

# AGRICULTURAL SPREADING OF SLURRY

February 2020



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## Position statement

**SEPA's position on slurry spreading was withdrawn in April 2020 given ground conditions across Scotland's agricultural land improved significantly enabling slurry spreading to be undertaken in line with General Binding Rule 18**

Significant rainfall over the winter period, but especially between December and now, has resulted in water-logged ground conditions for livestock farmers across Scotland. We're aware of the pressure this has placed on many land managers as they attempt to farm in-line with current regulations, especially in relation to spreading their slurry on waterlogged fields. These land managers now find their storage facilities filling up quickly with the potential for causing significant point source pollution and animal welfare issues.

To alleviate this pressure, discussions have been held with the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) around what guidance can be provided on spreading practices which will reduce the pressure on slurry storage systems whilst ensuring adequate environmental protection of the water environment remains in place. There are a number of practical solutions which can be used and we would encourage individual land managers to contact their local SEPA office for advice or on site guidance before spreading on land in contravention of the regulations, to help them reduce the potential for pollution.

Similar conditions have prompted guidance to be produced before, particularly during 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2017. Under SEPA guidance, over 150 farmers were advised on spreading slurry when ground conditions were less than ideal with no environmental pollution events being recorded.

Further information is available on [SEPA's website](#).

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