



# Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin Monaghan County Council

Environmental Protection  
Agency

29 OCT 2014

Acmhainní Daonna  
Human Resources  
047 30586

Airgeadas  
Finance  
047 30589

Na Bóithre  
Roads  
047 30597

Clár na dTogthóirí  
Register of Electors  
047 30547

Comhshaol  
Environment  
047 30593

Deontais Ardoideachais  
Higher Education Grants  
047 30550

Na hEalaíona  
Arts  
047 71114

Iasachtaí /Deontais Tithíochta  
Housing Loans/Grants  
047 30527

Leabharlann an Chontae  
County Library  
047 74700

Mótarcháin  
Motor Tax  
047 81175

Músaem an Chontae  
County Museum  
047 82928

Pleanáil  
Planning  
047 30532

Pobal & Fiontar  
Community & Enterprise  
047 73719

Rialú Dóiteáin/Foirgnimh  
Fire/Building Control  
047 30521

Seirbhís Uisce  
Water Services  
047 30504

Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use,

EPA Headquarters, PO Box 3000,

Johnstown castle Estate,

Co Wexford

23/10/2014

Reg. No P0995-01

A Chara,

Further to your correspondence of 13/08/2014  
please find attached comments and recommendations from  
Monaghan County Council in relation to intensive agricultural  
enterprises and associated activities.

Is mise I meas

Declan McKernan,

Senior Executive Engineer,

Environment Section,

Carrickmacross Civic Offices,

Riverside Road

Carrickmacross

Co Monaghan

Fáltaíonn an tUdarás Áitiúil roimh chomhfhreagras i nGaeilge.

Comhairle Contae Mhuineacháin, Oifigí an Chontae, An Gleann, Muineachán, Éire.

Monaghan County Council, Council Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, Ireland.

☎ 00353 47 30500 📠 00353 47 82739 🌐 www.monaghan.ie

✉ eolas@monaghancoco.ie info@monaghancoco.ie

## Intensive Agricultural Enterprises and Manure Management - Co Monaghan

**Background:** While there are some positive signs of improvement in water quality in County Monaghan, over 50% of river sites monitored in the 2010 to 2012 period show excess phosphorus levels and many of our lakes are strongly eutrophic. There are significant legacy issues with excess phosphorus in the county; however, in combination with ongoing measures to protect and improve water quality, it is essential that the intensive agriculture sector manage manure in a sustainable manner. In order to avoid a contribution to diffuse source pollution and cumulative effects, a sector approach to manure management is considered necessary. Transport of manure to tillage lands or energy crops and the use of alternative technologies are part of the solution for sustainable manure management. Where land spreading of manure within County Monaghan is being considered nutrient management planning and assessment of land banks by professional agri/environmental scientists in consultation with relevant public authorities is required. Restrictions on manure imports to protected areas, water supply catchments and hydro geological susceptible areas must be considered. A responsible transport sector, traceability and monitoring systems also play a role in sustainable manure management.

- (a) Transport and management of manures should take account of industry best practice, the European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014, Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 to 2019, River Basin Management Plans and DAFM requirements under the Animal Byproducts Regulations.
- (b) Intensive agricultural enterprises and their agents land spreading manure/organic fertilizer should take account of hydrogeological susceptible areas, soil/subsoil characteristics, runoff risk and the sensitive areas identified in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2013 to 2019. All necessary measures including nutrient management planning should be taken to minimize the loss of phosphorus to waters. Land banks in the vicinity of water supply sources, their feeder streams and source protection zones should not be used for land spreading imported manures.
- (c) A fully traceable manure/organic fertiliser movement system should be maintained by licensee and transporters and available for inspection by persons authorized under the Water Pollution Acts (1977 – 2007).

## Minimisation of impact of storm water runoff

**Background:** Siltation has been identified as a significant issue in the loss of fishery value. Sediments transported to streams can contain phosphorus and other contaminants. Hard surface runoff and yards subject to dusts, feed delivery and manure movement traffic can generate contaminated runoff. Supplementary measures are recommended to capture and remove contaminants and fine sediments from storm water runoff.

- (d) Hard surface areas should be provided with an effective silt trap. Soft engineering solutions/SuDS should be provided downstream of the silt trap to minimize sediment loss and cumulative effects of low level contaminated discharges reaching waters with fishery value.

## Protection of River Corridors

- (e) Development associated with intensive agricultural enterprises should not adversely affect river corridors. Where possible river and stream corridors (both river bed and banks) should be enhanced to protect and improve biodiversity, water quality and fishery value.