



Slurry lagoons: more than just a hole in the ground



**Farm
Advisory
Service**

National Advice Hub
T: 0300 323 0161
E: advice@fas.scot
W: www.fas.scot

Having sufficient and well maintained on-farm slurry storage to cope with up to six months storage allows farmers to target organic fertiliser applications to coincide with crop nutrient requirements as opposed to when storage capacity dictates. In addition, farm businesses operating in any of Scotland's five NVZ areas are required to have a minimum of 22 weeks storage for cattle slurry.

The high and above average rainfall during winter 2017 highlighted the need for extra slurry storage across the South West of Scotland. Although we have a high livestock density it is not matched by always having adequate slurry storage.

By targeting slurry application to crop growth needs, you can make best use of nutrients on the farm and reliance on artificial fertilisers can be reduced. Better use of slurry could reduce the risk of diffuse pollution to the water environment and avoid damage to soil structure from accessing ground in sub-ideal conditions.

When calculating if additional slurry storage is required, a Farm Waste Management Plan (FWMP) should be produced which takes into account livestock numbers, ages, housing period and current storage capacity. Effluent from silage clamps, yard scrapings from collecting or loafing areas and parlour washings should also be accounted for in your FWMP. To cut down pressure on storage, clean and lightly contaminated water around the steading could be dealt with separately by a Rural SuDS, as keeping excess water out of your storage tank means more space for slurry. There can be financial savings to be made too from the reduced time and energy required to pump or spread the additional liquid.

Slurry storage options include below ground concrete tanks, above ground slurry storage tanks or lined slurry lagoons. The current Agri-Environment Climate Scheme targets specific areas and holdings for grant aid (to a maximum award of £30,000) towards increasing on farm slurry storage capacity (to meet but not exceed 6 months storage at current stocking levels). Many farmers who have already secured funding have opted to construct a lined slurry lagoon.

If you want to learn more about slurry storage, Scotland's Farm Advisory Service will be holding a series of events for farmers and building contractors within South West Scotland to explore how best to achieve improved slurry storage capacity. Topics for discussion include using a farm waste management plan to create the right size of lagoon, current rules and regulations for slurry storage, meeting planning permission & building warrants, making use of available grant funding and much more. Below is a list of events and dates.

For a full description of what to expect at each meeting and to book your place visit www.fas.scot/news/slurry-lagoons/

Date	Event location
21st February	Lanark - Quothquhan Village Hall, ML12 6NB
22nd February	Ayrshire - Knockrivoch Farm, Saltcoats, KA21 6NH
25th February	Dumfries - Cummertrees Village Hall, DG12 5QD
28th February	Campbeltown - Machrihanish Airbase Community Company, PA28 6NU
1st March	Stranraer - Green Valley Golf Academy, Castle Kennedy, DG9 8SH
5th March	Strirling - Blair Drummond Hall, FK9 4UX

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS) is part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) which is co-funded by the EU and Scottish Government, providing information and resources aimed at increasing the profitability and sustainability of farms and crofts.

Grant support, a full programme of events, a subscription service for crofts and small farms, and a range of articles and publications form the core of this service which is designed to provide integrated advice for farmers and crofters across Scotland.



If you need more advice on slurry lagoons or on any other topic, the Farm Advisory Service has a range of support and help available:

Advice line

For free telephone advice on a wide variety of topics including cross compliance, water framework directive requirements, climate change and other technical issues call us on 0300 323 0161 or email advice@fas.scot. The advice line operates between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

Bespoke Advice and Grants

FAS can also help you to increase the profitability and sustainability of your farming business through Scottish Government grants including Integrated Land Management Plans (ILMPs) – worth up to £1,200. The ILMP will identify opportunities and cost savings for your business, based on an independent and confidential assessment of your business by an experienced farm business adviser of your choosing. As part of your plan you can choose to benefit from up to two further specialist advice plans.

Online

Our website contains articles, videos and much more at www.fas.scot