Farm Waste Management Scheme

Irish farmers must comply with EU directives aimed at minimising the risk of water pollution through farming activities .

These are 1. Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters Regulations 2005 (S.I. No. 788 of 2005)

2. The Nitrates Directive.

There are farm development grants to support addition farm buildings, storage and waste management facilities and is funded under the Farm waste management scheme.

Below is a summary of the scheme but in practice is applied for through your agricultural advisor.

Summary of Grant Aid available under the Farm Waste Management Scheme

Type of Investment	Standard Grant Rate
1. Storage facilities for animal excreta, soiled water, mushroom compost and other farmyard manures in respect of the following species (i.e. cattle, sheep, deer, goats, horses, pigs and poultry) and related roofed structures Silage storage facilities Associated farmyard facilities Safety Elements on existing Farm Structures ***(Based on approved Standard Costs or receipts, whichever is the lesser)***	60% Zone A + Zone B **70% Zone C - Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, and Monaghan.**
2. Decanter Centrifuge systems Feeding systems for pigs **(*Based solely on receipts*)**	40% Subject to a maximum eligible investment of €80,000
3. Specialised Slurry/Soiled Water Handling Equipment **(*Based solely on receipts*)**	40% Subject to a maximum eligible investment of €40,000
4. Other equipment for application of slurries, farmyard manures and soiled water ***(Based solely on receipts)***	20% Subject to a maximum investment of €15,000 for the duration of the Scheme (i.e. since 1st February 2001)

New Structures/Investments

1. Storage Facilities for animal excreta, soiled water and other farmyard manures (includes storage facilities for Cattle, Deer, Goats, Horses, Pigs, Poultry and Sheep) and related structures	Slurry/effluent tank underground/overground with protective fencing and/or rainwater cover, where appropriate Slurry tank under slatted/cubicle house Dungstead Manure/poultry litter/mushroom compost pit, roofed or unroofed Geo-membrane lined slurry/effluent stores with protective fencing and/or rainwater cover, where appropriate Earth-lined slurry/effluent stores with protective fencing and/or rainwater cover, with the entire structure being in accordance with the Department's new structural specification S.131.
Related Cattle Structures Cubicle house Slatted house	Loose House Cubicle house Slatted house Unroofed slatted feed areas as an extension of an animal house Roofing of livestock feed yards Isolation box/Calving box Calf housing/bull pens
Related Structures for other animals	Deer/Goat/Horse/Pig/Poultry/Sheep housing Sheep accommodation unroofed

Silage Storage Facilities	Walled concrete silo (unroofed), or resurfacing of same Silo walls to existing silo base Concrete storage base for silage, or resurfacing of same Silo apron
Associated Farmyard Facilities	Yard drains Fixed cattle crushes/races Enclosures/collecting yards Installation of guttering on existing buildings Concrete areas for existing functional or new structures (See section 5 below). Sheep dipping tanks and associated facilities
Safety Elements on Existing Farm Structures	Safety fencing/Solid cover for external slurry and effluent stores Safety covers on external agitation points or manholes Safety rails on silo walls Replacement of single/twin slats by gang slats Removal of existing internal agitation point and its replacement by a gang slat Replacement of a hinged door/sheeted gate with a sliding door on animal housing
2. Decanter Centrifuge Systems	Installation of proprietary systems for the separation of pig slurry into solid and liquid portions. The supplier must certify that the system is capable of processing the slurry on the holding with a minimum of 80% of total slurry phosphorus being transferred into the solid fraction
Feeding Systems for Pigs	Upgrading of existing feeding and drinking systems for pigs to reduce the water usage including the installation of water meters
3. Specialised Slurry/Soiled Water Handling Equipment	Slurry/soiled water pumps/agitators/simple aeration systems Automatic slurry scrapers on solid floors only Specialised spreading tankers which must be equipped with full-size macerator and trailing shoe attachment. In addition, positive displacement pumps/metering systems fitted to such tankers will also be eligible for grant-aid. Self-travelling/pulse-jet irrigator for the distribution of soiled water (excluding piping) with a minimum distribution spread of 20 metres.
4. Other Equipment for the application of slurry, farmyard manure and soiledwater	Slurry tanker with low trajectory splash plate or injection system Rotary spreader. Moving floor dual spreader

(ii) Requirement for storage facilities for animal excreta, soiled water and other farmyard manures

(iii) Roofing of Feed Area(s) and /or Animal Yard(s) to Reduce Volumes of Slurry/Soiled Water Requiring Storage

(v) Maximum Aided Investment for Concrete

(vi) Conversions of existing structures ; Conversion of existing structures may be eligible for grant aid provided the estimated costs of conversion to the relevant Specification do not exceed 70% of the cost of an equivalent new structure

Aid will not be given for works commenced or equipment/items purchased before written approval has been conveyed to a farmer.

Waste Disposal and Recycling options

What is Waste

"Any Substance or object that the holder discards, intends to discard or is required to discard".
(Waste Management Act) (1996).

Waste prevention

Waste prevention is the most desirable aspect of the waste management hierarchy. If you do not create the waste you do not have the associated environmental problems. Reuse also plays an important part in prevention in that no new resources are used.

Recycling and recovery

Forms the second aspect of the waste hierarchy. The value of waste can be recovered through shcemes such as recycling, composting or energy recovery.

Disposal

The last option of the waste hierarchy is disposal to landfill. This should only be an option if none of the other options are available.

Hazardous wastes are defined as wastes that have the potential to cause harm to human health or the environment.

The properties of hazardous waste can be grouped as follows

- Physical properties: flammable, explosive, oxidising
- Health hazard properties: carcinogenic, mutagenic, toxic for reproduction, toxic, corrosive, irritant, infectious, harmful.
- Environmental hazard properties: for aquatic environment, for terrestrial environment, for ozone layer

The following are examples of common wastes that can be encountered on a farm.


Waste Oils


Batteries


Fluorescent tubes


Paints

Pesticides


Needles


Waste Medicines


Waste chemicals

Other types of hazardous waste which may occur occasionally on farms include:

- Refrigerant gases from redundant refrigeration equipment
- Asbestos from maintenance or building works on older buildings
- PCBs contained in old electrical transformers

Hazardous waste should be treated with the respect it deserves. In terms of waste chemicals, the key is to look at the label on the product to determine if it is hazardous or not, i.e. are any of the following on the packaging


Corrosive Material


Dangerous for the environment


Explosive


Flammable


Oxidizing Material


Extremely Toxic


Harmful

What to do with hazardous wastes

The disposal of hazardous waste is a problem for many businesses. County Council's Recycling Centre accepts some common hazardous waste such as waste oils, batteries and fluorescent tubes. Those supplying you in some cases will also offer a take back scheme – check with your suppliers.

How to prevent hazardous waste

1. Look for alternatives or products that are less damaging to the environment
2. Use products such as chemicals before they go out of date
3. Only purchase the amounts needed.
4. Store and dispose of hazardous waste through a licenced waste contractor.

WASTE MANAGEMENT TIPS

WASTE TYPE	PREVENTION TIP	WASTE MANAGEMENT - OTHER INFORMATION
Paper	Only use what you need. Can it be reused?	Collection available from waste contractors and Recycling Centre Scotch Corner.
Plastic	Can you buy in bulk?	Plastic recycling is a complex area. Only recycle plastics that have the following labels PET, PE, HDPE, LDPE which are typically plastic bottles and plastic film. Facilities are available from local licensed waste contractors and Scotch Corner, Recycling Centre.
Plastic drums	Can the product be bought in bulk to minimise packaging or can you use less of the product e.g. pesticides?	Ask your supplier about take back schemes. Disposal is dependent on what has been in the drum. Was the material hazardous? If yes please refer to notes on hazardous waste.
Plastic Film wrap	Carefully store part used rolls from year to year to ensure you can utilise them. Set a target of 8 bales per hectare of high quality grass. If using silage pit, reuse plastic sheeting.	Collections are organised by government approved recovery schemes. IFFPG (01) 4089966 Locall 1890 300 4444
Tyres	5 tyres per m^2 of silage storage area is the recommended amount needed. Do not exceed this. Use same tyres every year.	New tyre legislation requires farmers to register with local authority if they exceed recommended amount of tyres per m^2 of silage storage area.
Veterinary Waste	Only use medicines as required.	Treat as hazardous waste. Ask vet to take back vet waste such as needles, medicines, syringes. Vets are required to do this. Ask about take back scheme for unused medicines
Waste oils	Implement maintenance programme on all machines. Only change oils as per manufacturers recommendations. Waste oils can be reused as low grade lubricant.	Facilities available at Scotch Corner Recycling Centre to accept waste oils. Currently small charge applies.