



NMP Online – User Update 1 –10th June 2016

Allocating Organic Manures

Organic manure accounts for 16% of N and 40% of P fertiliser applied on Irish farms. On many farms Organic Manures are the only allowable source of P. Effective use of organic manures as part of an overall nutrient management plan is essential to improving soil fertility on Irish farms.

Considerations

- Existing farmer practice and willingness to change slurry application areas
 - Silage v Grazing
 - Contractor v Own
- Maximum Allowable Chemical P on the farm
- Farm Soil Fertility Status – P and K
 - P index 1 and 2
- Distances / field locations
- Crop requirement (Grazing v Silage)
- Grass Production Target
- Owned or Leased ('Build fertility' or 'Feed the crop')
- Agri-Environmental Scheme Status
- Timing

Suggested Approach

1 For agronomic purposes and to maximise chemical P allowance organic manures should be allocated to P index 1 & 2 soils. In the Organic Fertiliser page

- Select P index 1 & 2
 - Select crop to shorten list if necessary
 - Look at the K index which is particularly important on silage ground.
 - Allocate Organic manure, also taking other considerations into account
 - Distance **Go the extra Mile** - Avoid spreading around the farm yard if not appropriate
 - Existing practice and practicality. Judge how much buy-in you have from the farmer
 - For best environmental outcomes it is best to avoid using organic manures on GLAS parcels with nitrogen restrictions
 - Use an appropriate amount based on Nutrient Advice.
 - When you have allocated to Index 1&2 – Filter for Index 3 and repeat the process until all slurry is allocated
- Organic fertiliser should not be applied to Index 4 soils unless lower index soils are not available or are fully utilised

Organic Fertilisers plan

Crop: All grass N Index: P Index: 1 & 2 Search:

Plot(Ha)	Crop	Index N P K	Nutrients Applied (Units/Acre)			Nutrients Advice (Units/Acre)			Nutrients Balance (Units/Acre)			Organic Fertilisers		Plot(Ha)
			N	P	K	N	P	K	N	P	K	1	M ³ /Ha	
Coolroe 2(3.8)	2 Cut + Grazing	1 1 1	81	16	174	182	52	198	101	36	24	50.0	M ³ /Ha	Coolroe 2(3.8)
Coolroe3(4.0)	2 Cut + Grazing	1 1 1	81	16	174	182	52	198	101	36	24	50.0	M ³ /Ha	Coolroe3(4.0)
Doyles(4.1)	Grazing	1 2 2	32	6	70	163	19	45	130	13	-25	20.0	M ³ /Ha	Doyles(4.1)
Quarry(4.7)	Grazing	1 2 4	32	6	70	163	19	0	130	13	-70	20.0	M ³ /Ha	Quarry(4.7)
Coolroe 1(5.1)	2 Cut + Grazing	1 2 1	81	16	174	182	44	198	101	28	24	50.0	M ³ /Ha	Coolroe 1(5.1)
Dundrum(8.2)	2 Cut + Grazing	1 1 1	0	0	0	182	52	198	182	52	198	0.0	M ³ /Ha	Dundrum(8.2)

2 Farmer Communication

Having the plan right is not even half the battle – handing a farmer a nutrient management plan will in most cases achieve very little other than meet his scheme or statutory requirements. What is required is to go the extra step – what NMP-Online does is to support this effort. There are two key tools – The summary page and the maps

Summary Page

The graphs on the summary page give a synopsis/picture of soil fertility issues on the farm. For example, the interpretation of the graphs below would be as follows:

pH – More than ¾ of the farm > pH 6.2 and all above 5.9. On a grassland farm this would be regarded as very good with a requirement for allocation of lime on low pH plots. Look at a lime maintenance plan for the farm where 20% of the farm is limed annually.

P – Approx 66% of farm at index 3 or 4. There is a need to ensure that slurry is going to index 1 and 2 plots. What is the pH of the fields at Index 1 or 2 for P.

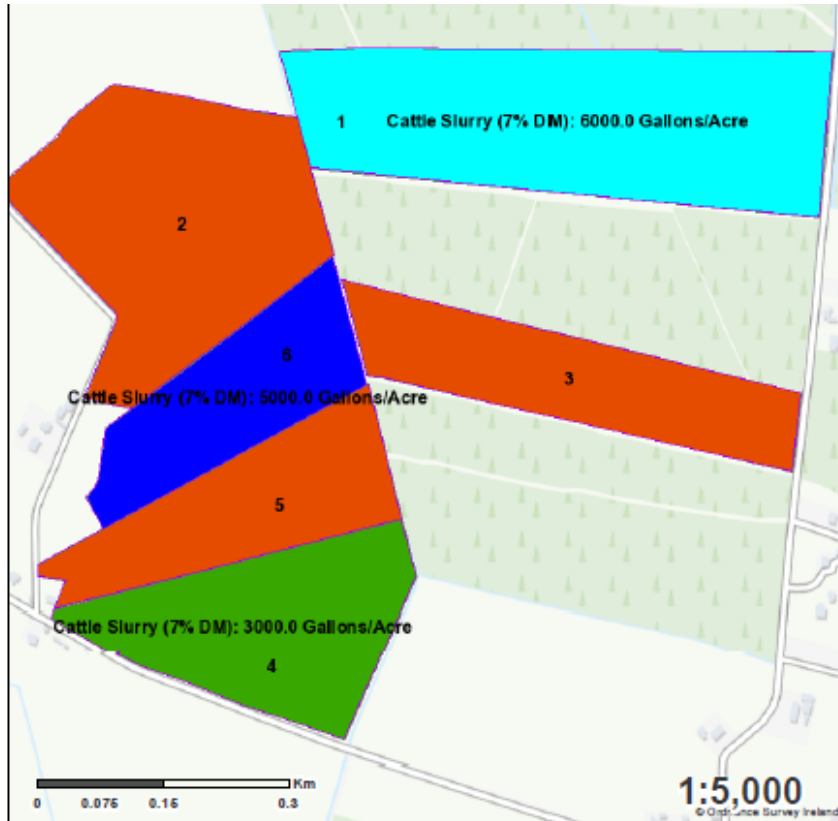
K – 2/3 of land at index 1 or 2. There is a need to ensure where possible that slurry goes to low K plots. There may well be a case for the use of N-K compounds or Muriate of Potash on some low K plots. Don't exceed 90kg K/ha in single application. Consider applying additional K in late summer or early autumn or targeted manure applications.

In formulating advice for the farmer taking a quick look at these graphs can give some pointers to the key areas that need to be tackled on the farm – The problems may be more difficult to see in the plan data.

MAPS

The key to effective communication to farmers are the maps. For example the maps below are colour coded for P Index and the labels indicate the Plot Numbers and the amount of organic manure to be applied on each plot. Similar maps can be drawn for other nutrients.

The 'Edit' settings in map viewer to produce the map are shown below



Plot Name
Organic Manures

P Value
Pvalue
Index 1 Very Low
Index 2 Low

Index 3 Satisfactory
Index 4 High

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Date: 15/05/2016



Color Layers		Labels	
Plots	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chemical Fertilisers	<input type="checkbox"/>
P Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Plot Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
K Value	<input type="checkbox"/>	K Value	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lime Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/>	P Value	<input type="checkbox"/>
pH Value	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lime Requirement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Organic Manures	<input type="checkbox"/>	pH Value	<input type="checkbox"/>
Each selected layer will appear on its own page when printed		Soil Fertility	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Organic Manures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Plan Specific Features	<input type="checkbox"/>