

Know the nutrient content of your slurry

Knowing the N, P & K content of your slurry is a useful starting point to planning your fertiliser programme for the year. There are 2 options for getting this information:

1. Send sample to a laboratory for analysis or
2. Alternatively use a hydrometer to estimate the nutrient content of the slurry using Table 1 below as a guide. Hydrometers can be purchased at: www.grasstecgroup.com. How to use the hydrometer and interpret the results are explained in this video https://youtu.be/dPi_KxpjSv8

How to take a slurry sample from a storage tank for analysis

- 1** To take a well-mixed sample from the slurry tank it is best to agitate the tank until it is visibly well mixed. This may take 30 minutes for dilute slurry or up to a number of hours for slurry with a high dry matter content.
- 2** Observe the usual health and safety by ventilating the shed during the agitation and whilst taking the sample. Do not enter the tank to take the sample.
- 3** Suck up a load of slurry from the slurry pit using the slurry tanker and get the slurry sample from the fill point of the slurry tanker.
- 4** Alternatively using a bucket tied to a rope or a sampling scoop fixed to a handle take out a volume of the mixed slurry from the tank. Do this near to the location of the agitator.
- 5** Using a plastic funnel fill the 0.5 litre plastic sample bottle provided. Cap it tightly.
- 6** Package the 2 sample bottles in a jiffy bag and post them in the envelope provided. Send it (by next day post or hand delivery) to the laboratory as soon as you can. If delivering by hand, the laboratory is open from 9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday.
- 7** If there is delay in sending the sample, put the sample in a fridge (not a freezer) until you are ready. The sample may leak or burst due to gas pressure if it is left at ambient temperature for two or three days.

The Laboratory Address is:

Southern Scientific Services Ltd

Unit B5, 4Park Business Centre

Farranfore, Co Kerry

Phone: 0669763588

Value of slurry (cattle)

Slurry dry matter %	N (units/1,000 gals)	P (units/1,000 gals)	K (units/1,000 gals)	Value (€/1,000 gals)
2% (v dilute)	4	2	13	16
4% (watery)	6	3	21	25
6% (typical)	9	5	32	39
7% (thicker)	10	6	36	45

Note – On index 1 & 2 soils reduce slurry P availability by 50% & reduce K availability by 10%