

Water mixed with slurry becomes high in nutrients and can cause problems for our rivers and streams.

High nutrients cause **eutrophication**, accelerating growth of algae and other forms of plant life. This results in significant deterioration of water quality by severely reducing the oxygen content needed by fish in water when the algae and plant growth begin to decay.

Main Water Pollution Sources

- Industrial/Trade Discharges
- Sewage Plants and Septic Tanks
- Farmyards and Land Run-off
- Silt run off from quarries & sandpits

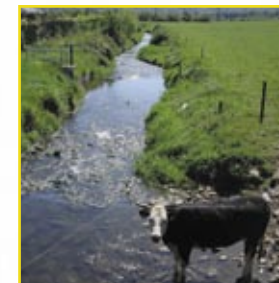
Positive Action for Farmers

- Reduce the amount of contaminated “dirty” water produced on the farm. Collect clean water from building gutters and divert away from the farmyard to avoid soiling.
- Continually assess nutrient usage on your land. Be certain the land requires fertiliser before application.
- Strictly adhere to the agriculture regulations in relation to slurry spreading.

Safeguard local watercourses; maintain the required buffer zone when applying fertiliser or any other chemicals.

Consider your storage capacity and handling arrangements for the following farm materials.

- Livestock Slurry
- Fuel
- Fertilisers
- Pesticides
- Silage Effluent
- Oils
- Veterinary Medicines



Continually assess nutrient usage on the farm

- Adhere strictly to the Agricultural Regulations in relation to Slurry Spreading.
- Reduce the amount of contaminated “dirty” water produced on your farm.
- Maintain appropriate buffer zones from all watercourses as stipulated in the Regulations when applying fertilisers and other chemicals to the land.
- If an accidental spillage of slurry or chemicals occurs on your farm, notify the Council to ensure no public or private water supplies are at risk.



Be a Good Neighbour

- 💧 Avoid spreading close to domestic or public buildings
- 💧 Spread livestock slurries and manures when the wind direction is blowing away from public and domestic areas when possible
- 💧 Locate any field heaps or farmyard manure at an appropriate distance from watercourses, springs and neighbouring residences. Consider the slope and gradient of the land.
- 💧 Spread livestock slurries when ground and weather conditions are favourable. Check the weather in advance of these activities.
- 💧 Remember to notify the Council should you have an accidental slurry or chemical spill on your farm. A public or private water supply may be at risk. Water monitoring may be required by the Council to ensure the spillage does not pose a threat to drinking water quality.



Be good to your local waterways

- 💧 Do not allow runoff from farmyards and hard standing areas to discharge directly into a stream or river.
- 💧 Do not locate your ring feeder close to rivers or streams. This will increase run off from the ring feeder area into the waterway and could cause pollution.
- 💧 Restrict livestock access to waterways. This encourages soil erosion and has a negative impact on water quality. Ideally provide a water trough instead.
- 💧 Never directly spray pesticides over a stream or river, even when it's dry. The spray may kill off eggs of water insects present in the stream/river bed which will hatch out when wet conditions return.
- 💧 If you are employing agricultural contractors to spread fertilisers or slurry remember as the landowner it's your responsibility to make them aware of their legal requirements under the relevant Regulations.

If you would like any further information about any issues raised in this leaflet please feel free to contact the environmental staff

Environment Section

South Tipperary County Council
County Hall, Emmet Street
Clonmel
Co. Tipperary

Freephone: 1800 20 26 27
Tel: 052 34882 / 34887
Fax: 052 34391
E-mail: environ@southtippcoco.ie



South Tipperary County Council
Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann Theas

POSITIVE ACTIONS TO BEAT FARM WATER POLLUTION

