

## Summary: Poultry Producer and Manure End User Responsibilities

- ◆ Dispose of broiler litter via a licenced compost making facility where possible
- ◆ If land spreading poultry litter target suitable tillage lands
- ◆ Use poultry manure in accordance with crop nutrient requirements and the *'Nitrates' Regulations*
- ◆ Remove all animal carcasses from the poultry manure
- ◆ Use a Registered and Approved Contractor for transport of poultry manure
- ◆ Maintain detailed records of export/import operations for inspection.

## Summary: Haulier and Contractor Responsibilities

- Be familiar with disease prevention issues, environmental and record keeping requirements (Contractors AND drivers).
- Maintain detailed records of transport operations for inspection.
- Comply with good agricultural practices (*Nitrates Regulations*) in relation to delivery, storage and land spreading of manure.
- Notify the local authority immediately in the event of a spillage that is likely to enter water or a water drainage system.



## The Transport and Use of Poultry Manure

### Best Practice and Water Quality Protection

Cuireadh an treoirleabhrán seo le chéile d'fheirmeoirí, tarlóirí agus conraitheoirí a sholáthraíonn, a iompraíonn agus a dhiúscaíonn aoileach éanlaithe a thagann ó aonaid tógálaí dianghríosacháin do thurcaithe, cearca ubhbhreithe, lachain no éanlaith. Sa leabhrán seo tá achoimre ar na príomhcheisteanna timpeallachta maidir le haoileach a dhiúscairt.



This Guidance Note is intended for farmers hauliers and contractors who produce, transport or use poultry manure from intensive broiler, turkey, layer, duck or poultry breeder units.

## The Poultry Industry in Monaghan

Monaghan is the most important poultry producing area in Ireland. While Monaghan benefits economically from this industry the intensive nature of the poultry sector presents challenges for disease minimisation and environmental protection. Intensive poultry production in the county generates in excess of 130,000 tonnes of manure annually. The industry is highly dependent on sustainable off-farm outlets for re-use of manure.



Poultry housing units produce manure rich in **nitrogen** and **phosphorus**. Manure also contains a high level of microorganisms including disease-causing bacteria. While poultry manure is a valuable organic fertiliser it can pose a risk to human and animal health and the environment if not re-used properly.

**To maintain a sustainable poultry production sector there needs to be quality waste management system and traceability of manure movements.**

Most planning permissions and EPA licences for intensive poultry units were granted subject to off-farm use of manure as a fertiliser or for use in compost production. Such arrangements need a reliable recording system from producer, to haulier to final destination.



## Why water matters

Drinking water schemes in Monaghan abstract water from 22 lakes and 24 deep bore wells while many homes, farms and business depend on private wells. Clean water is also essential for our food industry and clean waterways are required to support Ireland's application for a derogation under the Nitrates Action Programme.

**Land spreading of manure should take account of sensitive areas and Water Safety or Source Protection Plans.**

While it is recognised that most intensive poultry units, hauliers and contractors operate to a high standard, problems do arise from time to time particularly where casual manure disposal arrangements occur.



**Casual or undocumented disposal arrangements have implications for both producer, haulier, receiving farmer and single farm payments**

### Tracking of manure movements

Under the *Nitrates Regulations* local authorities may seek records of manure movements. Both poultry farmers and contractors should make records available on request.

**Cross Border Movement of Manure** requires approval from the Department of Agriculture – contact the District Veterinary Office for further information.

**Further Information on sensitive waters**, source protection and water supply catchments is available in Monaghan's *County Development Plan 2013-2019* (refer to Chapter 4 and associated maps) and is available online and in local libraries.

## Off farm transport of manure

The Department of Agriculture has recently introduced a system of **registration and approval of contractors** who collect and distribute poultry manure.



Poultry farmers have two options in relation to recording manure export arrangements.

**Option 1:** The poultry manure producer records the export of manure to the registered contractor on Form 3. The registered contractor records details of the final destination of the manure on Form 3. Both poultry farmer and contractor must maintain appropriate records and submit records to the Department of Agriculture.



The EPA accepts the inclusion of a registered contractor for completion of the organic fertiliser register.

An updated list of registered contractors is available from: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/euapprovedabplants/> - see 'Other Approved Operators' listed on 'EU approved ABP plants'

**Option 2:** The poultry farmer (who decides not to use a registered contractor) completes Form 3 with date of movement, type of fertiliser, nutrient content, quantity removed, Total N and P, and importer farmer details - names, herd nos. and farmer signatures.

**Poultry farmers should record manure movements to a registered contractor or ensure full traceability of manure movements to the end-user.**

## Storage of manure

26 weeks manure storage capacity is required unless manure is used in a licenced recovery facility (e.g compost production yard). Manure storage facilities must be fit for purpose and have adequate arrangements in place for collection of soiled waters, if generated. Silt traps are recommended on clean yard drains leading to surface waters.

## Disposal of manure as an organic fertiliser

Tillage lands with high nutrient requirements should be targeted for land spreading of poultry manure. Poultry manure is rich in N & P. Over application of phosphorus on grasslands, has in the past, been a problem in County Monaghan.

Derogation farms, farming over 170KgN per hectare cannot accept imported organic fertilisers.



## Poultry manure types

Poultry litter: growers should

- ♦adhere to the Department of Agriculture guidelines on poultry litter systems,
- ♦partake in a Poultry Litter Assurance Scheme and
- ♦adhere to environmental best practice.

Poultry slurry: Additional care is required when exporting or importing slurry. **AVOID** application on steeply sloped lands, fields adjacent lakes, water supply catchments and areas of shallow soils with karst features or rock outcrop. Minimise risk to surface and ground water by careful selection of spread lands.

Air dried manure from layer units: farmers should adhere to industry and environmental best practice.

The disposal of all manure types must take account of the *Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations 2010* (also known as the 'Nitrates Regulations'). Those contracted to transport and use manure and their employees should know the location of both private wells, private and public water supply scheme sources.

## Prevention of disease from poultry litter

Not all poultry litter is accepted in compost manufacturing facilities. Poultry farmers and those involved in land spreading operations should be aware of Department of Agriculture guidelines for the *Spreading of Poultry Litter*. These guidelines include the following recommendations to reduce risk of disease in animals:

- Animals should not be grazed on lands on which poultry litter has been spread
- Where litter is ploughed into land, keep dust to a minimum and ensure that there are no grazing animals in adjacent fields
- Do not spread poultry litter that contains poultry carcasses or parts of carcasses
- Do not make silage from lands where litter has been land spread
- Avoid spreading or stockpiling in warm weather etc

**If land spreading poultry litter target tillage lands with immediate ploughing in.**

**Contaminated poultry litter:** If poultry litter becomes contaminated with carcasses it is no longer suitable for composting or land spreading. In such cases it may require disposal by rendering – a costly option for the producer.

Vigilance in the daily removal of carcasses is essential.



For full text of *Good Farming Practice: Disposal of Dead Birds from Poultry Houses* and *Good Farming Practice: Spreading of Poultry Litter on Land* refer to <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/diseasecontrol/botulism> or contact the Department of Agriculture's Animal Health Division.

## Land bank selection

The poultry farmer, contractor or the end user of the poultry manure should engage an agricultural advisor to assess the suitability of land banks for spreading manure. Lands should initially be screened for risk to both surface and groundwater and suitability in terms of the *Nitrates Regulations*. A “farm gate nutrient balance” is a useful tool but a nutrient management plan should be developed where significant quantities of poultry manure are spread.

Sensitive lake catchments, areas of extreme groundwater vulnerability and areas of wet soils may not be suitable for imported manure applications. Consult with the local authority regarding precautions to be taken in **sensitive areas** and in **water supply catchments**.

Soil analysis and nutrient management planning assist with correct application rates of organic fertiliser and help prevent excess application of nitrogen and phosphorus.

**Nitrates Regulations** Article 23 of the *Nitrates Regulations* requires the maintenance of detailed records of organic fertilisers moved onto or off a farm.

**Record Form 3: Department of Agriculture requires all farmers who export organic fertiliser to submit a completed Form 3 to the Nitrates Section by the 31 December of each year.**

Record Form 3 is available from: <http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/ruralenvironment/environment/nitrates/2013/>

