

Poultry Farm Factsheet

April 2017

Storage and spreading of poultry manure

Where a broiler farm sends used litter off site, records must be kept showing who has taken the manure and what quantities have been taken. The permit requires that each recipient of the manure agrees to spread the manure in accordance with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice. Although an environmental permit will not regulate the spreading or storing of manure on fields outside of the permitted area, we would expect all manure spreading to be done in accordance with the Code of Good Agricultural Practice and also in compliance with the Nitrate Vulnerable Zone regulations.

Farms spreading litter on operated owned land must comply with the requirements of a Manure Management Plan, which is an operating technique embedded within the permit. They also have to undertake regular analysis of the litter, which includes looking at the nutrient content. As well as consideration of the Code of Good Agricultural Practice

Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

Where land close to a farm is designated as a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ), farmers must carefully plan their manure applications to avoid applying too much nitrogen to the land. They must also take additional measures to protect the environment. Please see our website for further information

<https://www.gov.uk/nitrate-vulnerable-zones>

Manure storage:

Commonly farmers will store manure in temporary field heaps prior to spreading. We encourage farmers to locate such field heaps in areas where they will not generate odour nuisance. The Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2013 allow field heaps so long as they are located and constructed in accordance with the following rules:

You must:

- Only store poultry manures in field heaps if they are solid enough to be stacked in a free-standing heap and do not give rise to free drainage from within the stacked material. Field heaps should be constructed to occupy as small a surface area as possible.
- Cover any poultry manure without bedding/litter which is stored in an field heap with an impermeable sheet

You must not locate field heaps:

- Within 10 metres of a surface water or land drain.
- Within 30 metres of a surface water if the land is steeply sloping.
- Within 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole.
- On land likely to become waterlogged.
- On land likely to flood.
- In any single position for 12 successive months.

customer service line
03708 506 506

incident hotline
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03459 88 11 88

And you must

- Leave a two year gap before returning to the same site.
- Identify the location of the field sites on your risk map.

Manure spreading

The NVZ rules also require a farmer to adhere to the following rules for spreading manure:

- Spread no more than 250 kilograms/Nitrogen per hectare in any 12 months.
- Closed periods for spreading must be adhered to.
- Carry out a field inspection prior to spreading.
- Comply with non-spreading areas and conditions.
- Prepare a risk map for land on which you intend to spread manures.
- Incorporate organic manures into bare soil and stubble where appropriate.
- Keep records of applications of manure.

It is an offence to break these rules and if they are breached we would take enforcement action in line with our published Enforcement and Sanctions guidance. In addition the farmer would risk losing the government subsidy payment (Single Farm Payment).

The Code of Good Agricultural Practice also states that manure management plans and nutrient management plans should be produced to manage the spreading of manure. Both of these are designed to reduce the environmental impact of spreading manures. These measures limit the odour disturbance from poultry manure but do not eradicate them.

How is manure storage and spreading regulated?

We regulate any pollution to water from manure storage or spreading. We also regulate NVZ compliance. Further information on NVZs and the Code of Good Agricultural Practice can be found on the two links to our website below:

<https://www.gov.uk/nitrate-vulnerable-zones>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/protecting-our-water-soil-and-air>

Odour or flies from a field heap would be considered a statutory nuisance and would be regulated by the local council.