

# Agricultural Pollution Regulations

## Risk Mapping Guidance

As part of the Control of Agricultural Pollution regulations 2021 every farm business which spreads organic manure will be required to produce a Risk Map from the 1 January 2023. You will need to prepare and maintain a “risk map” of your *holding* as outlined below:

**Step 1 – The holding** - you will need a map (appropriate scales would be 1:2,500, 1:5,000 or 1:10,000) of your *holding* that shows:

- every field and every *watercourse* (including ditches);
- the area of each field in hectares; and
- any boreholes, springs or wells (including those on neighbouring land within 50m of your boundary).

**Step 2 – Identifying watercourses – Essential** - mark in red areas where the Regulations prohibit *spreading organic manure*:

- within 10 metres of either side of any *watercourse* (including ditches). If you intend *spreading organic manure* using *precision spreading equipment* 6 to 10 metres from a *watercourse*, you should cross-hatch this zone over the areas shaded red; and
- within 50 metres of any spring, well or borehole.

**Step 3 – Identifying land types – Essential** - mark in orange areas where the Regulations require you to assess the risks associated with *spreading organic manure*:

- areas with *sandy* or *shallow* soils;
- land with a slope of more than 12° (equivalent to “20%” or “1 in 5”);
- areas with land drains (other than sealed impermeable pipes).

Mark in the colours of your choice the following features as required by the regulations the:

- sites suitable for temporary field heaps, if this method of storing manure is to be used; and
- *land that has a low run-off risk* if such land is to be used when calculating *slurry* storage requirements.

**Step 4 – Identify other features - Optional:** You can also mark in red other areas where it would **not** be appropriate to *spread organic manure* including:

- any areas where you may not be allowed to *spread* for reasons such as a tenancy agreement, an abatement *notice* due to smell, or a designation (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest);
- areas categorised as a “wildlife habitat” under an agri-environment agreement (e.g. Glastir), plus any other areas where an agreement prohibits *spreading* (e.g. low input land);
- areas where the surface is rocky or uneven so that equipment cannot be used effectively or safely; and

- fields or part fields which in the last 12 months have been pipe drained, mole drained or sub-soiled over drains.

Outline the boundaries of other areas where you would not normally *spread* and leave these areas white:

- areas ancillary to farming (e.g. buildings, tracks, roads);
- areas of woodland or orchards; and
- areas that are unsuitable because of location (e.g. they are too far from the farmstead) and are not normally used for operational reasons but may be brought into use at some point in the future.

**Step 5 – Features from your Nutrient Management Plan – Optional** - you can complete your risk map by including areas that are generally included in nutrient management plans. These are areas where *spreading* can only occur under certain conditions or where rates should be restricted. Some areas of the farm will be unsuitable for *spreading* at certain times of year, particularly in winter. These could vary from year to year, **but you must bear in mind the Regulatory “closed periods” when no organic manures with over 30% readily available nitrogen e.g. slurry or poultry manure can be applied to any land.**