

NUTRIFOCUS NEWSLETTER - MARKET UPDATE JUNE 2011

The N market is currently firm, firm, firm. Urea has risen \$180 per tonne since April. The UK AN price has, so far, increased by far less however the new season reset was at a higher level than expected which would account for some of the difference.

In the short term it is difficult to identify any factors which might slow the pace of increase and we expect the next price announcement, due imminently, to take the Nitram price well over £330 and that further increases will take place as we move through to harvest and beyond. If you have Nitrogen to buy then our advice would be that whilst the current price is much higher than expected the price for this season is only going one way.

NVZ INSPECTIONS It was recently rumoured that any farmers applying sewage sludge to fields with a P index of 3 or above were putting their SFP at risk.

We understand the logic behind this as the new RB209 does not recommend P on any soils of index 3 or above however the “putting SFP at risk” was news to us.

Following discussions with a number of organisations much closer to this than us we understand that the only legislation regarding the application of P are the codes of good practice. The codes require P inputs and crop offtakes to be balanced, however new legislation is coming and several of the water companies have introduced their own guidelines to deal with sludge on fields with a high P index.

During our “investigations” it was suggested that whilst penalties would not be issued for P applications, farm NVZ inspections may however be beefed up. It was suggested that any future farm inspections may be based on the existence of your n Max calculations and your “four point plan”. What is your “four point plan” I hear you ask?

The reason for an inspection to focus on these two documents was given as follows “they are a requirement for NVZ compliance. There is no ifs or buts if a farmer has land in an NVZ then he must produce these documents. The documents are easy to interpret and interrogate and in the event of a non compliance there is no longer any need to prosecute the farmer as the EA now have the ability to issue a penalty against the farms SFP.”

In our experience the n Max calculations, whilst time consuming, are relatively straight forward and at a practical level it is quite difficult not to comply with n Max calculations however the “four point plan” is much more complex, far more time consuming and much easier to trip up in.

Need less to say, we will gladly produce your “four point plan” and n Max calculations as part of our NutriPlan consultancy however if you want to do your own then you need to refer to the Guidance for Farmers in NVZ leaflets which were updated in April 2009. Leaflet 6 for the “four point plan” and leaflet 7 for the N max calculations.

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