

Changes to Nitrates Regulations

Fertiliser Association of Ireland
Spring Scientific meeting

W. Callanan
February 2011

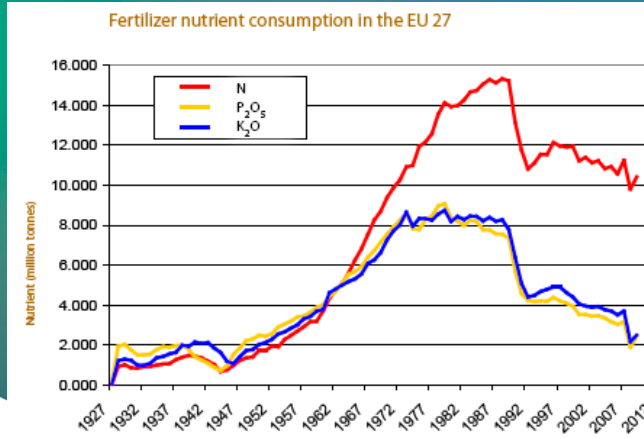


Council Directive 91/676/EEC of 12 December 1991

*Concerning the protection of waters
against pollution caused by nitrates
from agricultural sources*



Fertiliser use in Europe (million tonnes of nutrient)



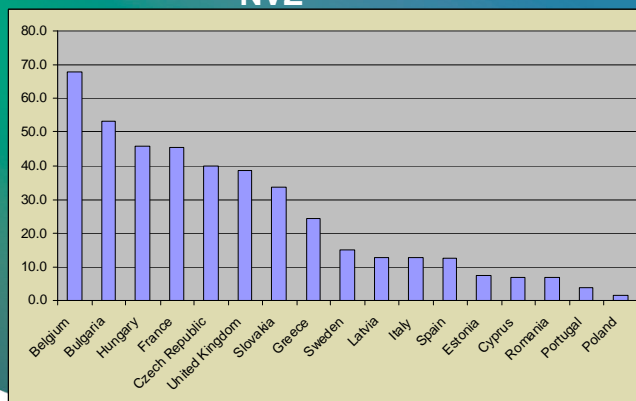

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**Agriculture,
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Europe; Whole territory or NVZ (situation May 2009)

Whole territory:

- Austria
- Denmark
- Finland
- Germany
- Ireland
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Slovenia

NVZ




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Legislative Background

Establishment of Ireland's 1st Action Programme in 2005, given statutory effect in the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2005

Regulations amended in 2006, 2007 and 2009

Ireland's 2nd Action Programme in 2010 (SI No 610 of 2010)



1st National Action Programme - highlights

Water quality generally stable or improving

Large investment in farm facilities (> €2 billion)

Comprehensive Advisory and Research Programmes (DAFF, Teagasc)

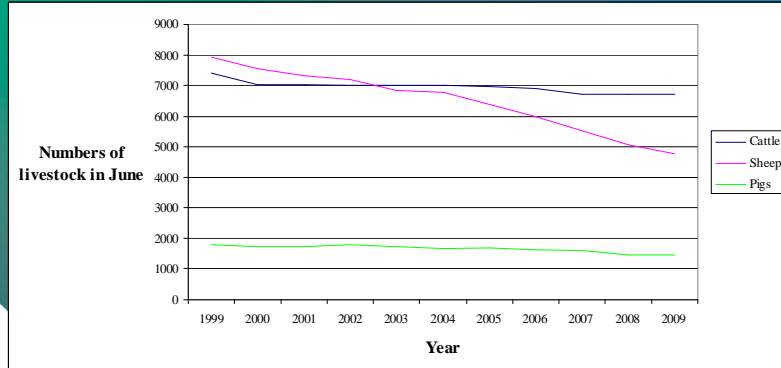
Establishment of comprehensive Agricultural Catchments Programme

Significant reduction in chemical fertiliser use

Reduced livestock numbers



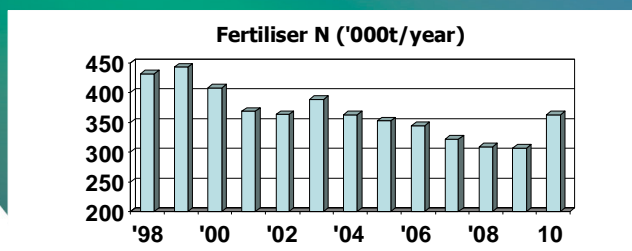
Livestock numbers in Ireland ('000)



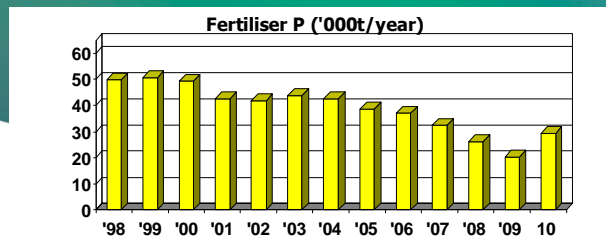
● Since 2000 Cattle 4.6% ↓ Sheep 36.7% ↓ Pigs 14.7% ↓



Trends in chemical fertiliser use in Ireland



N; from 1999 to 2010
18.2% decrease
P; from 1999 to 2010
41.9% decrease



Process of Revision of Action Programme

Review of NAP 1 by EPA

Public consultation 11th June 2010

45 Submissions

Nitrates Review Expert Advisory Group

Amended Regulations (SI No 610 of 2010)



2nd Action Programme

Guiding principles;

Maintain environmental progress of NAP 1

- Encourage developmental objectives of Irish agriculture

- NAP 2 to operate as efficiently as possible

- Incremental improvement of NAP1



Ireland's Derogation

- Provides for farm to exceed 170 Kg's Organic Manure/Ha.
- Commission proposes to Nitrates Committee (all Member states)
- Requires 'Qualified' Majority.
- Following two presentations and response to questions, secured on the 23rd Nov.



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Use of pig/poultry manure and spent mushroom compost

Phosphorus excess limits

Operable date	Total available phosphorus kg/ha
1 January 2011	No change
1 January 2013	5
1 January 2015	3
1 January 2017	0



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Tillage

- Establishment of green cover following (1) ploughing of arable land or (2) application of non-selective herbicide, 15th January date replaced by 30th November.
- Max N on Winter Wheat 210, 180, 120, 80 kgN/ha.
- Reference yield for Spring Barley 6.5 tonnes/ha.



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Tillage

- Malting barley, extra 20 kg N/ha to address proven low protein in grain.
- 'Any crop receiving dressings of organic fertiliser' deleted from N index.
- Cereals; additional 3.8 kg/ha of P for each additional tonne above reference yield of 6.5 tonnes/ha.



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Grassland

- Additional 15 kg P/ha for each hectare of pasture establishment undertaken.
- P from concentrates based on previous years concentrate usage.
- P from concentrates, book value for P or phosphorus content provided by supplier or default value of 0.5kg P/100kg concentrates used



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Setback distances from waters

- 2 metres in the case of chemical fertilisers.
- Site specific and risk based approach to establishing setback distances from drinking water abstraction points (following assessment of conditions).



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Other changes

- N availability figure for spent mushroom compost reduced to 20%.
- N availability figures specified for other composts.
- Silage bales may not be stored within 20 metres of watercourse or drinking water abstraction point in absence of facilities for collecting effluent.



Administrative changes

- Derogation applications
- Fertilizer Plans
- Soil Sampling



Main changes to Nitrates Regulations

Other changes

- Holdings with land in more than one zone higher storage requirement only applies if > 20% in zone with greater requirement
- Max. soil sampling area for taking of soil samples, where soil types and cropping similar during previous 5 years, reduced to 8 hectares.



3rd Action Programme

Review of NAP 2 by EPA; by 30th June 2013

NAP 3; by 31st December 2013



