

The introduction of the National Fertiliser Database has put a greater focus on determining fertiliser allowances with potential penalties liable if limits are exceeded.

All farmers above 130 kg N/ha must take soil samples to get a P allowance. Where soil samples are not taken, then it is assumed Phosphorus Index 4 and no P may be purchased. Farms with a grassland stocking rate of less than 130kg organic N/ha must assume Index 3 for Phosphorus if no soil test has been carried out.

Where soil analysis is available, the tables below show the maximum allowances that farmers are allowed to spread.

In terms of P allowance, 5kg P must be deducted from the allowance for every tonne of concentrate feed purchased.

An additional 15kg of phosphorus per hectare may be applied on soils at phosphorus indices 1, 2 or 3 for each hectare of pasture establishment undertaken.

Table 1: Annual maximum N allowances on grassland

Grassland Stocking Rate (kg/ha/yr)	Nitrogen Allowance (kg/ha)
<130	114
131 – 170	185
Grassland Stocking Rate greater than 170 kg/ha/yr	
171 – 210	254
211 – 250	225
>250	225

Table 2: Annual maximum P allowances on grassland

Grassland Stocking Rate (kg/ha/yr)	Phosphorus Index (as per Soil Analysis)			
	1	2	3	4
<85	27	17	7	0
86 – 130	30	20	10	0
131 – 170	33	23	13	0
Grassland Stocking Rate above 170kg/ha/yr				
171 – 210	36	26	16	0
211 – 250	39	29	19	0
>250	39	29	19	0

Table 3: Annual maximum N allowances on grassland (cut only, no grazing livestock on holding)

	Nitrogen Allowance (kg/ha)
First Cut	112
Subsequent Cuts	90
Hay	72

Table 2: Annual maximum P allowances on grassland (cut only, no grazing livestock on holding)

Soil P Index	1	2	3	4
First Cut	40	30	20	0
Subsequent Cuts	10	10	10	0