

TAMS II Frequently Answered Questions

This document is intended for guidance use only. The information in this document is not intended or does not absolve the applicant from the responsibility of reading and being familiar with the Terms and Conditions of the relevant TAMS II scheme(s).

General

Q. I wish to apply for TAMS II. How do I go about applying?

A. Applications for TAMS II must be made online (manual applications by post, fax, e-mail, etc will not be accepted). Clients will require access to the Department's online services prior to applying for TAMS II schemes. Details for online access can be found at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agfoodinformationpages/>

Q. Do I need to employ an approved advisor to make a TAMS II application on my behalf?

A. Clients are not required to employ an approved agent. Clients can apply directly themselves or can employ an approved advisor to act on their behalf if they so choose. To make an application for TAMS II, the client or their Agent(s) must have prior access to the Department's online services (see above).

Please note that the onus is on clients or their agents to have access to online services in place AND submit applications PRIOR to the closing date for TAMS II Schemes.

Q. I have access to the Department's online services, but my details are incorrect?

A. If your name, address, date of birth, PPSN, herd number, etc. are incorrect you are required to have the information corrected prior to applying online. To have incorrect details amended please contact:

By post - Client Registration, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Government Buildings, Farnham Street, Cavan.

By e-mail – CCSAdmin@agriculture.gov.ie,

By phone – 049 4368252.

Q. What is a Department identifier?

A. Examples of a Department identifier include Herd number, Repts number, Pig number, etc.

Q. What schemes are available under TAMS II?

A. The following Schemes are available

- Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme (YFCIS)
- Dairy Equipment Scheme (DES)
- Organic Capital Investment Scheme (OCIS)
- Low Emission Slurry Spreading Equipment Scheme (LESS)
- Pig and Poultry Investment Scheme (PPIS)
- Animal Welfare Safety and Nutrient Storage Scheme (AWNSS)
- Tillage Capital Investment Scheme (TCIS)

Q. Who can apply?

A. Applicants who meet all the eligibility criteria listed in the Terms and Conditions of the relevant Schemes may apply.

Q. What is the closing date for TAMS II schemes?

A. The overall closing date for all schemes is 31st December 2020 (subject to paragraphs 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 of the Terms and Conditions). Applications submitted after this date will not be accepted by the Department. The various schemes will open and close in 'tranches', which will generally run for 3 months at a time. See more below. Applications under each tranche must be submitted by the closing date for that tranche.

Q. What are “tranches”?

A. Tranche periods (usually 3 months) are used to allocate expenditure over the RDP period 2015 – 2020. Within each Scheme applications are assessed and ranked for each tranche to keep the expenditure within budget. Those applications ranked highest are sent to the relevant Local Office of this Department for potential approval. Unsuccessful applications in any tranche period are automatically carried over to the next tranche period, until such time as the scheme closes for applications. A closing date for any tranche means that applications received after that date will not be considered for assessment in that tranche period. A tranche closing date is not to be confused with the closing date for the scheme.

Q. What are approved suppliers and who are they?

A. Approved suppliers are suppliers who provide materials/equipment to the relevant Department specifications. The list of approved suppliers is contained in the relevant specifications available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/>. These lists will be updated from time to time, and you can confirm that you have the latest version by checking the date in the top right hand corner of the list.

Q. I am a supplier of material/equipment for TAMS II and I want to be on the approved supplier list, what do I do?

A. Companies who wish to be listed as an approved supplier should complete the appropriate Acceptance Procedure available at <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/>, or contact the Engineering Unit, Nitrates, Bio-diversity and Engineering Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine by phone on 057 8694401.

Q. Can I apply if I’m in a partnership?

A. In the case of the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme, applications will only be accepted from partnerships recorded on this Department’s Register of Farm Partnerships.

In the case of the remaining Schemes under TAMS II, applications will be accepted from other types of partnerships/farmers farming jointly. They will be treated as individuals/sole applicants. In these cases and where the Department identifier is registered in multiple names, applications submitted quoting the identifier are deemed to be submitted with the consent of all registered owners.

Q. What is the Department’s Register of Farm Partnerships?

A. Information regarding this Department’s Register of Farm Partnerships can be found here: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmingsectors/newfarmpartnershipregister/>

Q. What if there are no eligible young farmers in the Department of Agriculture registered partnership?

A. An application cannot be accepted under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme if there are no eligible young farmers in the partnership. However the partnership may apply under one of the other TAMS II schemes.

Q. I am a young farmer on my father’s herd number. Can I apply for the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme?

A. If you are farming with another person and are recorded on their herd number you are not eligible to apply for the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme. Applications for this Scheme may only be accepted from:

- individuals farming in their own right ie. with their own herd number,
- companies where one of the directors is an eligible young farmer, or
- from groups of persons that have formed a partnership recorded on this Department’s Register of Farm Partnerships.

Applications may be made by joint herd owners under the other TAMS II schemes. Where the Department identifier is registered in multiple names, applications submitted quoting the identifier are deemed to be submitted with the consent of all registered owners, e.g. in the following cases

- Where the Department identifier is registered in more than one name ie Joint Herd number
- In the case of Partnerships, by all Partners
- In the case of companies, by the Company Directors.

Q. What funding is available to Partnerships?

A. Partnerships recorded on this Department's Register of Farm Partnerships will be entitled to claim up to a maximum of €160,000 in eligible investments. This is exclusive of investments claimed under the Low Emission Slurry Spreading Scheme or for low emission slurry spreading equipment under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme.

Q. What is the percentage of grant-aid is available to partnerships?

A. The rate of grant-aid available to partnerships recorded on this Department's Register of Farm Partnerships is dependent on the number of eligible young farmers in the partnership. If there is one eligible young farmer in the partnership the grant-aid will be calculated at 60% of the first €80,000 with the remaining balance at 40%. If there are two eligible young farmers in the partnership the grant-aid will be calculated at 60% of €160,000. If there are no eligible young farmers in the partnership the grant-aid will be calculated at 40% of €160,000.

Q. I made an application in my own name. Can I now form a partnership?

A. It is possible to form a Department registered farm partnership after making an application in your own name under the various TAMS II Schemes. However if you have not yet received an approval to commence the works/investments you must withdraw your application and reapply in the name of the partnership. If you have received an approval you may request in writing to have your TAMS II Business ID transferred to the partnership, grant aid however will only be paid at the lower rate if you are not a qualified young farmer and the ceiling will be limited to €80,000 for that application. Grant-aid will not be paid to the new owner until the change has been approved.

Q. I was in a partnership but the partnership has since broken up, what will happen to my application?

A. Where a registered farm partnership is dissolved prior to the issuing of an approval to carry out the works/investments under the various Schemes the application lodged by that partnership will lapse.

Where a registered farm partnership is dissolved after approval but prior to the payment claim being lodged one of the former partners must be nominated as a payee. See the relevant paragraph Scheme's Terms and Conditions.

Where a registered farm partnership is dissolved after payment, the former partner(s) that has control of the land on which the investment is located must give an undertaking to use that investment in accordance with the relevant paragraph the Scheme's Terms and Conditions.

The dissolution of a partnership can result in:

- The reduction of payment
- The reduction of investment ceilings
- The recoupment of payments made
- Adjustment of investment balances for ex-partners
- Force Majeure will be taken into consideration before any recoupment/reduction takes place.

Where a partnership dissolves in any period between the submission of an application and up to five years after the date of final payment, notification of the dissolution must be sent to TAMS II section, Johnstown Castle Estate, Wexford, within four working weeks. Each case will be examined on its own merits.

Application & Payment Claim Completion Notes

Q. How do I complete the application online?

A. An instruction manual is available on the Department website to guide you through the application process.

Q. What if I make a mistake on the application?

A. The online system has checks (validations) built in to highlight obvious error or omissions, however it is up to the applicant to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data provided.

Q. What investments are eligible?

A. The full list of investments eligible under each scheme is detailed in the Annex of the relevant Scheme's Terms and Conditions.

Q. Do I have to complete all declarations?

A. All declarations are mandatory and must be fully completed.

Q. Can I save my information in stages when making an application?

A. Yes, you can save your information as it is input over periods of time. Please note that saving your information is not the same as submitting your application. Saving your application only saves information input/amended to that point. When you are confident that all information has been input and you wish to submit your application then the “Submit” option must be clicked in order for your application to be received by the Department.

Please note that “Saving” only of an application does not constitute submission of application to the Department.

Q. Can I change my application after submitting it?

A. No, once it has been submitted it is not possible to recall the application or to amend it. For this reason, you should only submit your application when you are absolutely certain it is complete and correct.

Q. Can I upload a document after submitting an application?

A. No. If the application is submitted the application is locked down.

Q. Do my maps/drawings/plans have to be exactly to scale?

A. Yes, maps/drawings/plans not to relevant scale or missing required information will make the application invalid.

Q. Can I apply for TAMS II if

- I am new to farming and had no land to declare in the last SPS/BPS year?
- I recently inherited/bought/leased a farm that is not declared in the last SPS/BPS year?
- I recently bought/leased additional land that is not declared in the last SPS/BPS year?
- I did not make an SPS/BPS declaration in the previous year?

A. Yes, but the BPS application must be submitted prior to applying for TAMS II schemes.

Q. Can I apply for animal housing over an existing tank?

A. Yes. You can apply for animal housing over an existing tank. An engineer's report will be required certifying that the tank is sound, capable of supporting the superstructure, water tight and capable of continuous use for a minimum of 20 years.

Q. What are the grant rate(s) for the TAMS II schemes?

A. For the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme a grant of 60% is payable on eligible investments. If the educational qualification is not met within three years of applying the grant rate will be paid at 40%. For all other Schemes the grant rate is paid at 40%.

For the Organics Capital Investment Scheme the grant rate for eligible young farmers is 60%. If the educational qualification is not met within three years of applying the grant rate will be paid at 40%. For all other applicants under the Scheme the grant rate is 40%.

Q. What are the minimum and maximum grant amounts for schemes under TAMS II?

A. The minimum amount of investment eligible for approval per application under all Schemes is €2,000. Except in the case of LESS where the minimum amount is €5,000.

The maximum grant available is outlined for the individual schemes below:

Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme and the Young Farmer Section of Organics Capital Investment Scheme:

- In the case of an individual applicant the maximum grant amount payable is 60% on investments up to the ceiling of €80,000.

- In the case of a Ltd Company where one of the directors is a qualified young farmer the maximum grant amount payable is 60% on investments up to the ceiling of €80,000.
- In the case of Department of Agriculture registered partnerships where one partner qualifies as an eligible young farmer and the other partner does not the maximum grant amount payable is: 60% on investments up to ceiling of €80,000, and 40% on any remaining balance over €80,000.
- In the case of Department of Agriculture registered partnerships with two or more eligible young farmers in the partnership the maximum grant amount payable is 60% on investments up to the ceiling of €160,000.

Dairy Equipment Scheme, Animal Welfare & Nutrient Storage Scheme, Organics Capital Investment Scheme and Pig & Poultry Investment Scheme:

- In the case of an individual applicant or company the maximum grant amount payable is 40% on investments up to the ceiling of €80,000.
- In the case of Department of Agriculture registered partnerships the maximum grant amount payable for two or more eligible partners is 40% on investments up to the ceiling of €160,000.

Low Emission Slurry Spreading Scheme:

- In the case of an individual applicant or company the maximum grant amount payable is 40% on investments up to the ceiling of €40,000.
- In the case of Department of Agriculture registered partnerships the maximum grant amount payable for two or more eligible partners is 40% on investments up to the ceiling of €60,000.

In order to avail of investments at the 60% grant you must apply under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme or the Young Farmer Section of Organics Capital Investment Scheme and satisfy the eligibility criteria of these Schemes.

Applications in respect of the LESS does not impact on the ceilings of the other Schemes.

Q. How is the grant amount calculated?

A. Factors that influence grant calculation include:

- Lowest of the reference cost/proposed cost/receipts per investment item;
- lesser of the approved/completed dimensions/quantities,
- That investments are completed to the relevant specifications,
- That receipts of supporting documentation are to the required standard (receipts/certificates/etc),
- The application of any penalties that may arise.

An example of grant calculation is:

Loose House		Ref Cost	Proposed Cost	Receipts
Approved Area	250m ²	€32,175	€31,500	Not applicable
Completed/Found area	240m ²	€30,888	€30,240	€32,050

The grant is calculated as **€12,096** (based on 240m² completed/found and adjusted proposed cost (240/250) of cost of €30,240 @ 40%).

Q. What is proposed cost?

A. When completing the online application the applicant must enter the proposed cost for each investment. This is the applicant’s estimated cost for completing the investment.

Q. What are selection criteria and the ranking of applications?

A. As part of the application processes, each eligible application will be assessed in accordance with the criteria (outlined in the relevant Terms and Conditions) in order of priority. Each application will be awarded marks (as outlined on the marking sheet for the relevant scheme) and then ranked highest to lowest.

Q. What are the dos and don’ts of making my claim for payment?

A. In order that any claims for payment are processed promptly please:

- Ensure that **all** supporting documents are submitted and each document is to the required standard.
- Only receipts relevant to the investments are included with the payment claim.

- Only dimensions/quantities that are completed/found are quoted on the payment claim.
- Ensure investments are completed in line with specifications.
- Ensure that any tax clearance in respect of the applicant and relevant contractor is in order and notified to this Department. In the case of contractors/suppliers Tax Clearance status contact On-Farm Investments, Johnstown Castle, Wexford. In the case of Tax Clearance for applicants contact your local AES Office.

Inaccuracies or omissions in the payment claim and supporting documentation may result in non payment, part payment or penalties being applied.

Q. Will there be part payments on TAMS II applications?

A. No. Part payments will not be possible for TAMS II payment claims, except in the case of an application under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme where the applicant completed the Education Qualifications/Training within 36 months of approval and the initial payment of 40% has already been made.

Q. Can I be paid my grant by cheque?

A. No, payments can only be made by electronic fund transfer, so your bank account details must be registered with the Department before payment can be made.

Q. Can I make more than one application in any TAMS II scheme?

A. Yes, subject to the costs for all applications not exceeding the overall TAMS II super ceiling of €80,000 (€160,000 for partnerships), or in the case of the Low Emission Slurry Spreading Scheme €40,000 (€60,000 for partnerships) and subject to a minimum of €2,000 per application (€5,000 in the case of LESS)

Q. Can I apply for all TAMS II schemes?

A. Yes, subject to payments for all applications not exceeding the overall TAMS II super ceiling of €80,000 (€160,000 for partnerships). Please note that investments under the Low Emission Slurry Spreading Scheme or for low emission slurry spreading equipment under the Young Farmers Capital Investment Scheme are not subject to this super ceiling.

Q. What if I cease/retire/etc. from farming within 5 years of TAMS II approval?

A. Investments grant aided under TAMS II schemes are contracted to be maintained for a 5 year period from the date of payment. The commitment can be taken over by the successor to the holding. However if the successor does not take over the commitment, the original applicant may be liable for re-imburement of the grant aid paid. Commitments that are taken over or terminated are considered on a case by case basis. In such cases it is recommended that applicants contact their local AES offices for advice before retiring/selling/leasing/ceasing in farming.

Q. Can I withdraw my application or withdraw certain investments at any stage?

A. Yes. You must notify in writing either TAMS II Section Johnstown Castle, Wexford or your local AES Office depending on the status of the application.

Q. I want to apply for TAMS II schemes. Is there any consideration for joining other schemes like GLAS, etc?

A. Some schemes have common investments. Applicants cannot claim dual funding for the same investments/measures in separate schemes and must make a declaration to this effect.

Participation in some previous schemes precludes applicants from joining, for example a client who received grant aid under the Installation Aid/Young Farmer Investment Scheme is not eligible to join the TAMS II Young Farmer Capital Investment Scheme.

Q. I want to apply for several fixed investments but can only find copy folio/stamped lease for one of the sites. Will that be enough?

A. Copy folios and/or original stamped lease (plus lease extensions where required) must be provided for each site for all fixed investments otherwise your payment claim will be invalid.

Q. What are fixed investments?

A. Fixed investments are structures, buildings or equipment that is permanently fixed in place as opposed to mobile equipment.

Q. What other documents should I be aware of in relation to TAMS II applications?

A. Applicants should be familiar with:

- Terms and Conditions of the Schemes (available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/>)
- Relevant specifications (available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/>),
- Department's reference costs and explanatory notes (available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/>),
- Hours worked and rates for own labour/machinery (available at: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/farmerschemespayments/farmbuildings/>),
- Planning permission requirements (consult with your Local Authority),
- Certificates required supporting the payment claims.
- Health and safety requirements (available in Annex of the Terms and Conditions),
- Declarations you are making as part of your application (Application question online),
- Supporting documentation required for 1) an application, and 2) a payment claim, (Scheme Terms and Conditions)
- Scheme penalties applicable (available in Annex of the Terms and Conditions),

Q. Do all building/structures/fixed equipment need planning permission?

A. Yes, building/structures/fixed equipment requires either full planning permission or a letter of exemption. The investment list in the annex of the relevant Scheme's terms and conditions identify the investments that require full planning permission or a letter of exemption.

Q. I am a client making my application online and I need advice on the information required for my animal housing investments, who do I contact?

A. Queries in relation to applying for animal housing or other fixed investments, or supporting documentation required should be emailed to: tams@agriculture.gov.ie

Nutrient Storage

Q. Is there any specific requirements for applications that include investments for animal housing /nutrient storage (Slurry, FWM, Spent Mushroom compost etc, silage effluent)?

A. Yes, applicants with livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or poultry) who apply for animal housing and or nutrient storage must be in compliance at time of application with farm waste and farm nutrient storage requirements as laid down in Statutory Instrument S.I. No 31 of 2014 European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulation 2014.

Applicants must have the required 16/18/20/22 week's storage. Applicants found to be in non-compliance will not be eligible for grant aid for investment relating to Farm Nutrient Storage and will be cross reported to the Cross Compliance Section of the Department, which may result in penalties or sanctions.

An applicant, who has livestock, and applies for animal housing and or nutrient storage, must complete a specific section detailing the following:

- Animal Wintering Details
- Date of housing
- Dairy enterprises (bovine only)
- Storage Facilities
- Pig Enterprises details

Animal Wintering Details

If livestock are out wintered, the number and type of animals out wintered and the land parcels used for out wintering must be supplied. Please note that dairy cows cannot be out wintered and must have adequate waste storage facilities.

Dairy enterprises (bovine only)

Where an applicant is involved in spring milk production, the start and end date for the drying of cows must be supplied - i.e. the date the first cow and last cow is dried off.

If the applicant is involved in Liquid/Winter Milk Production, the average number of number of cows milking during the prohibited spreading period (15th October plus either 16/18/20/22 weeks) must be supplied. Details where the milking parlour washing and excreta from collection areas is stored must be supplied.

Date of housing

Where all or some livestock are housed, the commencement date for winter housing period must be entered, this date must be between 15th Oct and 1st Dec.

Storage Facilities

Where livestock are housed and there is a bovine dairy enterprise on the holding, the following details must be supplied.

Storage Facilities which includes the following, and if they are located on/off holding:

- Covered soiled water store
- Uncovered soiled water store
- Covered slurry store
- Uncovered slurry store / Uncovered slatted feeding area
- Slurry lagoon
- Covered Farmyard Manure Store / Dungstead.
- Uncovered Farmyard Manure store/ Dungstead
- Silage Effluent Store

Uncovered Surface Areas where livestock are fed or kept, includes the following areas:

- Outdoor feeding or exercise yard,
- Out-wintering pad
- Roofless cubicles

Area(s) where soiled water is produced:

- Collection yards
- Covered Loose Housing:
- Exclude from this category are Calving pen, isolation box, lambing pen, as these areas should be cleaned out regularly with bedding transferred to covered/ uncovered manure store.

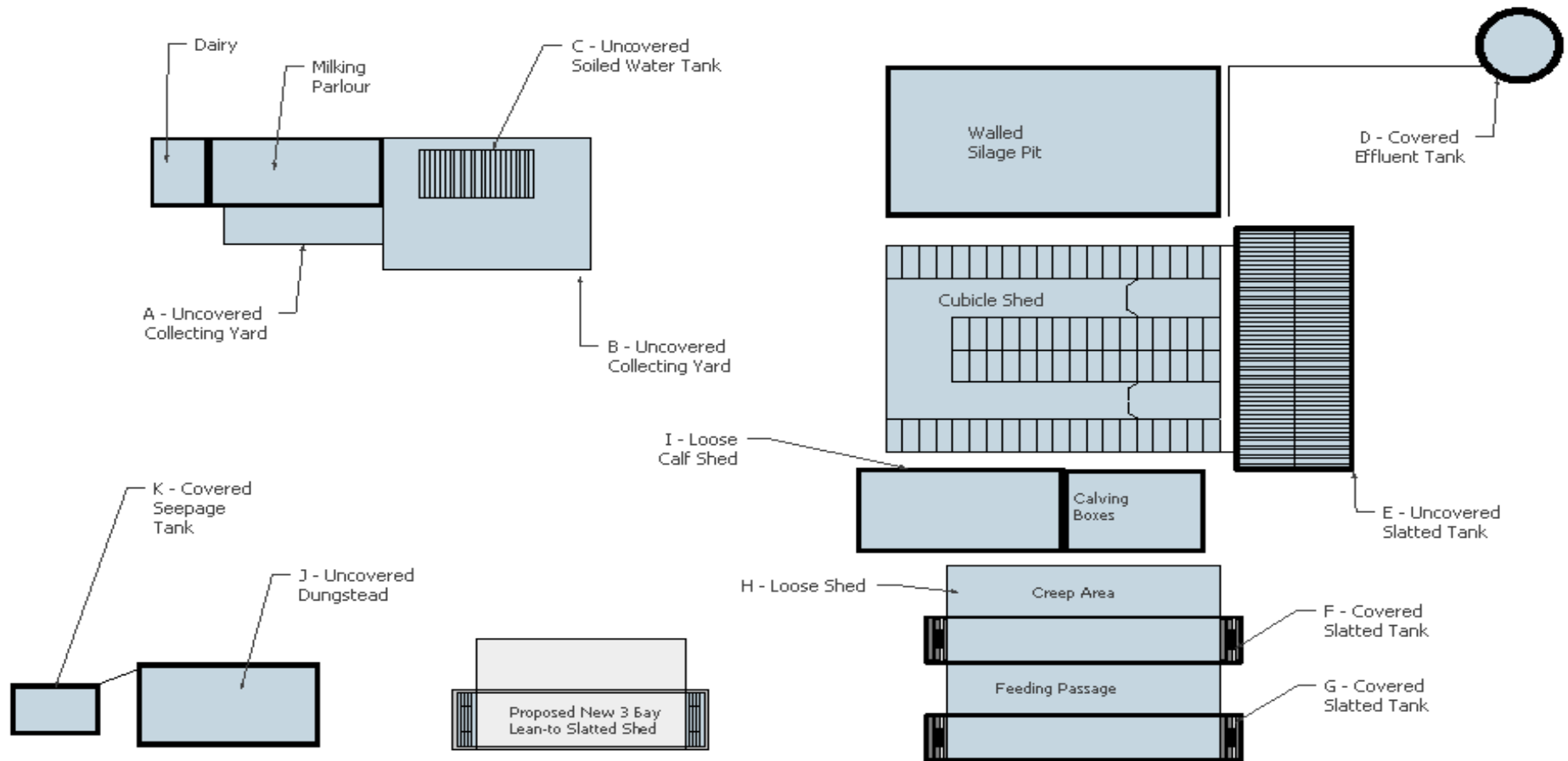
Areas where clean water crosses dirty yards or enters storage tanks:

- Details of the area where clean water is allowed to enter storage tanks (slurry storage or Farm Yard manure storage), for example the area of a clean yard, were all the rainwater is allowed to run in to a slurry store.

Pig enterprises details

If there is a pig enterprise on the holding, details of the water to meal ratio feed must be recorded.

Please see below an example farm yard and data to be supplied



Example Farmyard 1

Example Farmyard 1

Storage Facilities								
Storage Type	Identifier (refer to farmyard sketch)	Length	Width	Depth/Height	Radius	Capacity (lagoon only)	Date of Construction	Off Holding (Y/N)
Uncovered soiled water store	C	7.8	3.5	1.8			2007	N
Silage Effluent Store	D			1.5	2.5			N
Uncovered slurry store	E	18.8	7.9	2.4				N
Covered slurry store	F	21.8	3.5	2.1				N
Covered slurry store	G	21.8	3.5	2.1				N
Uncovered Farmyard Manure store/ Dungstead	J	12.0	6.0	1.2				N
Covered soiled water store	K	5.5	3.5	1.8			1985	N

Uncovered Surface Areas where livestock are fed or kept							
Uncovered Surface Areas (Select from drop down list)	Identifier (refer to farmyard sketch)	Length	Width	M ²			Off Holding (Y/N)
Not applicable to this example							

Area(s) where soiled water is produced							
Soiled Water Areas (select from drop down list)	Identifier (refer to farmyard sketch)	Length	Width	m ²			Off Holding (Y/N)
Collection yard	A	11.0	3.0	33.0			N
Collection yard	B			122.9			N

Note: Yard B is actually 14.3m long. However, this includes the area of tank C which is already accounted for in Table 9e. The area of tank C is subtracted from the total area of the yard .

Covered Loose Housing							
Covered Loose Housing	Identifier (refer to farmyard sketch)	Length	Width				Off Holding (Y/N)
Loose House	H	19.2	4.0				N
Loose House	I	13.7	6.1				

Note: Cannot include the following areas – Calving pen, calf house, isolation box, lambing pen.

Areas where clean water crosses dirty yards or enters storage tanks ⁵							
Type of Storage (select from drop down list)	Identifier (refer to farmyard sketch)	Length	Width	m ²			Off Holding (Y/N)
Not applicable to this example							