

ISH3 Manures for Soil Health

Why is this good for water quality?

The aim

Encourage farms with low organic matter to incorporate organic manures, instead of synthetic fertilisers, as part of a nutrient management plan offers multiple benefits to water quality. Using organic manures in a targeted and managed way can reduce nutrient runoff and leaching, helping to protect water sources from pollution. Improved soil health also enhances water retention capacity and reduces erosion.

Why is this good for my farm?

This practice improves soil health and plant resilience whilst simultaneously reducing the reliance on synthetic fertiliser and pesticides supporting more cost-effective crop production.

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Payment Rate: £80/ha/yr

Specification

- Use animal based manures on parcels of land that have not had organic applications for several years.
- Not applicable to ground water areas, unless reducing nitrate loading.
- The use of the manures must demonstrate the reduced use of inorganic nutrients through the adoption of a revised nutrient management plan.
- Evidence must be provided of nutrient planning and risk mapping.
- Nutrient balances provided to show export and import rates.
- Parcels must demonstrate low OM%, less than 3%, and have received no organic animal manures for the last 5 years (excluding poultry litter).
- Parcels should be receiving plant protection products.
- Manure sampling analysis to show nutrient contents and DM% of products used. In the case of cattle slurry dry matter is no lower than 6 %.
- This option is for use on farms where no animal manure is produced on site.
- Only materials from livestock can be utilised, must be less than 30% RAN less, materials must have high OM%, poultry litter excluded.
- Soil sample evidence must be provided and included in the nutrient planning process, no spreading on parcels which have a P index higher than 3.
- 5-year agreement, fixed item, same area to receive manures for all 5 years.
- Applications must meet FR4W and NVZ regulations.
- Applicants are expected to complete the action in a way that could be reasonably expected to achieve the actions aim.

Evidence to apply

- Mapping to show parcel location
- Previous nutrient plans showing sources of nutrients
- Risk mapping
- Basic soil sampling, including OM%

Evidence to claim

- Images to show application
- Revised nutrient planning documents
- Manure analysis report