



THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES & FOOD
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA, IASCAIGH AGUS BIA

Guidance on Cross Compliance Part 2

Environmental Measures

INTEGRATED CONTROLS DIVISION



CAP Reform & Cross Compliance

The latest CAP reform which Decoupled Support Payments from production was implemented in Ireland in 2005

This led to the introduction of the Single Farm Payment and the associated Cross Compliance requirements

There are 5 Management Requirements (SMR's) dealing with Environmental Issues



Environmental SMR's

*Surface water
and
Groundwater*

Nitrates (SMR4)

Groundwater (SMR2)

*Protection
of Soil*

**Sewage Sludge
(SMR3)**

*Protection of
Nature*

Wild birds (SMR1)

Habitats (SMR5)



SMR1 Conservation of Wild Birds

Farmers must observe the general provisions of the Wildlife Acts with regard to the protection of birds. The SMR is concerned with the actions that must be avoided so as to ensure wild birds are protected such as:

The illegal hunting/shooting/snaring/trapping or poisoning of birds or animals in respect of protected species or in closed season with regards to other species

Are birds or birds nests being deliberately disturbed during the nesting season (eg Hedge Trimming)



SMR2 PROTECTION OF GROUNDWATER AGAINST POLLUTION

This SMR Concerns

- Appropriate Storage of Chemicals and Hydrocarbons;
- Disposal of Sheep dip;





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Risk of oil leak to groundwater



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Proper Storage of Waste Oil





SMR3: PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SOIL WHERE SEWAGE SLUDGE IS APPLIED TO LAND

Sludge use on agricultural land must be in accordance with National Legislation

Sludge must be used in accordance with a nutrient management plan.

The soil must be analysed to establish if the land is suitable for the application of sludge.



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PROTECTION OF WATER

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SMR4: THE PROTECTION OF WATER DIRECTIVE

This Important EU Directive is concerned with the protection of water from pollution by Nitrates and Phosphates

✓ Why is it of concern?

Nitrate is very soluble and easily leached from the soil where preventative action is not taken

Excess Phosphorus can easily be lost, particularly by overland flow, to surface waters



NITRATE REGULATIONS

From 1st February 2006, the Nitrates Regulations provide for a range of measures to be implemented on a “phased basis”

These measures are concerned with:

1. Farmyard Management
2. Nutrient Management
3. Record keeping
4. Controls



Farmyard Management

You must provide for:

The Minimisation of soiled water generation

- Ø Rainwater from roofs, unsoiled paved areas & water flowing from higher ground onto a farmyard should be diverted to a clean water outfall to avoid becoming soiled
- Ø Soiled water has a BOD less than 2500 mg/l, & DM less than 1%

Adequate collection of effluents and other organic fertilisers

Adequate Storage of organic fertilisers



Farmyard Management

Livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water, effluents from dungsteeds, FYM and silage pits produced in either buildings or yards must be collected to prevent run-off or seepage.

Storage facilities must be free of structural defect in order to prevent run-off or seepage into groundwater or surface water

Storage facilities must comply with DAF specifications



Farmyard Management

Capacity of Storage Facilities

There are defined storage periods for livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure pits, and silage pits

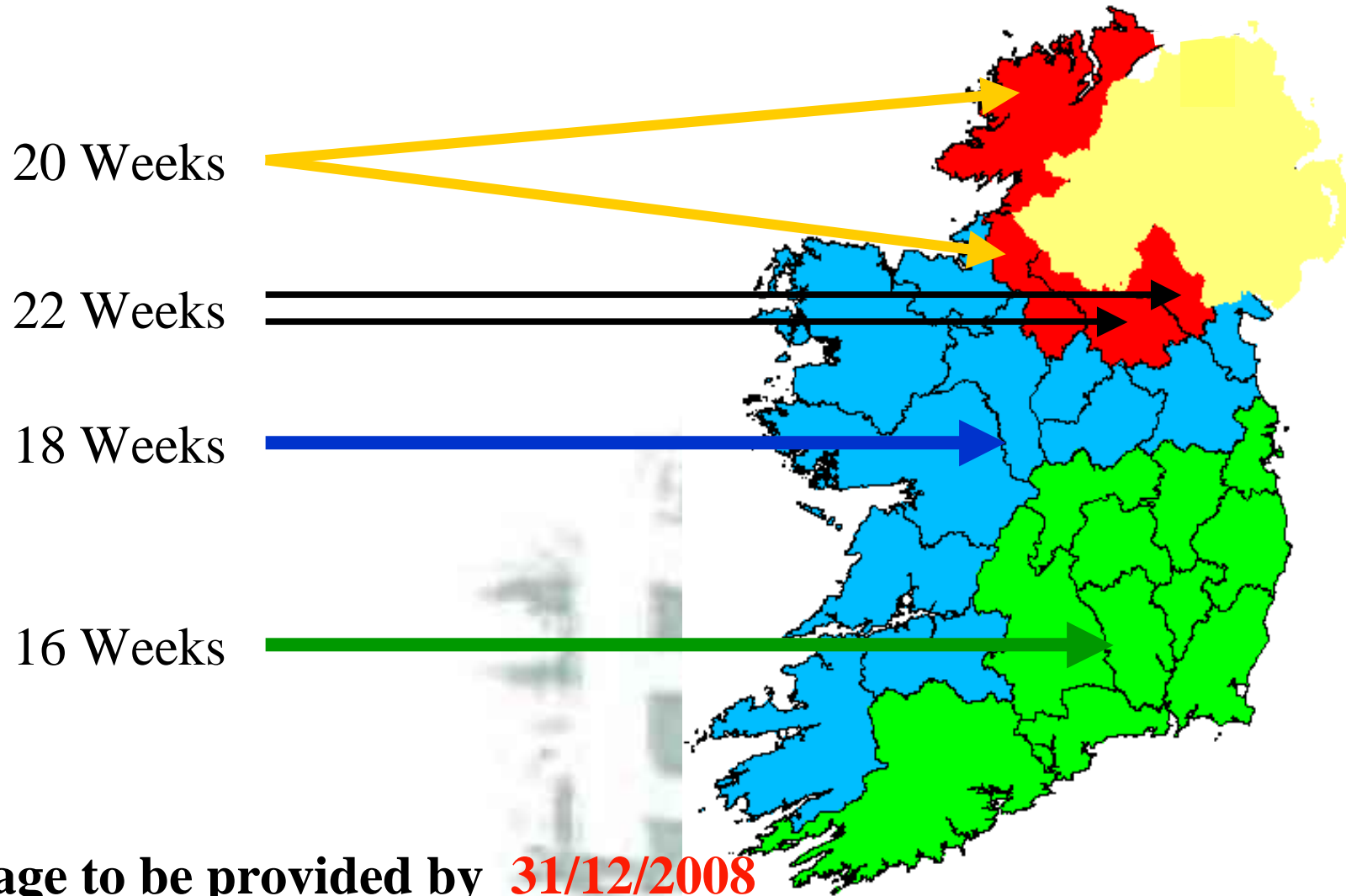
Account should also be taken of any extra storage required because of:

- § Adverse weather conditions
- § Extended periods of wet weather
- § Frozen ground or otherwise

Occupiers must have exclusive use of those facilities



Cattle Manure Storage Capacity Requirements



Storage to be provided by **31/12/2008**



Storage Capacity Requirements

Soiled water - 10 days storage
required by 31/12/08

Pig manure - 26 weeks storage
required by 31/12/06

Reduced requirement in certain circumstances

Poultry manure - 26 weeks
storage required by 31/12/08

Reduced requirement in certain circumstances



Farmyard Management: Reduced Storage Capacity

Reduced Storage also possible where the occupier has:

- Ø A contract for exclusive access to adequate alternative storage capacity located outside the holding
- Ø A contract for access to a treatment facility for livestock manure, or
- Ø A contract for the transfer of the manure to a person authorised under the Waste Management or EPA Acts



Farmyard Management: Reduced Storage Capacity

Reduced capacity for grazing livestock is permissible if cattle (excl. dairy cows) are outwintered at a grassland stocking rate not exceeding 85 kg N/ha (sheep, deer and goats not exceeding 130 kg N/ha) and provided:

- n Holding stocking rate does not exceed 140 kg N/ha/year
- n Lands used for outwintering are part of the holding
- n Outwintered stock have free access at all times to the required lands
- n Severe poaching does not occur
- n Reduction in storage capacity is proportionate to number of outwintered livestock



Nutrient Management

Fertilisation programme for the holding

The amount of nitrogen and phosphorus applied to crops must not exceed the rates in the Regulations

In the absence of a soil test for phosphorus, Index 3 must be assumed (only maintenance levels may be applied)

The amount of Nitrogen and Phosphorus in livestock manures and their availabilities are detailed in the tables in the Regulations



Limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied

The total nitrogen from livestock manure **applied** on the holding must not be greater than 170 kg N/ha/year
(2 dairy cows/ha)

In respect of the 170 limit the area of the holding shall be deemed to be the **net area** of the holding

The Department will send you a Nitrogen and Phosphorous statement each year. You should use this to ensure that you are in compliance with the fertilisation limits



Application of fertilisers and soiled water

Apply in uniform manner

Do not apply to land when:

- Ø The land is waterlogged
- Ø The land is flooded or likely to flood
- Ø The land is snow-covered or frozen
- Ø Heavy rain is forecast within 48 hours
- Ø The ground slopes steeply



Application of fertilisers and soiled water

Do not apply Organic fertilisers or
soiled water

- § Using an umbilical system with an upward facing splashplate
- § Using a tanker with an upward facing splashplate
- § By use of a sludge irrigator mounted on a tanker
- § From a road or passageway (including internal farm roadways)
- § Within the buffer strips detailed in the regulations



Prohibited application periods for fertilisers

The application of organic fertiliser to land during November & December is prohibited

This prohibited period extends once adequate manure storage is or has been put in place

Pig manure storage to be in place by 31/12/06

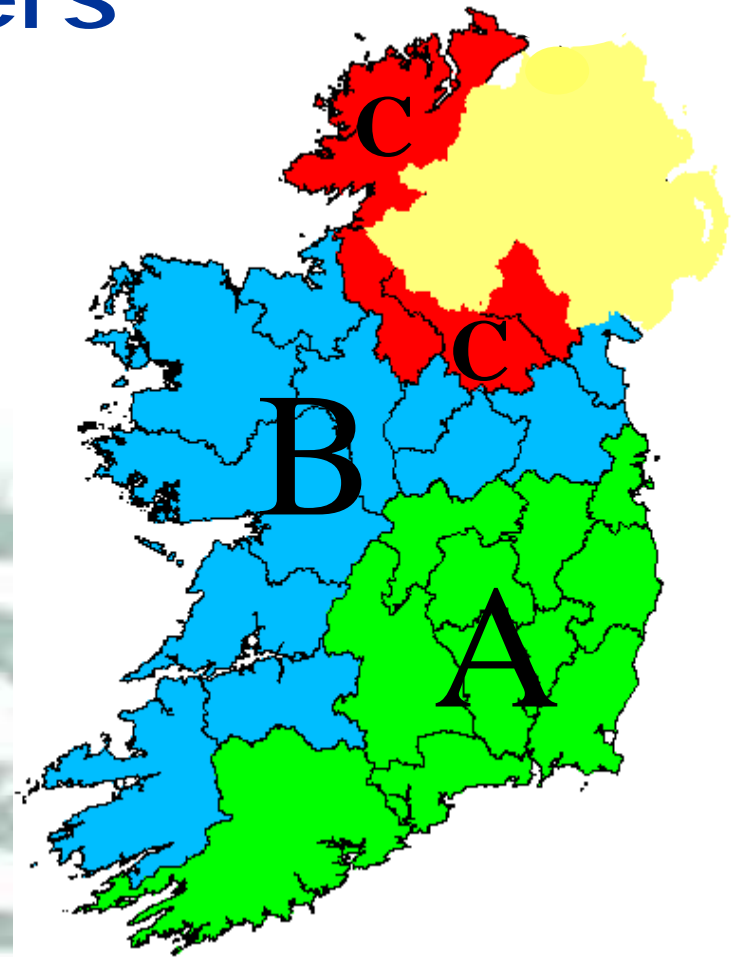
Cattle, sheep, deer, goats & poultry manure storage to be in place by 31/12/2008

There is no prohibited application period for soiled water



Prohibited application periods for fertilisers

Fertiliser type	Prohibited application period			
		Zone A	Zone B	Zone C
Chemical	15 Sept to	12 Jan	15 Jan	31 Jan
Organic	15 Oct to	12 Jan	15 Jan	31 Jan
Farmyard Manure	1 Nov to	12 Jan	15 Jan	31 Jan





Ploughing and the use of non-selective herbicides

Arable land ploughed between **1 July & 15 January** must have a green cover from a sown crop within **6 weeks** of ploughing



Grassland ploughed between **1 July & 15 October** must have a green cover by **1 November** from a sown crop

Grassland must not be ploughed between **16 October & 30 November**



Ploughing and the use of non-selective herbicides

Where a **non selective** herbicide is used on arable or grassland between **1 July and 15 January**, there must be green cover from a sown crop or from natural regeneration within **6 weeks** of the application

Green cover provided to comply with green cover requirements shall not be removed by ploughing or by the use of a non-selective herbicide before **January 15** unless a crop is sown within **2 weeks** of its removal





Farms producing more than 170kg Nitrogen per year

For those farms in excess of the
170kgs N limit, a derogation up to
250 kgs/ha/yr is possible

Special conditions apply to farms
wishing to avail of this derogation



Records to be maintained

- § Total area of the holding
- § Net area of the holding
- § Cropping regimes and their individual areas
- § Livestock numbers and type
- § Estimate of the fertiliser requirement of the holding
- § Quantities and types of chemical fertilisers moved on to or off the holding, including opening & closing stock, records of purchase
- § Details of Livestock manure and other fertilisers moved on to or off the holding



Records

- § A copy of any NMP prepared in relation to the holding
- § Results of any soil analysis carried out on the holding
- § The nature and capacity of facilities on the holding for the storage of livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteads, farmyard manure pits or silage pits including an assessment of compliance
- § Quantities and types of concentrated feedstuff fed to grazing livestock on the holding



TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

N & P rates in a REPS plan approved on or before **1st December 2006** shall be deemed compliant for the duration of the plan

Pig & poultry manure, spent mushroom compost

Ø The application to land of P from these fertilisers in excess of crop requirements shall not be an offence until **01/01/2011**

Ø The 170 kg N/ha/yr rule still applies



Derogation Conditions

Applicable to grassland farms

Minimum 80% grass

Grazing livestock only (250 kg N/ha/yr)

Annual application by 1 March
(By 12 Oct. for 2007)



Derogation Conditions

Fertiliser plan required on holding by 1
March covering:

Stocking rate, crops, planned N and P use,
soil testing

Fertilisation accounts to be submitted by
1 March



Derogation Conditions

Land Management

Temporary grassland to be ploughed in spring only

No leguminous crops except arable silage or <50% clover in grass

Ploughed grass to be followed by high N demanding crop

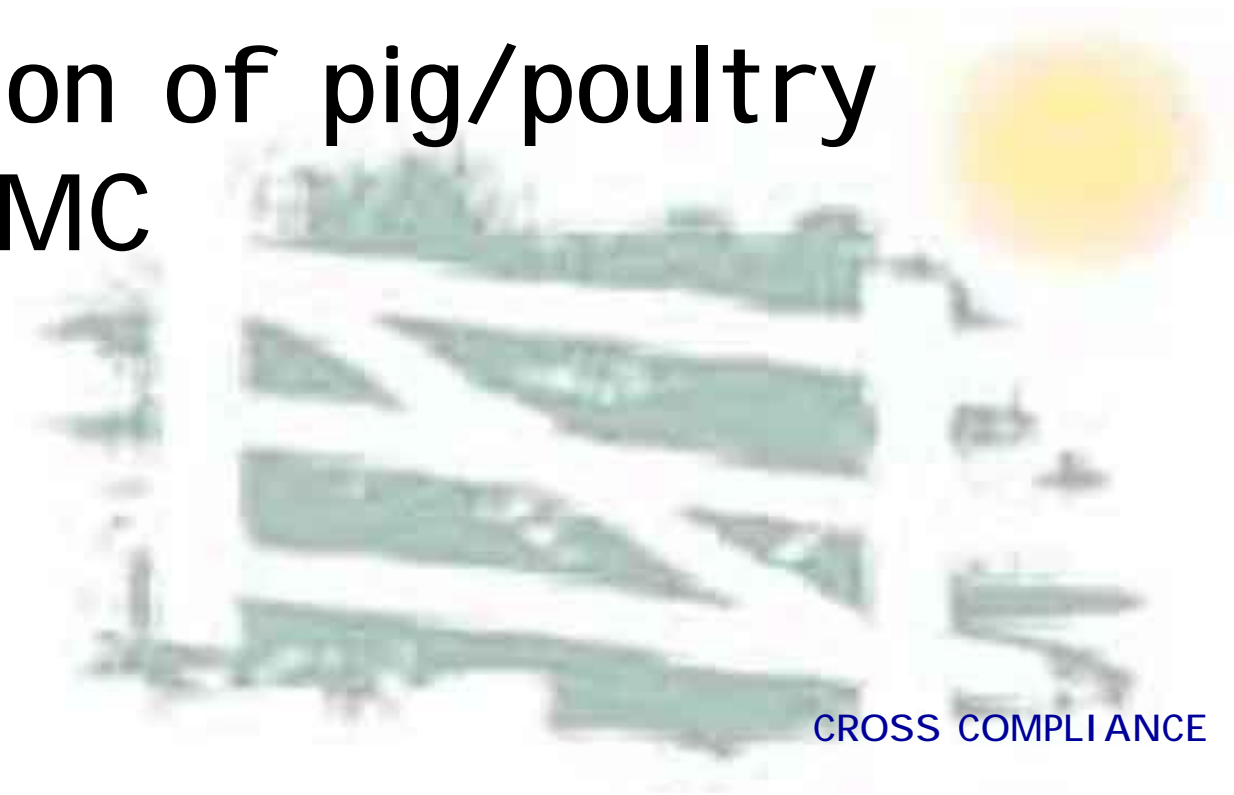
Manure may not be spread in Autumn before ploughing grassland



Derogation Conditions

No imports of livestock manure

No application of pig/poultry
manure, SMC





Derogation Controls

All applications subject to administrative control checks

3% of derogation applicants will be inspected





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Does your farmyard meet the Requirements of the Nitrates Regulations



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Is there Adequate Effluent and Soiled Water Control in place?



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Is effluent allowed to contaminate Clean areas?





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Are you Managing the seepage from Dungsteads?



CONTROL OF DUNGSTEAD EFFLUENT



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Do you have poor effluent collection with risk of groundwater contamination





Are Effluents Polluting watercourses?



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Are clean
Water
Surface
Areas being
Soiled by
effluent from
Silage Pits,
Feeding
Areas or
Straw
bedded
sheds?





**Are the
Restricted
Storage
Period and
Buffer Strip
Requirements
for FYM being
met**





Is Soiled Water being Adequately Controlled



SOILED WATER COLLECTION AREA



SMR5: CONSERVATION OF NATURAL HABITATS AND OF WILD FLORA AND FAUNA

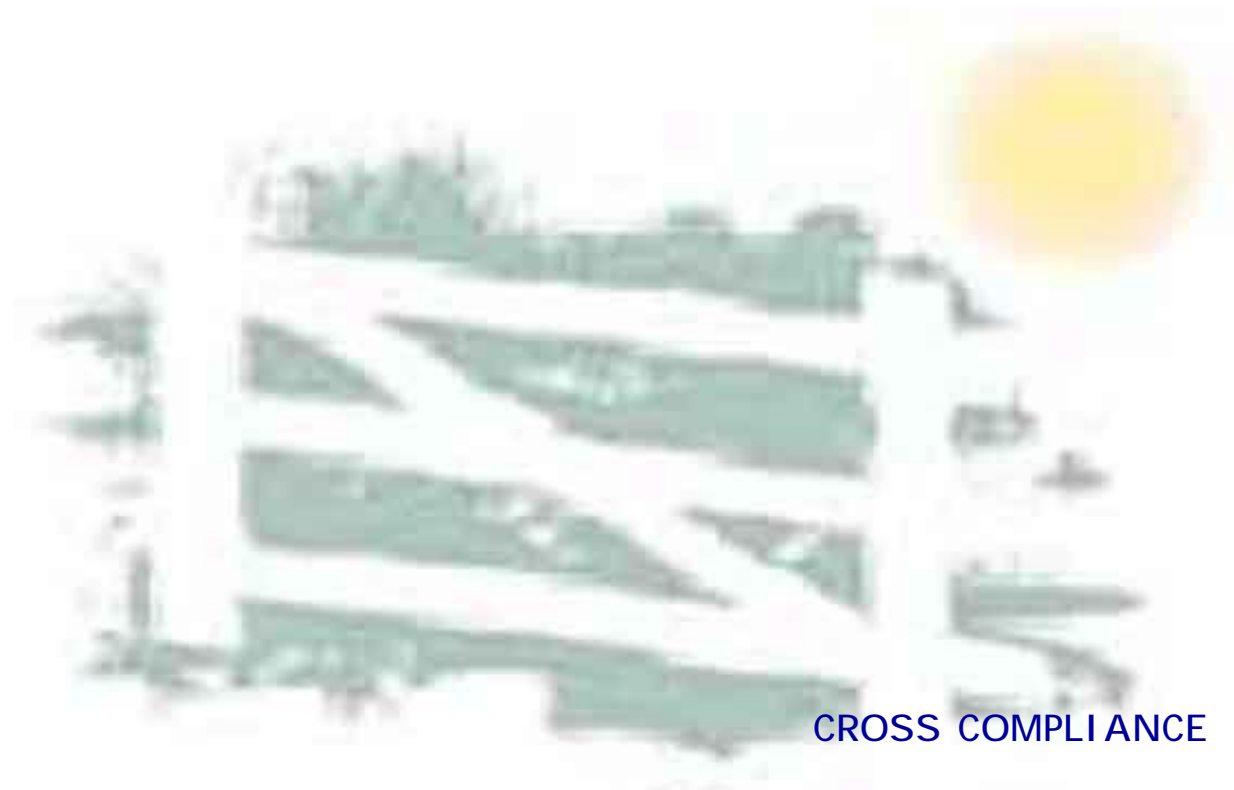
Farmers must observe the general provisions of the Wildlife Acts with regard to the protection of flora and fauna. It is a requirement to:

- § Comply with SAC requirements
- § Avoid removing/damaging protected plant species
- § Avoid the introduction of non-native species which may damage protected plant species



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**Thanks for taking the time
to view this presentation**



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