





Take account of the nutrients in organic manures and soils and include them in a nutrient plan for the farm. Use this record sheet in the tractor to record how many loads you have spread on each field and then work what nutrients these have added to the soil.

Based on 2012 fertiliser prices, the manure from 100 dairy cows is worth £17,000/year.

A nutrient management plan, taking all sources of nutrients into consideration, could save you £1,000s each year.



Good soil structure gives your crops the best chance to achieve maximum yield by allowing the movement of nutrients, water and air through the soil. Applying fertiliser to compacted soils wastes money as the plants will not be able to fully utilise it.

Mild compaction can result in yield reductions of 20% which could be costing you £200/ha.

Dig a hole with a spade to see if you have any compaction.



Fertiliser costs can be reduced if you know what the soil nutrient reserves are in your soil. You may be buying and applying nutrients that are not needed, or suffering from reduced yields and profits due to an imbalance in nutrients and/or pH.

Soil testing will help decide if additional nutrients are required and help you decide how much. A targeted approach to fertiliser use, saves time and money.

A £10 soil test could earn you £1,000s in reduced fertiliser costs and, or improved yields or quality



Compared to a properly set-up and operated spreader, a poorly maintained and operated machine could be costing £50/hectare due to inaccurate and uneven spreading.

It costs about £200 for proper calibration and tray testing. This cost could be recovered in 4 hectares.