
Overview

This standard covers identifying and maintaining soil nutrients for grassland and forage crops.

Forage production is an essential part of most livestock production systems. This role requires taking soil samples and interpreting the results, applying nutrients in a safe manner, in accordance with instructions and legislative requirements.

If you are working with chemicals or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

When carrying out your work you must consider the impact it will have on the environment.

This standard is suitable for those responsible for identifying and maintaining soil nutrients for grassland and forage crops.

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. wear suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE)
3. select, prepare, use, maintain and store the required tools, equipment and materials, safely and correctly
4. identify the condition of the soil, in accordance with grassland and forage crop production requirements
5. carry out a range of soil sampling techniques
6. seek and evaluate specialist advice where required
7. identify the requirements for the application of soil nutrients for the grassland and forage crops
8. maintain the application of soil nutrients, where required in accordance with requirements for crop growth and the relevant environmental legislation
9. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in, or affected by, your work
10. process waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
11. carry out your work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
12. complete records as required by relevant legislation and the business

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of tools, equipment and materials required and how to prepare, use, maintain and store these safely and correctly
4. the different types of soil
5. the different methods of examining soil structure and that factors that can affect the structure
6. the methods to improve soil structure
7. the different soil sampling techniques
8. how to interpret a soil analysis and the relevant action to be taken
9. the importance of soil pH
10. the high-risk soil types
11. where to access sources of information and specialist advice on the application of soil nutrients for grassland and forage crops
12. the nutrient requirements for different grassland and forage crops and the types of soil nutrients that may be applied
13. the different methods of applying soil nutrients and when they should be applied
14. the relationship between crop growth and development, and the use of soil nutrients
15. the relevant environmental legislation requirements for the provision of soil nutrients
16. the ways of minimising environmental damage during work activities
17. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in, or affected by, your work and how this should be done
18. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal requirements and business practices
19. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
20. the records that need to be kept and the importance of completing them

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