Animal By-Products Regulations (NI) 2003?		
	In the case of cattle over 24 months, to the free collection service operated by Lisburn Proteins on behalf of DARD?		
14. Veterinary waste products	Are sharps (needles scalpels etc.) collected in a dedicated sharps box labelled "biohazard non re-cyclable"?		
	Are empty containers disposed of according to label instructions?		
	Are out of date or surplus medicines returned to the supplier?		

Annex 1

FARM WASTE CHECKLIST

Business Reference No _____

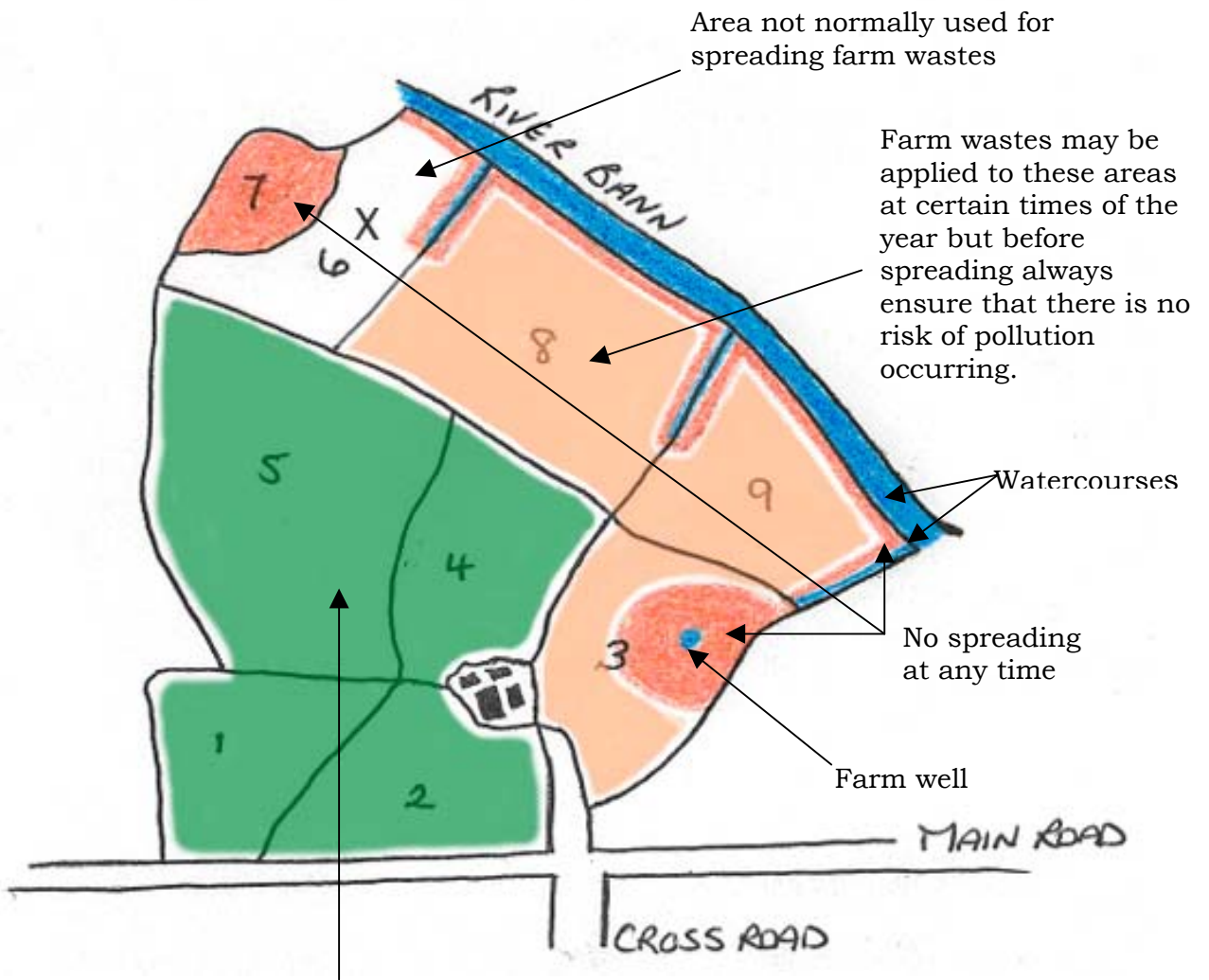
		Y N N/A	COMMENTS / ACTION REQUIRED
15. General/ Farmyard appearance	Is the farmyard and surrounding fields free from?		
	Silo covers?		
	Plastics?		
	Plastic containers?		
	Building rubble?		
	Disused pallets?		
	Scrap metal?		
	Obsolete machinery?		
	Domestic refuse?		
	Other unsightly waste objects?		
	Does any infilling take place on your farm? If yes, have you applied for or received authorisation from Special Studies Unit, Environment and Heritage Service, DOE, for any infilling operations.		

Remedial works/changes to management practice for your farm

[Empty rectangular box for remedial works/changes to management practice]

Signature: _____ Date: _____

FARM WASTE APPLICATION PLAN EXAMPLE



Subject to closed period restrictions these areas can be used for spreading when land and weather conditions are suitable

Management plans are provided for participants in the **Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Countryside Management Schemes**

