

LEARNING ABOUT AGRICULTURAL WASTE – NORTHERN IRELAND

Quickstart checklist

Print this checklist and see if you are complying with waste regulations in Northern Ireland.

Storing waste

- The waste you store must be intended for recycling or recovery.
- Check that you store waste for no longer than 12 months.
- Store waste securely and protect it from vandalism.
- Cover or net any loose waste.
- Check your waste containers for leaks, holes or other damage.
- Store different waste types separately.
- Keep all liquid wastes in a container inside an impermeable bund (or other appropriate secondary containment system).
- Check that your staff know how to dispose of each type of waste produced on your farm.
- Check that you only store waste within the key limits and conditions.

Preventing pollution

- Check that your staff know what to do if there is a spill of any waste on your farm.
- Label all your surface water drains, so that you will know where any spill will end up.
- Keep a map of all the surface water drains on your farm.

Hazardous waste

- Check whether you produce hazardous waste on your farm. Most farms will produce hazardous waste – did you know that pesticide containers and fluorescent light tubes are classes as hazardous waste?
- Store hazardous waste separately from non-hazardous waste.
- Keep different types of hazardous waste separate.
- Display written instructions for the storing and disposing of each type of hazardous waste.
- Regularly check for leaks, deteriorating containers and other potential risks.
- Minimise the amount the hazardous waste that is stored on your farm.

The limits for hazardous waste you store are:

- liquid waste in a secure container– 23,000 litres
- solid waste in a secure container – 80 cubic metres
- solid waste in a secure place – 50 cubic metres

Exemptions for farming

- Check whether you need to register any exemptions with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). Most farms will carry out at least one process that requires an exemption, e.g. landspreading or composting waste.
- Register your exemptions with the NIEA.
- Make sure that you know the limitations of your exemptions, and that you meet them.
- Re-notify the NIEA annually if you have any complex exemptions.
- Keep records of all the exemptions you hold and the conditions of the exemptions.

Moving waste

- Check containers that you use to move waste for leaks. This includes tankers, skips and drums etc.
- Check that anyone who takes waste away from your farm is authorised to do so. Ask to see their waste carrier's certificate, or call the **NIEA on 0845 302 0008** to find out.
- Complete waste transfer notes every time someone else takes waste away from your farm. You can use Edoc to electronically record and manage details of the waste transfer you are involved in.
- Check that your waste ends up where your waste carrier says it does. You should check periodically that your waste is being disposed of correctly – remember it is your responsibility (your duty of care) to make sure your waste isn't fly-tipped.
- If you take your own waste to a disposal site, check that they have a permit.
- Complete a waste transfer note if you take your own waste to a disposal site.
- Keep waste transfer notes for two years.
- Complete consignment notes whenever anyone else takes hazardous waste away from your farm.
- Pre-notify the NIEA at least three working days before moving any hazardous waste.
- Keep consignment notes and consignee returns (for hazardous waste) for three years.

Pre-treating waste

- Pre-treat your waste before it goes to landfill. If you use a waste contractor, check that they are pretreating your waste before it is landfilled.

- Keep records to prove that your waste has been pre-treated.

Animal carcass waste

- Don't burn or bury fallen stock or animal carcass waste unless you have specific permission to do so from the Divisional Veterinary Offices (DVO).
- If you operate an on-farm incinerator, check that it has been approved by the DVO.