### CYMRU AGRICULTURAL & RURAL ADVICE LTD

## **Agricultural and Business Consultants**

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The Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) Wales Regulations, 2021

It was announced on January 27th 2021 that Wales will now implement new Agricultural Pollution Regulations to ALL holdings in Wales. Some of the regulations become law by 1st January 2023, with others from 1st August 2024. The regulations are a mirror image of the NVZ regulations that already apply to certain areas of Wales.

The main points from the regulations are as follows:

* Between 1st Jan and 31st Dec, the total Nitrogen from livestock manure applied to a holding either by spreading or grazing animals must not exceed 170 kg / ha average, and not more than 250 kg / ha on any hectare. A holding area does not include woodland, roads, yards, buildings etc.
* Detailed records must be kept of and calculations made to account for soil Nitrogen reserves and crop requirements for Nitrogen. Records must also include: field names, field areas, previous and current crops, soil nitrogen supply, month of planting, anticipated crop yields and optimum nitrogen required by crop.
* Will have to calculate and record nitrogen available from manure applications. Records must include: area to be spread, quantity to be spread, date, type of manure, total nitrogen, available nitrogen.
* For nitrogen fertiliser will need to record amount crop requires, planned spreading dates
* Farmers must ensure that the total nitrogen from fertiliser and available nitrogen from manures does not exceed set crop limits in a 12-month period (Eg: 300 kg / ha grass, 150 kg / ha Spring Barley, 180 kg /ha Winter Barley)
* Farmers must maintain a map of the holding which shows high risk areas for manure spreading, shows each field, the size of each field, all surface water areas, boreholes etc, land drains and identifies both steep areas unsuitable for spreading and low risk run off areas.
* Nitrogen fertiliser must not be spread on land with a greater slope than 120 , land that is waterlogged, flooded or has snow on the ground, or within 2 metres of surface water.
* Slurry must be spread at a low trajectory (less than 4 metres from the surface) unless the land is identified as low run-off risk.
* Slurry must not be spread during the closed period 15th Oct – 15th Jan for Grassland, or 1st Oct – 31st Jan for cultivated / tillage land (1st Sept – 31st Dec and 1st Aug – 31st Dec for sandy soils).
* An organic holding can spread manure during the closed period but at no more than 150kg / ha of total nitrogen from Oct until end of Feb.
* For any holding, no more than 30m3/ha of slurry can be applied until the end of Feb, with a minimum 3 week gap between each application.
* No nitrogen fertiliser can be applied to land between 15th Sept and 15th Jan (1st Sept – 15th Jan for tillage land).
* Further records must be maintained to show how much slurry / manure is likely to be produced per annum, and the amount of storage capacity required
* By 30th April each year, each producer must record for the previous storage period: the number and category of animals in buildings / on hard standings at the holding, the number days spent on the holding and nitrogen produced by the animals on the holding.
* There must also be a record of where, when and the quantity of manure spread, how it was spread and the total amount of nitrogen and available nitrogen applied.
* For nitrogen fertiliser a record must be maintained of dates, amount spread and where it was

spread

* Records must also be kept of arable yields achieved within one week of harvest, and an annual record of how grassland has been managed
* In some circumstances advice on application rates and nitrogen values must be sought from FACTS qualified advisors.

This is a huge administrative burden for all livestock farms, but is something that we at CARA are qualified to assist with. We have access to software packages to aid with records, and we have FACTS qualified staff to advise on specific crop requirements.