

NMP Online User Update

Issue 30 | March 2024



A horizontal banner containing three logos. On the left is the Teagasc logo, featuring a stylized green 'T' and the text 'teagasc' and 'AGRICULTURE AND FOOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY'. In the center is a circular diagram with concentric rings and a central green cross. On the right is the 'NMP Online' logo in green text.

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1. Minister announces intention to bring forward Nitrates proposals

The full DAFM press release on this is available @ <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/f4dbd-minister-outlines-intention-to-bring-forward-nitrates-proposals/> and the Proposed measures are outlined below.

i. Changes to nutrient excretion rates for young bovines

Teagasc research shows the calf excretes 1kg of nitrogen in the first three months of its life. While it excretes a further 20kg of nitrogen over the remaining nine months. Subject to conclusion of the process, the current annual excretion rate of 24kg of nitrogen for the 0–1-year-old animal will be updated to reflect two sub-categories the calf aged 0-3 months and cattle aged 4-12 months. The nutrient excretion rate for cattle aged 1-2 will be amended to 55kg in respect of Females and 61kg in respect of Males reflecting most recent scientific work.

ii. Recognising the impact of reducing crude protein in concentrates fed to dairy cows

Dairy farmers will have the option to gain recognition for reductions in concentrate crude protein beyond regulatory requirements. In line with Teagasc research, appropriate reductions in nutrient excretion rate will apply across all three milk yield bands. Farmer will have the option to consider their own position and the average annual level of concentrate crude protein they wish to feed to their herd when they are confirming their dairy band through ICBF in the coming weeks. When that portal opens farmers will be able to see the position for their own herd and opt-in to this measure if they wish.

iii. Changes to maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for grassland

There will be a reduced maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for certain categories of grassland stocking.

iv. Reduced timeframe for reporting livestock manure movements

To allow inspection on the ground to verify slurry movements, the Department is moving to a timeframe of four days for reporting livestock manure movements between farms. This will be rolled out in the coming weeks allowing farmers sufficient time to declare any movements of manure that have already taken place in 2024.

2. Changes made to NMP online due to Press release

The nutrient excretion and crude protein changes will be developed and incorporated into NMP Online as more information becomes available from DAFM and ICBF. The nutrient excretion and crude protein changes will only apply to 2024 stocking rate calculations, and on this basis the only changes that have been made to NMP online is the changes to the maximum chemical N allowances for grassland.

NMP online has been updated (04/03/2024) to take into account the reduced maximum chemical nitrogen allowances for certain categories of grassland stocking rates on grassland fields. These **Proposed Cuts which are to be implemented in the new NAP SI are in the table below and will now appear for all 2024 NMP's already created or will be created.** The reduction of 5% to maximum grassland chemical N allowance where previous years GSR >170kg Organic N/ha grassland stocking rate is reduced and there is a reduction to a 90kg chemical N/ha limit applying to farmers <85kg N/ha grassland stocking rate. Changes in red text below.

Grassland Stocking Rate ((kg N/ha)	Max Chemical N (kg/ha)
≤85	90
86-130	114
131-170	185
171-210	240
>210	212

NMP's that have been created using the previous higher levels on N and where fertilisers have been planned up to that level will have the 5% cut implemented on those plans. A Warning will appear (and reports locked down) where chemical fertiliser advised is > than that **Warning! Fertilisers allocated exceeds limits.** Users will have to reduce advised fertilisers back to less than the Max Chemical Allowed for this message to disappear and reports to come active.

3. BISS Eco-Scheme Reduced N rates 2024

The Eco-Scheme Agricultural Practice 3 – Limiting Chemical Nitrogen Usage is reduced for 2024. See the table below and this has been built into NMP online for all 2024 plans from the date of this bulletin to all new and existing 2024 NMP@s that have selected this option in plans settings.

Table 1

Band	Grassland stocking rate 2023 (kgs organic nitrogen per ha)	Max permitted application of chemical nitrogen in 2024 (kgs per ha)
1	≤ 90	73
2	> 90 - 130	89
3	> 130 - 170	148
4	> 170 - 210	200
5	> 210	180