Using Plan Safety in NMP-Online (Updated)

Plan Safety

A plan safety option exists within NMP Online to protect farmers against an inadvertent over-application of chemical nutrient which could lead to DAFM penalties if inspected.

The Problem

Advised rates of fertilisers in a NMP are always based on the planned grassland stocking rate.

Maximum rates of N and P for DAFM inspection / records are always based on the actual grassland stocking rate.

If actual stocking rate differs from planned stocking rate, maximum fertiliser levels could be lower leading to a penalty. The Plan Safety system provides a mechanism to reduce this risk by reducing the maximum chemical allowance for the crop to the band below the planned level.

What does Plan Safety do?

- When plan safety is turned on it lowers the maximum fertiliser allowance to the next lower band

When should you consider using plan safety?

- When stocking rates are in the following bands (or if there is a risk of a substantial lowering of stocking rate across a band limit)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned SR</th>
<th>Risk related to actual SR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>85-95</td>
<td>Drop below 85 reduces P allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>130 - 140</td>
<td>Drop below 130 reduces P allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170 - 180</td>
<td>Drop below 170 reduces N and P allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200-210</td>
<td>Increase above 210 reduces N allowance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>210-220</td>
<td>Drop below 210 reduces P allowance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Warning! The grassland stocking rate of this plan is close to (within 10 kg/ha) of a threshold that could reduce the fertiliser allowance on the farm. Selecting the 'Plan Safety Option' to calculate maximum N and P allowances on a precautionary basis will reduce the risk of the fertiliser allowance being exceeded on the farm due to unexpected changes in stocking rates.

Switching on Plan Safety – Yes or No

Switching on Plan safety will have the impact of lowering the maximum amount of chemical N and P on the farm. Where soil fertility is falling on the farm the impact of using plan safety could be substantial. However, over utilisation of N or P could lead to a penalty. The level of the penalty varies according to

1. The percentage over application based on DAFM Calculations
2. Previous penalties for the same offence

Things to consider:

- Total allowable P - If the total allowed chemical P is relatively low (based on volumes of organic manure, soil index and meal feeding) there is a risk of a large % over allocation with a relatively small amount of extra nutrient
- It is very important to communicate with the farmer – outlining the risk and assessing the need to use plan safety. A farmer may be willing to accept the risk in the knowledge that the potential penalty is low. **It is vital that farmers are aware of the risk.**
### Maximum rates of N and P for plans

Table from SI for Grassland allowances (SI - Tables 12 & 13 combined)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grassland Stocking rate</th>
<th>Fertiliser Allowance as per SI</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>P Allowance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Plan Safety = NO</td>
<td>Index 1</td>
<td>Index 2</td>
<td>Index 3</td>
<td>Index 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt;85</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-130</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131-170</td>
<td>226</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>171-210</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt;= 211</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table showing N & P allowances in NMP-Online when Plan Safety is activated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grassland Stocking rate</th>
<th>Fertiliser Allowance with Plan Safety On</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>P Allowance</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Figures in Red show where changes occur.

*Nitrogen allowance reduces as stocking rate goes over 210 kg/ ha
**Plan Safety Instructions**

- Click on setting (Cog wheel)
- Select General Settings
- Select Yes for Plan Safety
- This can be deselected using the same instructions.

![Plan Settings](image)

**NMP Help Desk:**

Email: nmp.helpdesk@teagasc.ie