

Appendix EC.9

SAFE APPLICATIONS TO LAND

This appendix provides guidance on making applications to land. All applications to land must be carried out in accordance with legislation. Environmental permits or exemptions must be held where applicable. If your farm is in an Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) you must also follow NVZ rules.

Note: Producers should always check with buyers to ensure that any applications of sludge, compost, digestate and other materials originating outside the farm are acceptable to customers.

Sewage Sludge (biosolids)

For further information, including the Biosolids Assurance Scheme (BAS) Standard, refer to: <https://assuredbiosolids.co.uk/>

Evidence of BAS Certified Biosolids should be provided by your biosolids supplier and can be verified in the Certification section of the BAS website.

Farmyard Manure (FYM) and Slurry – Fresh, Stored or Treated

Using the following steps as a guide will help to ensure that manures are used efficiently:

- Know the nutrient contents of applied manures
- Apply manures evenly and at known rates
- Where appropriate, rapidly incorporate manures or use an application technique that will minimise ammonia losses
- Apply manures in spring, where possible, to reduce nitrate leaching losses
- Take the nutrient content of applied manures into account when calculating inorganic fertiliser applications

Spreading manures onto pasture is a valuable source of nutrients but can play a role in transferring disease to healthy stock. The main risk is from spreading fresh, unstored slurry or manure. Risks are reduced by storage, low application rates and leaving pasture for as long as possible before grazing.

Note: The scheme recommends that poultry manure is not applied to grazing land or grassland to be harvested due to the risks associated with botulism.

Compost, Digestates and other Recycled Materials

It is recommended that digestates and composts sourced from external contractors for application to land have been produced to the relevant PAS specification (PAS 110 for digestate, PAS 100 for compost) and are applied following the associated quality protocol. The specifications and Quality Protocols provide safeguards on the feedstock materials, the processing stages and end product quality.

Where anaerobic digestate is produced from an energy crop feedstock (e.g. maize) and there is no pasteurisation step there is a risk that plant pathogens, for example *Fusarium* spp., may be present. It is recommended that energy crop digestate is ploughed in before drilling a subsequent cereal crop.

Appendix EC.9 (continued)

SAFE APPLICATIONS TO LAND

Safe Applications to Land Matrix

	Manure and Slurry		Compost and Anaerobic Digestate		Treated Sewage Sludge	
	Application	Grazing/ harvest interval	Including animal by-products	Not including animal by-products	Conventional treated	Enhanced treated
Combinable crops (inc. homefed)	May be applied before and after drilling/planting	n/a	May be applied before and after drilling/planting			
Grassland and forage – grazed *	Recommended that applications are made in the spring and that rapid incorporation techniques are used	At minimum a 4 week no-graze interval applies. It is recommended that there is an 8 week no-graze interval for adult livestock and a 6 month no-graze interval for youngstock	A no-graze interval of 2 months for pigs and 3 weeks for other livestock applies	A no-graze interval of 3 weeks applies	No grazing in season of application or a no-graze interval of 3 weeks applies when biosolids is deep injected or ploughed down	A no-graze interval of 3 weeks applies
Grassland and forage – harvested **		A no-harvest interval of 4 weeks applies	A no-harvest interval of 2 month for pigs and 3 weeks for other livestock applies	A no-harvest interval of 3 weeks applies	A no-harvest interval of 3 weeks applies	A no-harvest interval of 3 weeks applies

* Grass, forage swedes and turnips, fodder mangolds, fodder beet, fodder kale, forage rye and triticale, turf

** Grass silage, silage maize, haylage, hay, herbage seeds