



NUTRIFOCUS LIMITED

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KEEPING THE SPOTLIGHT ON CROP NUTRITION

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NEW NVZ RULES - POTENTIAL PITFALLS

As we start to understand the details of the new NVZ rules we have identified areas which may cause confusion, for example under the Nitrogen Planning requirement (leaflet 6) farmers must calculate the available N from the planned spreading of livestock manures using sources such as RB209 or Manner.

Leaflet 3, table 8 lists "The percentage of the total N content of livestock manures that is available for crop uptake" and it would be reasonable to assume that these are the relevant figures but **these figures are only for use in calculating the N max limit** and bear no resemblance to the figures given in RB209 or Manner and are not relevant to the calculations you need to do for Nitrogen Planning.

Sewage Sludge is exempt from the N max calculations and we understand that some advisors are suggesting you may be able to use sewage sludge prior to peas and beans **but the available N still has to be included and allowed for in the Nitrogen Planning stage** and the basis for these calculations is RB209 which states the N requirement for legumes is NIL.

There is not an N max limit for all crops e.g there is no declaration for oats.

A subtle change between the old rules and new rules is the way the field limit for organic manures is calculated. Historically the cut off date was 19th Dec so you could apply manure in November and then again in January and for calculation purposes they were different years. Under the new rules the limit is **"in any 12 month period"** so Nov and Jan would both come into the same calculation year.

I am sure that as we learn more about the new rules we will identify more potential pitfalls and we will try to let you know as we do. For those who would rather not have the hassle we offer a number of services to help you with NVZ Compliance. Visit www.nvzcompliance.co.uk or call us for more details.

JANUARY MARKET UPDATE Since our last newsletter the urea price seems to have bottomed out and moved upwards some £40 per tonne. This is due to the reduction in World production capacity that has taken place over the last 2 months and some market activity induced by the low prices.

Growhow have announced the suspension of Ammonium Nitrate production at Ince and Billingham and as a result the UK AN price is staying firm at close to £400 per tonne. Imported AN is trading some £120 per tonne below that.

P's and K's have eased a little as have NPK grades with blended 20-10-10 currently £360 and 25-05-05 £320 per tonne but we are expecting price increases in Feb and further increases in March.

MINERAL NITROGEN TESTING. This year there has been more interest in Soil Mineral Nitrogen testing than ever before. With the recent cold snap and high autumn rainfall the soil N reserves this spring could be all over the place.

Last year we had 2 neighbouring farms growing spring malting barley. One applied manure prior to the barley, the other didn't. We tested both farms and as a result the farmer with manure applied 100kg/ha less N than his neighbour. This was much less than the standard N availability figures suggested. Both farms achieved high yielding malting quality barley showing the benefit of the Mineral N test and also the true value of the manure.

If you would like us to do some Mineral N Testing for you then please let us know.

For information on any of the above items or for any fertiliser or lime requirement or to opt out from receiving further copies of this newsletter please call 01243 261342