

General Good Management Practices – Nutrients

Nutrients are necessary to look after grass and plant health, and to improve horticultural and agricultural production. Applying more nutrient or fertiliser than your pasture or crop can absorb allows it to be lost to groundwater and other water bodies. This factsheet provides information on how Bay of Plenty Regional Council can help you with good management practices.

Groundwater Definition:

Groundwater is water found underground in the cracks and spaces in soil, sand and rock. It is stored in and moves slowly through geologic formations of soil, sand and rocks called aquifers.

The fact sheet on General Good Management Practices should be referred to in conjunction with the Good Management Practices - Nitrogen and Good Management Practices - Phosphorous fact sheets. Depending on physical factors, soil type and other variants, there may also be other good management practices relevant to your property.

Mitigation	Example
Capture nutrients, sediment and microbes in wetlands and sediment traps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect and enhance natural wetlands by fencing to exclude stock.• Leave buffers when over sowing, cropping and top dressing.• Seek advice from BOPRC land management staff to identify wetlands.• Install sediment traps where relevant to slow water flows, reduce energy, filter sediment and allow grass growth.• Operate irrigation systems to minimise the amount of water needed.
Nutrient management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare a nutrient budget using OVERSEER.• Soil test regularly to check Olsen P levels.• Use proof of placement for fertiliser and/or farm dairy effluent application.• Manage periods of exposed soil between crops/pasture to reduce the risk of erosion, overland flow and leaching.
Riparian management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fence stock out of waterways.• Put in culverts or bridges at regular stock crossings. This activity requires consent from BOPRC.• Improve on-farm infrastructure to keep stock out of waterways.• Undertake riparian planting along stream margins.
Effluent management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Store farm effluent and wastewater suitably when conditions are unsuitable for application.• Increase land application area to ensure N and K returns are not excessive.• Minimise effluent volumes at the source; e.g. reduce wash water volumes and ensure rainwater is diverted away from the effluent system.• Use low rate effluent application methods.



Heavy stock grazing in a wetland area.

Useful links and resources:

www.rotoruafarmers.org.nz/gmp/

www.dairynz.co.nz

www.beeflambnz.com

www.plantandfood.co.nz

www.mfe.govt.nz

www.agresearch.co.nz

www.massey.ac.nz/~flrc/courses.html

www.overseer.org.nz



An example of poor race management with buildup of mud and faecal matter at high risk of entering waterway.



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