

Source Control Options for P & N

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Source Control Options for P & N

- **Sources of nutrient losses from farms:**
 - Nutrient management and use of fertilisers
 - Farmyards
 - » Collection and storage of nutrients
 - » Management of farmyards
 - Land management
 - » Livestock
 - » Crops
 - » Soil
 - » Farm infrastructure
 - Pesticides
 - » Best practice & training
 - Farmer practice / behaviour

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Nutrient management and use:

- GAP Regulations (SI no 605 of 2017) detail requirements
- NMP On-Line is updated to include all new elements
 - » Soil sampling
 - » Stocking Rates & Fertiliser application limits
 - » High OM (>20%) peat soils
 - » Apply to Crop Nutrient Requirements
 - » Spreading dates and use of LESS Technology
- Additional farmer controls
 - » Liming & clover
 - » Nutrient mining
 - » Precision application of fertiliser
 - » Use of straight fertilisers
 - » Avail of new technologies; GPS and Protected Urea, LESS & improved spreading equipment



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Farmyard Management:

- GAP Regulations (SI no 605 of 2017)
 - » Minimisation of soiled water
 - » Collection and storage of nutrients
 - » Minimum storage requirements
- Farmyard management including the collection / storage and management of organic manures is a crucial part of complying with the GAP Regulations.

Good Agricultural Practice - Minimise the source



Photos courtesy of REPS farmer



Storage facilities, 22 weeks, SR 170 kgN/ha,
minimal soiled areas, Guttering and downpipes,
well managed facilities



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Land Management:

- Livestock
 - » Stocking rate – appropriate for land type
 - » Out wintering – in accordance with the GAP Regulations
 - » Reduce livestock over winter period to reduce volume of slurry generated
 - » Restrict access to drains/streams/rivers
 - » Changes to feed/diet – excess N & P in feed
- Crops
 - » Use of crops that promote improved water infiltration
- Soil
 - » Soil management plan – to assess whole farm and plot soils
- Farm Infrastructure
 - » Can be a source where poorly managed
 - » Where good infrastructure is in place it can help reduce nutrient sources



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Pesticide Use:

- Apply in accordance with best practice
 - » Farmer completed Professional User Course
 - » Spraying equipment has been tested
 - » Follow manufacturers specifications on application rates
 - » Follow integrated pest management (IPM) – mechanical control, timing of applications etc.
 - » Apply appropriate product
 - » Allow appropriate buffers
 - » Check weather forecast

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Farmer Practice and Behaviour

- Spend time talking with farmers
- See things from a farmer perspective
- Awareness of wider impact on farm and family
- Build up trust and credibility
- Explain/educate and help with understanding
- Offer practical advice
- Listen & encourage
- Provide options and examples

