

Cross Compliance

Key Dates

Do you know your Cross Compliance dates?

This document highlights the key Cross Compliance dates that farmers need to know. Further information about the Cross Compliance rules can be found at:

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/inspections/all-inspections/cross-compliance/>



January

- 1st Start of the cross compliance year. Cross compliance rules must be met from this date (All SMRs and GAECs).
- 1st No cultivations and application of pesticides can be made within two metres of the top of the bank of a watercourse from this date (GAEC 1).
- 1st No cultivations and application of pesticides can be made within two metres of the centre line of a hedge from this date (GAEC 7).
- 1st Organic manure with a high available N content (e.g. slurry, poultry manures or liquid digested sewage sludge) can be applied to grassland and other land on shallow or sandy soils from this date. Note: quantitative restrictions apply until 14th February (SMR 1).
- 1st Start of quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content on grassland and other land on sandy or shallow soils (SMR 1).

February

- 1st Organic manure with a high available N content can be applied to grassland and other land on soils that are not sandy or shallow from this date. Note: quantitative restrictions apply until 14th February (SMR 1).
- 1st Start of quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content on grassland and other land on soils that are not sandy or shallow (SMR 1).
- 14th End of the quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content (SMR 1).
- 16th Chemical or manufactured N fertilisers can be applied to grassland and other land in all NVZ areas, except Moray, Aberdeenshire, Banff and Buchan NVZ areas from this date (SMR 1).
- 21st Chemical or manufactured N fertilisers can be applied to grassland and other land in Moray, Aberdeenshire, Banff and Buchan NVZ areas from this date (SMR 1).



March

- 1st Fertiliser and Manure Management Plan must be prepared and implemented before this date (SMR 1).
- 1st Scrub and/or gorse must not be removed or burned from this date (SMR 2).
- 1st Hedges must not be trimmed or branches lopped off trees from this date (except for road safety reasons). Note: hedge laying can still be carried out (SMR 2; GAEC 7).

April

- 1st Hedge laying must not be carried out from this date (SMR 2; GAEC 7).
- 16th Muirburn must not be carried out from this date (except if a licence has been granted for out of season burning) (SMR 2; GAEC 6).

July

- 1st Start of quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content on other land on sandy or shallow soils (SMR 1).

August

- 1st Start of quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content on grassland on sandy or shallow soils (SMR 1).
- 1st Start of the closed period for applying organic manure with a high available N content to other land on shallow or sandy soils; except if a cereal crop is sown on or before 15 September or oilseed rape, catch or cover crops are sown on or before 30th September (SMR 1).
- 1st Hedges or trees can be trimmed or cut from this date if the hedge or tree is in a field that will be sown in oilseed rape or temporary grass within the month (SMR 2; GAEC 7).

September

- 1st Hedges can be trimmed and branches lopped off trees from this date (SMR 2; GAEC 7).
- 1st Scrub and/or gorse can be removed or burned from this date (SMR 2).
- 1st Start of quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content on other land on soils that are not sandy or shallow (SMR 1).
- 1st Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high available N Content to grassland on sandy or shallow soils (SMR 1).
- 1st Start of closed period for applying chemical N fertiliser to other land in all the NVZ areas (SMR 1).
- 15th Start of quantitative restriction period for the application of organic manures with a high available N content on grassland on soils that are not sandy or shallow (SMR 1).
- 15th Start of closed period for applying chemical N fertilisers to grassland in all NVZ areas (SMR 1).
- 16th Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high available N content to other land on sandy or shallow soils that have been sown with a cereal crop before this date (SMR 1).

October

- 1st Muirburn can be undertaken from this date (SMR 2; GAEC 6).
- 1st Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high available N content to other land on sandy or shallow soils that have been sown with oilseed rape, catch or cover crops before this date (SMR 1).
- 1st Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high available N to other land on soils that are not sandy or shallow (SMR 1).
- 15th Start of closed period for applying organic manure with a high available N content to grassland on soils that are not sandy or shallow (SMR 1).

December

- 23rd Annual inventory of sheep and goats must be returned by this date (SMR 8).
- 31st Water abstraction data returns must be submitted to SEPA by this date (GAEC 2).
- 31st End of the cross compliance year. Cross compliance rules must be met until this date (All SMRs and GAECs).