

Revisiting Farm Environment Plans

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FAR

ADDING VALUE TO THE BUSINESS OF CROPPING

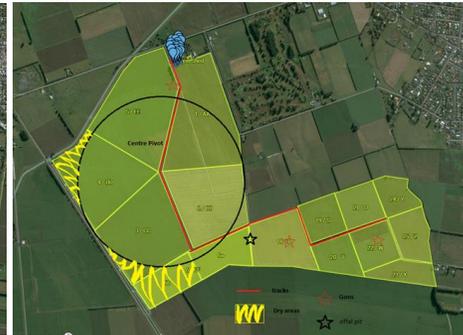


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Freshwater plans

Requirements:

- A farm map identifying features such as waterways, critical source areas, high erosion-prone areas and other risks to the health of the freshwater ecosystem
- A risk assessment across specific activities including irrigation, application of nutrients and effluent, winter grazing, stock-holding areas, stock exclusion, offal pits, and farm rubbish pits
- A schedule of actions to manage identified features and address identified risks.



Updating the FAR FEP template

Management Section for the Freshwater Plan

Refers to pages 13-18 in the Template Guide.

Nutrients

Management Objective	To use nutrients efficiently and minimise nutrient losses to water Nutrient losses do not exceed consented nitrogen loss limits.		
Targets	Nitrogen losses from farming activities are at or below Good Management Practice Loss Rates and nitrogen limits. Nutrient losses do not exceed consented nitrogen loss limits. Available mitigation measures for nitrogen losses are implemented. Phosphorus losses from farming activities are minimised. The amount, rate and timing of fertiliser applied does not exceed the agronomic requirements of the crop. Fertilisers are stored, loaded and applied in ways that minimise the risk of spillage, leaching and loss to water bodies.		
Identified Risks	Risks associated with nutrient management on the farm:		
Key Actions Management changes to reduce environmental risks relating to nutrient management	When	Evidence of completion	

Documenting farm practices

<p>Good management practices currently employed to address the environmental risks associated with nutrients</p> <p>Use this list of management practices to identify what is already being done on your farm and what you might consider changing in the future.</p> <p>Your answers will assist with the development of a plan to reduce and manage the environmental risks on your farm</p>	<p>Level (Indicate answer) Y = Yes S = Sometimes N = No NA = Not applicable</p>
<p>Develop a soil testing strategy to ensure all paddocks have regular soil tests and the sample collection is representative of the cropped area.</p>	
<p>Test the soil before preparing a crop nutrient budget for available N (AMN test) and/or mineralisable N (Deep N test). <i>The AMN test is a measure of Nitrogen mineralised under specific laboratory conditions. The actual amount of nitrogen that will be mineralised in the field depends on soil temperature and moisture. The deep N test measures the nitrate-N and ammonium-N levels at the time of sampling.</i></p>	
<p>Prepare a pre-season nutrient budget for each crop, taking into consideration a realistic crop yield (use your long-term average yield as a guide) and likely soil supply of N (from soil tests) and amount of residue from the previous crop. <i>Your fertiliser consultant or farm advisor will prepare pre-season crop budgets for you if required.</i></p>	
<p>Prepare a post-season nutrient budget to show how well your risk assessment and management practices are improving the nutrient management on your farm. An Overseer nutrient budget is an example of a post – season nutrient budget. <i>Overseer nutrient budgets also provide useful information about nutrient flows on the farm.</i></p>	

Why do I have to prepare a greenhouse gas farm plan?

- Enable farmers and growers to understand their agricultural emissions
- Understand their opportunities for reductions
- Analyse the potential impacts and benefits of these for their business
- Make informed decisions
- Take-action accordingly
- A farm plan may also be used for reporting and to verify on-farm emissions, however, this decision will not be made until late 2021.
- The FAR Farm Environment Plan template will deliver on the greenhouse gas farm planning commitment.



Accurate records

Maintain accurate records of annual farm inputs, outputs, and management practices relating to on-farm emissions.



At a basic level (e.g. for the Lincoln Carbon Calculator), you need to know:

- ✓ farm size
- ✓ stock types
- ✓ number of each stock type
- ✓ production information (e.g. total kg milk solids or carcass weight, and percentage share of revenue)
- ✓ fuel usage (to estimate carbon dioxide emissions)
- ✓ nitrogen fertiliser application
- ✓ purchased feed





Questions and Discussion

