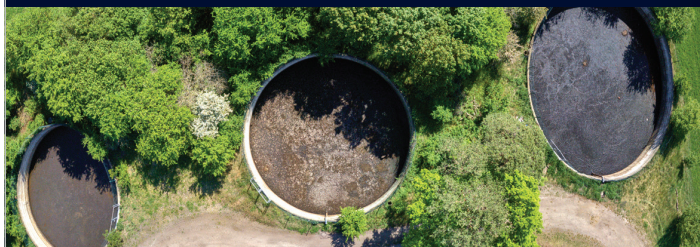




Manure and slurry
analysis for optimal crop
nutrition management



NRM is the UK's largest independent provider of agronomic analysis for the land-based industries. Our manure and slurry services give information on the nutrient value of farm and waste products to help you save on fertiliser inputs, minimise the risk of nutrient leaching, and reduce negative impacts on the local and wider environment.

Our UKAS accredited analysis services are unrivalled. We offer a customer focussed, fast turnaround service for standard manure and slurry, potentially toxic elements, neutralising value, organic matter/ash content, and uric acid nitrogen analysis.

Manure and slurry sampling

It is important that sampling is carried out carefully to provide representative samples for analysis. We recommend sampling manure and slurry for analysis at least twice per year to coincide with the main spreading periods. The optimal sampling frequency will vary depending on manure management on the farm.

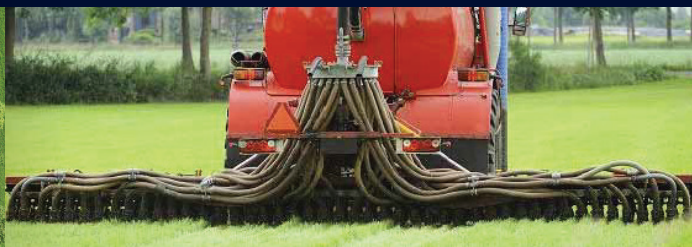
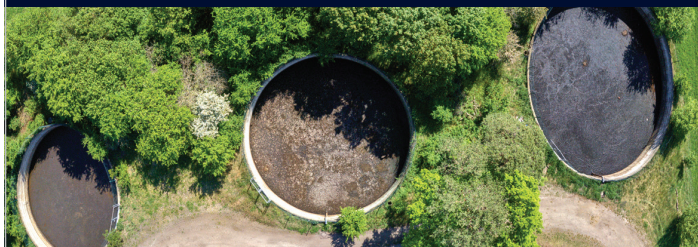


Why test manure and slurry?

All livestock farmers have a valuable source of key plant nutrients and organic matter in the form of manure and slurry. There is increasing governmental and advisory encouragement to analyse manures returned to farmland. This is a result of the environmental risk and the increasing economic value these important resources represent.

The nutrient management guide, RB209, summarises standard nutrient values for many livestock and organic materials. However, these can vary considerably, often directly affecting soil and crop condition. High quality manure returned to land has benefits outside of the nutrients it contains, such as improving the soil's water holding capacity, drought resistance, and physical/structural stability. It also enhances the biological activity of the soil, improving soil condition, increasing nutrient supply, and leading to greater yields.

Measuring the nutritional value of manures and slurries ensures you only supply what the crop requires, reducing reliance on expensive inorganic fertilisers. Crop nutrient management plans can be tailored to account for the nutrients supplied by manures, meeting requirements for optimal yield, productivity, and profitability. Analysis also reduces the risk of nutrient oversupply, which can lead to nutrient leaching and the subsequent pollution of surface and groundwaters.



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Liquid manure

For general liquid manure, the sampling process is as follows:

- Collect at least 5 sub-samples of 2 litres each and pour into a large container
- Thoroughly mix the bulked sample
- Subsample the mixed bulked sample
- Take a representative sample of 250ml, in a clean, screw-topped, plastic container
- Leave 2-3cm of airspace to allow the sample to be shaken at the laboratory
- Send the sample to NRM as quickly as possible.

Solid manure

For solid manure sampling, you should:

- Take at least 10 sub-samples of about 1kg each
- Place on a clean, dry tray or sheet
- Break up any lumps and thoroughly mix the sample
- Take a representative sample of around 500g for analysis
- Despatch in five separate plastic bags, expelling excess air before sealing. You can order your free sample bags from NRM
- Label samples clearly, providing as much information as possible.

For all samples, complete the sample details (including your sample reference) on the analysis form and on the bottle/bags. Please note that the request form must accompany the sample to the laboratory.

Selecting a manure/slurry analysis package

In most cases, our standard manure/slurry suite will provide you with all the necessary information to ensure appropriate applications to land. This includes dry matter, total and available nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, calcium, copper, sodium, sulphur, zinc, and pH.

For poultry manures, we recommend adding the uric acid nitrogen test. This can account for up to 40% of the available portion. Additional analyses can be added, such as organic matter and any potentially toxic elements. We can also identify neutralising values as calcium carbonate or calcium oxide equivalents.

We recommend the use of these tests alongside soil analysis to give you a full picture of the nutrients being supplied and made available to the crop.

Please contact us to discuss which analysis option is best for your requirements.

Contact us on 01344 886338
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