

Winter/Spring checklist



As winter continues, albeit a very mild one, there are still a few things that need to be completed this winter/early spring. Crop Management Partners have compiled a short list to help you avoid being caught short when the inspector calls.

Soil Protection Review

The Soil Protection Review (SPR) is part of Cross Compliance; it incorporates GAEC's (Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions) 1 to 4 for soil. **The annual review should have been completed by the 31st December 2013** so please fill it in yourself or have it ready for your agronomist to complete. You have the option of completing this online, which may reduce your chance of inspection.

More details can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/soil-protection-review>

Nutrient Management Plan

If you are in an NVZ, you must have a Nutrient Management Plan in place. A nutrient management plan aims to match nutrient inputs (fertilisers and organic manures) to crop demand so yield is optimised. Please ask your agronomist about this if you are unsure.

Before applying nitrogen, from either bagged sources or manures, you will need to keep records of your planned fertiliser use and subsequent applications. These records need to be kept for **5 years**.

Farms in an NVZ need to have a manure risk map produced in accordance with the NVZ guidance notes. Farms not in NVZ's and claiming the SFP are now required to have a map of the farm showing watercourses, springs, wells and boreholes.

More details of NVZ record keeping can be found here from Defra.

<http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/water/waterquality/diffuse/nitrate/documents/checklist.pdf>

Fertiliser Spreader and Sprayer Inspection and Calibration

Annual testing for sprayers to NSTS standards is now compulsory for many agricultural assurance schemes. Ensure your sprayer is up to standards and applying agchem efficiently.

Check the condition of the fertiliser and manure spreader. Spreading quality of different fertiliser products can vary greatly, leading to waste and striping in the crop. While the spreader is not in current use we recommend you have it serviced to ensure its condition is good, coefficient of variation is correct and for it to be calibrated to each fertiliser material to be spread this spring.

A good guide to spreader maintenance can be found at <http://www.nutrientmanagement.org/fertiliser-spreaders-manual/>

Colliers and SCS are two such companies you can book your spreader/sprayer into a service with <http://www.spreadcheck.com/>

Soil sampling

If due this year, book your fields to be P, K, Mg, pH soil sampled this coming January/February. Delay sampling if organic manures or bagged fert have been spread in the last 6 months.

Spray Store Inspection Check List

This is not a definitive list but covers most areas.

- Bunded to 110%, 185% if within 10m of a watercourse
- Stock list, updated monthly
- Collapsible roof, fire proof door and sealed floor
- Flammable materials in a separate 30 minute burn life proof container
- Spillage kit i.e. sand or cat litter
- Non-absorbent shelving. Powders above liquids
- Fungicides, herbicides and insecticides kept separate
- Warning triangle sign and no smoking/open flame sign
- Ventilation but vermin proof. Light switch on outside
- If the store is within a building, it must have a door leading straight outside
- Poisons in a locked container
- Empty packing kept outside in a sealed container

Close to but not in the store

- Record of emergency procedures
- Wash area/eye wash
- First aid kit

Safe Fertiliser Storage

There are a few pieces of legislation which apply to fertilisers. To keep within good practice please adhere to the following. This is not a comprehensive list and so we cannot accept responsibility for any liability from its use.

- Storage location: not within 10m watercourse, 50m wells, boreholes and springs, 500m of schools, hospitals and nursing homes. Avoid proximity to oil storage, timber yards and gas lines
- Ammonium nitrate stacks not to exceed 300 tonnes and no more than 3 bags high
- Keep ammonium nitrate stacks 5m away from combustible materials
- Do not store ammonium nitrate and urea in the same stack. Separate with an inert 1m wall in between. Potash fertiliser bags will do
- Do not store ammonium nitrate that contains more than 28% nitrogen in the same stack as other products
- Air gap of 1m between fertiliser stacks, walls and the roof
- Must be locked and ventilated. Fluorescent lighting not filament
- No drains, pits or basements to prevent ammonia gas build up
- If storing over 25 tonnes of ammonium nitrate based fertiliser, please notify HSE and the fire authority, place an exclamation sign at site entrance
- Oxidising substance sign at store entrance
- For a HSE self-help check list and a more in-depth leaflet on ammonium nitrate storage please visit <http://www.hse.gov.uk/agriculture/namos.htm> . Alternatively, ring HSE on 01256 404100 (Hampshire) or 01233 634827 (Kent)