



Steading Drainage – Know the Rules

Runoff from around the steading must not cause pollution.

Contaminated drainage, slurry and silage effluent must be collected in appropriately designed storage facilities.

Some runoff can be treated using a constructed farm wetland (CFW). This applies to:

- runoff from middens
- winter runoff from silage pits
- runoff from infrequently used access yards (vehicles and livestock).

Clean surface water runoff from buildings or yards constructed since April 2007, must be drained by a swale, filter drain or soakaway.

All drainage treatment systems (including swales, filter drains, soakaways & constructed farm wetlands) must be maintained in a good state of repair.

Discharge from surface water drainage systems (including CFWs) must not pollute any ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water.



A well constructed swale can help to reduce pollution risk.



Dirty yards can generate a significant amount of polluted runoff from your farm.



Steading Drainage

Steading drains can act as a short cut, carrying potentially polluting material such as nutrients, faecal bacteria, pesticides, oils and other spillages directly into a ditch, burn, river, loch, wetland or coastal water.

Good practice to protect water quality

- Keep clean and dirty water separate around the steading. This will reduce the amount of water you have to collect, handle, store and spread.
- Lightly contaminated water around the steading could be diverted to a constructed farm wetland.
- Identify drains around the steading; have measures in place to cover drains in the event of a spill.
- Maintain gutters and downpipes to keep clean and dirty water separate and minimise the volume of slurry you handle.
- Investigate funding opportunities in your area; for example funding may be available for constructed farm wetlands or additional storage.

How can you benefit from these rules?

Maintaining and improving steading drainage can:

- Reduce storage and spreading costs by separating clean and dirty water.
- Minimise the risk of local water supplies becoming contaminated.
- Keep you on the right side of the regulations and help to protect your farm payments.
- Contribute to protecting and enhancing local water quality for fish, wildlife and recreation.

Need more information?

For additional information about reducing pollution risks and benefitting the farm business, see www.farmingandwaterscotland.org Alternatively speak to your local agricultural consultant.



This fact sheet is intended to act as a reminder of the rules. To see the rules in more detail, see www.farmingandwaterscotland.org