

POLICY STATEMENT & ORGANIC MANURE MANAGEMENT PLAN **FOR R.P. WATTS Ltd**

Prepared Aug 2018 by R. Golland, Facts No. FE/2740

POLICY STATEMENT

We at R.P.Watts Ltd are committed to reduce the amount of inorganic fertilizer used by basing fertiliser recommendations for grown crops on soil analysis and crop requirements ascertained by using the RB209 and other documented information such as that received by 'The Arable Group/NIAB'.

We are also aware of reducing organic matter in our soils and the reduction in 'soil health', due to cultivations and our reliance on inorganic fertilizer. This is currently high on the government's agenda and will be a focus for farmers in the present and near future.

We are trying to combat this in a number of ways:

Firstly by using cover crops and catch crops, to soak up the nitrogen in the soils and CO₂ in the atmosphere to create organic matter and reduce the leaching of nutrients into the water courses. So by reducing the amount of inorganic fertilizers used we aim to help the environment, water quality and reduce the costs to the farm.

Secondly we are direct drilling crops where possible, reducing our use of fuel and oxidation of organic matter in our soils by not cultivation.

Thirdly we would like to use more organic manures on the farm. Organic manures are a good source of both nutrients and organic matter. Rotational incorporation of poultry manure will benefit not just the following crops but also the soil health.

This poultry manure would replace FYM (cattle manure) we currently use. This would be a benefit as we have to import the FYM from a farm 10 miles away.

MANURE MANAGEMENT

Manure to be used is from our Free Range Poultry Unit. A 32,000 bird free range egg unit will produce in the region of 1.9T (based on 60g/bird/day) of manure each day which equates to 694T per annum.

This manure will be removed from the unit every 3 to 4 days and taken away by tractor and trailer, to be stored in field heaps. These heaps will be in appropriate fields ready for incorporation in either the autumn or spring for a following crop.

The field heaps will be sited at least 10m from drains and water courses.
Any spread manure is to be ploughed in within 24hrs.
Manure will not be spread within 10m of water courses.

Quantities of manure stored in heaps will be recorded, and then analysed so accurate nitrogen application rates can be achieved.
Fortunately we do not farm land on slopes so run off is not an issue.
Manure would not be spread on waterlogged land.

FIELD RECORDS

Field based recommendations for application rates will be given to operators before the manure is spread. Once completed these will be stored and so available for inspection, they will also be entered into a farming software program, (Gatekeeper) which calculates how much nitrogen has been applied to each field.

These recommendations will take into account crop requirements and maximum application rates using the manure analysis.

APPLICATION RATES / AVAILABLE LAND

Land available for manure spreading is:

Deeping Fen Farm	circa 215 Ha
Black Drove Farm	circa 150 Ha

This land is shown on the attached map.

Estimated quantity of manure produced by a 30,900 bird free range unit is 694Tonnes / year.

Poultry manure has an estimated Nitrogen content of 16kg/Tonne (values given in RB209 however to be analysed).

The legal maximum application rate of Nitrogen in any year is 250Kg/Ha

This means the maximum legal application rate of poultry manure would be 15.6 Tonnes per hectare per year.

Given this maximum application rate we would only need 61Ha of land to spread the manure. However as we farm 365Ha of land in the immediate vicinity we will be able to easily use the manure without breaching any of the Nitrogen regulations.