

New covered farmyard manure store to replace compliant field heaps

Funding is offered towards the cost of constructing a new covered farmyard manure (FYM) store where current farm practice involves the storage of FYM in field heaps which are compliant with water pollution rules but there remains a risk of runoff from the heap/s entering a watercourse (see the additional information section below for information on what constitutes a compliant FYM heap).

Funding is only awarded where there is agreement to stop storing outside the tonnage of FYM which the store can hold once the store is constructed. By storing manure undercover, the risk of nutrient-rich runoff from the heaps entering a watercourse is removed. A member of the project team will review the merits of each proposal for phosphorus reduction, with successful proposals offered a contribution towards the cost of the work.

Length of agreement available

- 10 years from the date of completion of the work. This is the minimum period of time that the covered farmyard manure store should be kept and maintained in good working order and FYM not stored in field heaps.

Where to use this measure

- Where current farm practice involves managing FYM as field heaps which are compliant with water pollution rules but there is a risk of runoff from the heap/s entering a watercourse. Field heaps are permitted by current regulation, subject to their location and management meeting Nitrate Vulnerable Zone and Farming Rules for Water rules.
- For the storage of FYM in farm yards only
- In some circumstances where Countryside Stewardship Capital Items grant RP28 (*Roofing of sprayer washdown area, manure storage area, livestock gathering area, slurry stores, silage stores*) is accessed to fund the construction of the frame and roof of a FYM store, Wessex Water may be able to make a contribution towards the cost of the rest of the structure (e.g. the floor, walls and effluent tank).

Where this measure cannot be used

- Where current farm practice involves storing of FYM in field heaps in a manner which is not compliant with water pollution rules (Farming Rules for Water, Nitrate Vulnerable Zone, Environmental Permitting Regulations and the Water Resources (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations.
- Without relevant planning permission consent from the Local Planning Authority

Requirements

- Final designs and product specifications must be approved in writing by a member of the project team
- Construct new FYM store according to final approved designs and product specifications and do not store FYM in field heaps for the duration of the agreement
- Build a roof structure that is impermeable to rainwater
- The store must have an impermeable concrete floor which should slope to the back of the store to retain any effluent within the store
- The store must be bunded with impermeable concrete panels/walls which are load bearing and meet British Standards
- Funding is only awarded where there is agreement from the farmer to stop storing outside the tonnage of FYM which the store can hold once the store is constructed. There will be a net reduction in the amount of FYM stored outside as a result. The store will significantly reduce or eliminate the volume of FYM that is stored outside as field heaps
- Any effluent generated from the FYM inside the store must be collected and stored and not allowed to run out the front of the store.
- Install a SSAFO compliant effluent tank to store any effluent generated from the FYM in the store. Do not locate the tank within 10 metres of a watercourse. The effluent tank, pipes and channels must be impermeable and meet the anti-corrosion standards set in the British Standard. They should last for 20 years without maintenance. The base and walls of the effluent tank must withstand the wall loadings set in the standard
- If your effluent tank is fitted with a drainage pipe it must have 2 valves separated by at least 1 metre. Each valve must be able to shut off the flow of slurry and be locked when not in use
- Install a drain within the store to collect and direct any effluent into an effluent tank. Effluent may be directed to the farm's slurry store instead of an effluent tank if the FYM store is located close to the slurry store, AND if evidence can be provided which show that the effluent generated from the FYM store will not push the farm into operating with less than the slurry storage requirement (4 months outside of an NVZ and 5 months inside an NVZ).
- Retain the covered FYM store for the purpose of storing of FYM only for at least 10 years from the date of construction. This is the minimum length of time that the FYM store should be kept and maintained in good working order
- The current management of FYM must be compliant with the rules contained in Farming Rules for Water and NVZs if inside an Nitrate Vulnerable Zone. The farm should also be compliant with the Environmental Permitting Regulations and the Water Resources (Silage, Slurry and Agricultural Fuel Oil) Regulations.

Consents and permits

- Planning permission or Prior Notification (Agricultural Exemption) may be required
- Notify EA if installing an effluent tank

Record keeping and payment terms

Agreement holders will need to keep the following records and supply them with the payment claim. Payment will only be made upon satisfactory receipt of all of the following records:

- Photographs of the site before and after once the covered farmyard manure store is constructed
- Copies of any consents or permissions connected with the work
- Copies of any quotes connected with the work
- Farm and field information needed to run a phosphorus loss tool for the farm and calculate the reduction in phosphorus loss to water arising from this work. This will include farm data relating to livestock numbers, cropping areas and fertiliser / manure inputs.
- Self-declaration that the terms of the project agreement have been adhered to (key terms are listed above).
- Successful applicants are required to sign a declaration confirming that:

o reasonable precautions are taken to prevent nutrients and soil from the relevant field entering watercourses or from being leached to groundwater - to an extent that could cause pollution.

o the relevant fields have not been (i) the source of a recorded pollution incident which could have been prevented by the farmer taking reasonable precautions to prevent that pollution and/or (ii) the subject of a warning, fine, prosecution or BPS deduction issued to the farmer by the Environment Agency or RPA for a breach of NVZ rules or Farming Rules for Water in the past 5 years.

- It is expected that to support and inform the above declaration, successful applicants will complete the Environment Agency's Agricultural Compliance Tool (ACT) by 31st December in each year of the agreement and submit it when completed to Wessex Water (who will hold it in confidence) and address any actions identified by the ACT. For agreements involving annual payments of more than 5 years duration and/or with a value in excess of £5,000 of annual payments, this is a requirement.

Additional information

The storage of FYM as field heaps can present a pollution risk with the potential for runoff from the heap entering a watercourse.

A compliant FYM heap must:

- not be stored within at least 10 metres from any surface water (such as a river, pond or ditch) or land drain, or 3 metres if the land slopes at 12 degrees or more
- not be stored on land where there is a significant risk of pollution entering inland freshwaters or coastal waters
- not be located within at least 50 metres from a spring, well or borehole

As well as the above if you farm within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone temporary field heaps must also:

- be made from manure solid enough to be stacked in a freestanding heap
- not give rise to free drainage from within the stacked material
- be covered with a waterproof material if they contain poultry manure without bedding or litter
- occupy as small a surface area as is needed to support the weight of the heap without it collapsing
- not be located in areas that are liable to being waterlogged or flooded
- be moved at least every 12 months leaving a two-year gap before returning to the same site and a record kept of the sites used for field heaps and the dates of use

Farming Rules for Water - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/applying-the-farming-rules-for-water/applying-the-farming-rules-for-water>

Storing organic manures in nitrate vulnerable zones - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-organic-manures-in-nitrate-vulnerable-zones>

Countryside Stewardship RP28: Roofing (sprayer washdown area, manure storage area, livestock gathering area, slurry stores, silage stores) - <https://www.gov.uk/countryside-stewardship-grants/roofing-sprayer-washdown-area-manure-storage-area-livestock-gathering-area-slurry-stores-silage-stores-rp28>

Storing silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil (SSAFO) - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/storing-silage-slurry-and-agricultural-fuel-oil>

Using farmyard manure (FYM) - <https://ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/using-farmyard-manure-fym#:~:text=Storing%20livestock%20manures%20in%20NVZs,e.g.%20more%20than%2012%C2%B0>

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) operates in parts of the country where there are water quality issues linked to farming. The scheme provides farmers with free advice and training. See guidance for further information on [CSF](#).