

# Summary - Mandatory Derogation Requirements for 2024

DAFM 2024 Derogation Terms and Conditions are here <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c9563-rural-environment-sustainability-nitrates/#nitrates-derogation>

	Measure	Comments
1.	<p><b>Compulsory Liming Programme</b></p> <p><i>(Consult page 2 &amp; 3 of your derogation plan)</i></p> <p><i>*Min of 25% of lime per annum to be spread per annum</i></p>	<p>a) <b>Mandatory</b> : a full scale farm liming program to be carried out on farm as per soil sample results (<b>min. of 25% in yr. 1 – balance over remaining 3 years</b>)</p> <p>b) Con-acre (1 year land) excluded only!</p> <p>c) Lime applications/tonnages must be recorded on the Annual Fertiliser Records up to and including 2023.</p> <p>d) Invoices required for purchases prior to 31/12/23. (Purchases after 01/09/23 will be taken from NFD)</p> <p>e) Lime applied after date of soil samples will be taken into account but proof may be required.</p>
2.	<p><b>Low Emission Slurry Spreading (LESS)</b></p>	<p>1. All slurry <b>must</b> be spread by LESS Equipment!</p> <p>2. <b>All slurry to be spread on farm by 1<sup>st</sup> Oct in 2024</b></p> <p>3. With minimum of 50% of slurry spread by 15<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p>4. <b>Slurry exports to be completed online by the timeline specified by the online system.</b></p> <p>5. Soiled water spreading restrictions apply depending on Dairy system (winter/spring)</p>
3.	<p><b>Reduction in Crude Protein % of meals at grass</b></p>	<p><b>Max of 15% Cr. Protein</b> rations to be fed to animals at grass in <b>the period 15<sup>th</sup> Apr – 30<sup>th</sup> Sept</b></p> <p>Crude Protein % to be recorded on feed statements</p>
4.	<p><b>Attendance at compulsory environmental training courses</b></p>	<p><b>New</b> Derogation Applicants in 2024 must attend two courses :</p> <p>1. Farming &amp; Sustainability Course (5hrs) &amp;</p> <p>2. Nutrient Use Efficiency / P Build Up (5hrs)</p> <p><b>Must complete BOTH courses pre 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Grassland Management</b></p>	<p>a) <b>Existing</b> derogation farmers must record a <b>min. of 20 grass covers</b> on approved software (PBI)</p> <p>b) <b>New</b> derogation farmers are required to :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Record grass measurements on Pasture Base Ireland <b>OR</b></li> <li>• Attend a grassland training course by 31<sup>st</sup> Dec 2024.</li> </ul>
6.	<p><b>Inclusion of Clover in Grass Seed Mixtures</b></p>	<p><b>When reseeding must</b> include a min. of 2.5 kgs per hectare of pelleted white or red clover seed in mixture (1.5 kgs un-pelleted clover / Ha)</p>
7.	<p><b>Commonage Lands</b></p>	<p>Commonage lands not eligible for full derogation</p> <p>Max allowed organic N = 50 kgs / hectare with zero chemical fertiliser allowance.</p>
8.	<p><b>Farm Biodiversity</b></p>	<p>Must choose <b>one</b> of the following:</p> <p>a) Leave <u>at least</u> one mature Whitethorn <b>or</b> Blackthorn tree <b>within each</b> hedge <u>or</u></p> <p>b) Cut 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of farm hedges only each year – i.e. a 3 year rotation across the farm.</p>

9.	<b>Soil sampling requirements</b>	<p>a) Soil samples required: max of 5 hectares of land per each sample.</p> <p>b) Soil samples dated post 15<sup>th</sup> Sept '20 are valid for 2024</p> <p>c) New derogation farmers with <b>no soil analysis</b> must <b>assume Index 4 for P on farm – no chemical P allowance</b> for 2024</p> <p>d) Existing derogation farmers with new lands (owned/rented or leased in 2024) with no soil analysis – can assume P index 4 = no chemical P allowance on that land. If farmed in 2025 must be soil sampled prior to submission of 2025 application</p>
10.	<b>Slope farm roadways away from waters</b>	<p>Measure which applies to all farmers regardless of stocking rate – reduce silt and overland flow of nutrients to <b>waters</b>. <b>*Waters</b> are defined as any (or any part of any) river, stream, lake, canal, reservoir, aquifer, pond, watercourse, or other inland waters, whether natural or artificial, any tidal waters, any beach, river bank and salt marsh or other area which is contiguous to, and the channel or bed of anything which is for the time being dry (dry channels)</p>
11.	<b>Fencing (1.5m from top of bank) of bovines &amp; drinking points from watercourses</b>	<p><b>**Watercourses</b> are as identified on the 1:5000 scale OSI map will be the watercourses used for the implementation of this measure. Maps of these watercourses are available at <a href="http://www.osi.ie">www.osi.ie</a> online store/professional products/land and property/place map/customise. Link is <a href="https://store.osi.ie/index.php/osi-place-map.html">https://store.osi.ie/index.php/osi-place-map.html</a> (Scale OSI 1:5000). All continuous blue lines as identified on need to be fenced. <b>New derogation applicants must complete these works by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024!</b></p>
12.	<b>Movement of water troughs &gt; 20 m from watercourses</b>	<p>To prevent nutrient / organic manure enrichment water troughs must be moved &gt; 20m away from watercourses as defined above. <b>New derogation applicants must complete these works by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 !</b></p>

1. For 2024 applicants there will be no need to submit fertilizer accounts in 2025 but applicants must be registered and declare closing stocks on the NFD
2. Grassland farmers can only plough grassland leys from 1<sup>st</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May!
3. Farmers rejected from EU Derogation 2024 (due to non-compliance) cannot avail of EU Derogation in 2025!
4. Failure to comply with all the requirements as set under SI 113 2022 will result in the rejection of the Nitrates Derogation.

**For further advice / guidance / implications for your farm  
please contact your local Teagasc advisor.**