

The Tried & Tested newsletter is written by the Tried & Tested Team and is published bi-monthly.

### **European Nitrogen Assessment**

Launched in Edinburgh on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> the study, carried out by 200 experts from 21 countries and 89 organizations, estimates that the annual cost of damage caused by nitrogen across Europe is £60 - £280 billion (€70 -320 billion). They claim this is more than double the extra income gained from using nitrogen fertilizers in European agriculture.

Nitrogen pollution must be curbed, warned lead editor of the ENA, Dr Mark Sutton from the UK's Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, said: "Nearly half the world's population depends on synthetic, nitrogen-based fertilizer for food but measures are needed to reduce the impacts of nitrogen pollution. Solutions include more efficient use of fertilizers and manures, and people choosing to eat less meat. We have the know-how to reduce nitrogen pollution, but what we need now is to apply these solutions throughout Europe in an integrated way."

To read the report click [here](#) or [Google](#) the topic to see media coverage – including the reactions of [Farmers Guardian](#) and [Farmers Weekly](#).

### **Catchment Sensitive Farming capital grants still available**

Farmers in priority catchment areas have until the 30th April to apply for grants of up to £10,000 from the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative.

The scheme is open to farmers in 50 priority catchment areas across England for a range of improvements to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture, including constructing fencing near rivers and streams, introducing water troughs, and roofing manure and silage stores. The grant scheme is competitive and applications for priority items in target areas of each catchment are more likely to be successful. For more information about how to apply and to find out if you farm in a priority catchment click [here](#).

### **NVZ checklist – are you on track?**

By the end of April, farms within NVZs must be able to show records relating to slurry production and storage for the five-month storage period for cattle slurry. Import/export details must be included and up to date, along with sites and duration of use of FYM heaps. The whole farm limit for the amount of N produced during the previous year also needs to be recorded for the number and type of livestock kept on farm. If the farm was awarded the grassland derogation in 2010 they must send the EA records of livestock numbers, imports/exports of manure, fertiliser inventory and area of different crops to show they have complied with the terms of the grassland derogation.

The EA and planning professionals are warning that farmers who have yet to apply for planning permission for new/improved slurry storage may be hard pushed to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> January deadline.

### **Technical advice on N use**

The second issue of technical advice on N use this season, provided by ADAS and agreed with Defra is now available and can be downloaded from the Tried & Tested [website](#). The advice provides a map of winter rainfall and guidance on seasonal effects on soil N supply. Reminders for complying with the NVZ Action programme rules are also given.

## **RB209 errata**

The revised PDF of The Fertiliser Manual (RB209) 8<sup>th</sup> edition, containing the errata at the front, and a separate PDF of just the errata, are now available for download from Defra's [website](#) or can be found in the Tried & Tested [library](#).

## **Ian's blog - GHG emissions; an issue that won't go away**

Our top blogger Ian Richards discusses the launch of the greenhouse gas action plan (GHGAP) in relation to nutrient management and reminds us of a few tips to ensure our nutrient practices, especially of nitrogen, seek to minimise negative environmental impacts. Click [here](#) to read Ian's blog.

## **Events**

Tried & Tested will be at the following events, please drop in to collect your free resources and for advice on nutrient management.

- South West Green Trade Fair. Salisbury Racecourse, 27<sup>th</sup> April.
- Farmway Grassland Open Day. Clifton Castle Farm, N. Yorks. 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- Grassland and Muck. Stoneleigh Park, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May.

For more details of these and other events go to the Tried & Tested [events page](#).

## **Tell us what you think!**

Your feedback on the Tried & Tested Nutrient Management Plan is extremely valuable and will help us evaluate the plan in the future. Please help us by taking a few minutes to complete our online survey [here](#).

## **Blog your views on nutrient management**

Would you like to share your views and experiences on nutrient management? We are looking for a farmer to contribute to a monthly column for the new Tried & Tested website. A small remuneration is on offer. Please contact Rebecca Wells on [rebecca.wells@nfu.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.wells@nfu.org.uk) for details.

## **The nutrient management website**

Please visit [www.nutrientmanagement.org](http://www.nutrientmanagement.org) for your one-stop-shop for nutrient management advice, events, news and much more. You can contact us [contact us](#) if you have any feedback or ideas for publications, events etc. that we should feature on the site. We look forward to hearing from you!

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Tried & Tested is part of a project to provide advice on nutrient management to farmers and advisers through a strategic partnership between the Professional Nutrient Management Group (NFU, FWAG, LEAF, AIC and CLA) and the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative (ECSFDI)