

Problems associated with livestock watering



When cattle are allowed free access to rivers, streams and drains it can have many negative impacts on the watercourse.

Negative impacts include:

- ◆ **Bank erosion.**
- ◆ **Damage to bankside vegetation**
- ◆ **Animal faeces, soil and nutrients enter and contaminate waters.**
- ◆ **Blanketing or smothering of river beds can totally destroy nursery and spawning areas for fish.**
- ◆ **Aquatic insects and plant life, essential constituents of the food chain, are reduced or eliminated.**
- ◆ **Drinking water abstractions may be affected**
- ◆ **Sheep and cattle, particularly when lambing or calving are significant sources of Cryptosporidium and the risk is higher when animals have direct access to water.**
(SRFB)(Guidance leaflet)

Protection of waters

Farmers can help protect waters by creating **buffer strips** and **fencing** to prevent livestock access to watercourses.



A well protected small stream

Consider your management of bankside trees, livestock access, watercourse crossings, river-bank erosion.

Fence the riverbank to

- **restrict livestock access,**
- **reduce bank erosion,**
- **channel siltation**
- **water pollution.**

Plant native trees.

Be aware of invasive plant species such as the Japanese knotweed and Giant Hogweed. For more information or to report sites go to <http://www.biodiversityireland.ie/>

Monaghan

COUNTY COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CONTAE
MHUINEACHÁIN

**An cháilíocht uisce á feabhsú i
gContae Mhuineacháin**

**Out wintering of livestock
and Protection of waterways**



For further information contact:

The Environment Section,
Monaghan County Council.

Tel: 042 9661240

or your agricultural advisor.

<http://smartfarming.ie/>

Good practice needed when out-wintering livestock

Farm surveys show that out-wintering of livestock can lead to severe poaching (damage to land surface) and water pollution.



The “Nitrates Regulations” European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters), Regulations, 2014 has some requirements in relation to outwintering of livestock:

- ⇒ No dairy cows shall be outwintered
- ⇒ Maximum stocking rates apply to the outwintering area– i.e. 1.3 suckler cows per hectare (0.5 cows per acre approx) or 10 lowland ewes per hectare (4 sheep per acre approx.)
- ⇒ If outwintering the total amount of livestock manure produced on the farm cannot exceed 140kg Nitrogen/ ha.
- ⇒ Severe damage to the surface of the land by poaching must be prevented.

Re-

The heavy and often wet soils of Monaghan, are in many cases not suitable for out-wintering livestock. If out-wintering is being considered every effort must be made to minimise poaching and prevent any direct discharge of slurry, silt or soiled water from livestock feeding points to waters.

Location of Feeding Points

Never place a feeder next to a drain or watercourse as during times of heavy rainfall slurry and silt may be washed into the river. Feeders should be located at least 20m back from any watercourse.

The Good Agricultural Practice for protection of Waters Regulations 2014 states ‘feeders should be located at least 20m back from any watercourse and shall not be located on bare rock.’

Avoid areas of shallow soil and rock outcrop. Groundwater is very vulnerable to contamination in an area of rock outcrop.

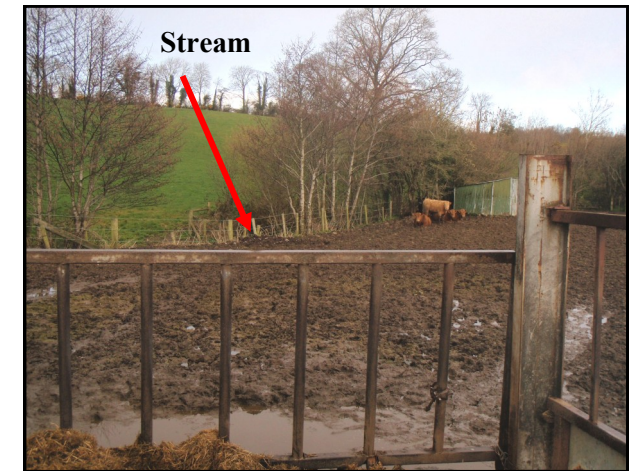
Never place feeders near wells.

Out winter livestock at a **low stocking rate** to help to reduce damage to the land and reduce risk of water pollution.

Déanann dea-chleachtais talmhaíochta cáilíocht uisce a chosaint.

Examples of poor practice

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2014.



“Sacrificed” land-overstocked and badly poached- a common problem in County Monaghan



Féadfaidh truailliú uisce a bheith ann de bharr talaimh ar a bhfuil an iomarca stoic agus-drochphóitseáil.