**Summary of proposed changes to Nitrates Action Programme**

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| Bovine Exclusion from watercourses on farms with grassland stocking rates above 170kg N/ha | * Will come into effect from 1 Jan 2021 * Watercourses to be fenced off * Alternative livestock drinking sources as required |
| Prevention of direct run-off from farm roadways to water | * Will come into effect from 1 Jan 2021 * Guidance will be provided by means of a farm roadway specification * Farmers will receive KT programmes * Comprehensive training will be provided for advisers |
| Livestock drinking points | * Will come into effect from 1 Jan 2021 * Drinking points must not be located within 20m of waters on farms with grassland stocking rates of above 170kg N/ha |
| Adoption of appropriate phosphorus build-up rates for farmed soil | * Update of table 12 and 13a and insertion of new table 13b * For soils at P Index 1, the maximum build-up allowance, in addition to crop requirement to be increased to 50kg/ha * For soils at P Index 2, the maximum build-up allowance, in addition to crop requirement to be increased to 30kg/ha |
| Facilitate the use of pig slurry to meet phosphorus requirements | * Permit the importation and application of pig manures for those farmers with a stocking rate > 130 kgs ha to meet crop phosphorus requirement. A limit of 250 kg N/ha from livestock manure would apply. It is recognised there may be constraints within the Nitrates Directive to this approach. |
| Simplification of calculations of maximum fertiliser N and P allowance | * Removal of stored grazing livestock manure N and P from the calculation of farm P balance and for calculating maximum chemical nitrogen and phosphorus allowed onto a holding * Nutrient management plans to be based on the previous years’ data to enable more efficient forward planning |
| Implementation of comprehensive knowledge transfer Programme for farmers availing of increased phosphorus build up allowances. | * Knowledge transfer programme based on nutrient management, gauging P loss and NMP adoption and implementation |
| Collaborative approach involving State agencies and the farming sector be adopted aimed at bringing about behavioural change within the farming sector in order to achieve sustainable farming practices and positive environmental outcomes | * An environmental inspection protocol for farm holdings to be followed by local authorities will be developed by the Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government in consultation with the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine and other parties, as appropriate. |
| Phosphorus application period and nutrient allowances | * Phosphorus to be incorporated into the soil at or before sowing of winter cereals * Application of 20kg/ha of fertiliser P be permitted to be applied to winter cereals at Soil index 1 and 2 where such application takes place before October 31st * The allowable N and P limits for potato crops be brought in line with recommendations in the Teagasc Green Book * The allowable N and P limits for vegetable crops be brought in line with recommendations in the Teagasc Green Book |
| Additional minor and technical changes to the regulations | * For clarity, reference will be made to silage clamps as well as pits. * Regulation 17 (2)(d), shall be amended to include turloughs likely to flood. * Article 30 (5) will be amended to - ‘a local authority shall follow the inspection protocol as established by the Minister’. |