

Know your way around the NVZ rules

By now you will need to have five months storage of slurry or risk penalties and reduction in your SFP - Here are four areas which may save the cost of slurry storage on your farm.

What is slurry?

Defined by DEFRA slurry has a consistency that allows it to be pumped or discharged by gravity. This realistically means that material mixed with straw may well not be slurry and is actually Farm Yard Manure (FYM). FYM does not need to be stored for five months indeed it could be spread over the closed period or stored in field heaps as long as it does not create a risk to water courses. Look carefully at the proportion of slurry which actually becomes FYM.

What about the dirty water?

Any dirty water mixed with slurry becomes slurry and has to be included in the five month storage calculation. Keep the dirty water out of the slurry store and you can spread it at any time as long as land and spreading conditions are acceptable and no risk to watercourses. The result is less slurry storage required.

What about storage?

The NVZ storage calculation is based on October to February (March for Pigs) – if animals are not housed then no storage is required - those who keep their animals out until say early December will actually only need three months storage.

What about dirty water areas?

Look very closely at the dirty water areas and the rainfall data you use as you may be calculating for too much.

Many farmers will be facing high costs of slurry storage – make sure that if you take on more than is required under the NVZ rules it is because it will be commercially beneficial to do so not because you didn't get the right interpretation of the rules.

For more advice, tailored to your specification environment, contact P&L today on 01948 880261