

## Good Management Practice (GMP)

Good environmental practice is also good farm practice as it not only reduces the impact your farm has on the environment, but maximises the value of the resources you are using. Good Management Practice (GMP) has been defined by a number of industry groups and has been accepted by Environment Canterbury in the [Industry Agreed Good Management Practices Booklet](#).

[Learn more about Industry Agreed Good Management Practice](#)

***Overall Management GMP 1: Identify the physical and biophysical characteristics of the farm system, assess the risk factors to water quality associated with the farm system, and manage appropriately.***

Things you can do:

- Know the biophysical characteristics of your property (soil types, topography, and climate) and the physical characteristics (waterways, artificial drainage networks and irrigation), these will be in your Farm Environment Plan (FEP).
- Know and implement the actions you are going to take to reduce risk factors such as soil loss, nutrient loss and damage caused to soil structure. These actions will be in your FEP which is updated every year.
- Record how you will manage effluent storage, feed storage, offal pits and the irrigation area and applications.
- Keep your FEP up to date to your farm system and management practices so that it is relevant to you.
- Keep up to date with new ideas and technologies that will help you mitigate your environmental risks.

***Overall Management GMP 2: Maintain accurate and auditable records of annual farm inputs, outputs and management practices***

To meet this GMP, you will need to be able to *demonstrate* accurate and auditable records that:

- Identify all relevant farming activities and practices being carried out on your property, including those that demonstrate that relevant Good Management Practices (GMPs) are being used.
- Demonstrate that the risks to water quality have been assessed.
- Identify and implement how and when actions to mitigate risks are and will be undertaken. Keep record of when these identified actions in your FEP or audit report to mitigate risks have been achieved.
- Have a regular OVERSEER® nutrient budget completed.
- Keep all records up to date and easy to find/follow.
- There are many resources available to help you keep accurate and auditable records. These consist of but are not limited to:
  - [MINDA](#)
  - [FarmIQ](#)
  - [Agri360](#)
  - [AgriMap](#)

- [Regen](#)
- [Harvest](#)
- [ProductionWise](#)
- [Smart Maps - Ravensdown](#)
- [Precision Tracking](#)
- [Agworld](#)
- [Muddy Boots](#)
- Regular notes in a dairy/notebook
- Spreadsheet with regular notes and updates

***Irrigation GMP 1: Manage the amount and timing of irrigation inputs to meet plant demands and minimise risk of leaching and runoff.***

To meet this GMP you must

1. be able to *demonstrate* why you chose to irrigate and justify the amount you used.

***Irrigation GMP 2: Design, calibrate and operate systems to minimise the amount of water needed to meet production objectives.***

To meet this GMP, you must ensure:

1. All new irrigation systems are designed and installed according to industry code of practice standards.
2. Install a water meter on your dairy shed water take.
3. Maintain and regularly calibrate your irrigation system to optimise efficiency.
4. All staff (including you) are adequately trained.

***Fertiliser GMP 1: Manage the amount and timing of fertiliser inputs, taking into account of all sources of nutrients, to match plant requirements and minimise risk of losses.***

To meet this GMP, you must:

1. Use good information to plan your fertiliser requirements, such as soil testing, nutrient budgets and using tools like the wheat calculator or a feed wedge.
2. Apply the right amount of fertiliser when it is required to achieve maximum plant update.

***Fertiliser GMP 2: Ensure equipment for spreading fertiliser is well maintained and calibrated.***

***Fertiliser GMP 3: Monitor soil phosphorus levels and maintain them at or below the agronomic optimum for the farm system.***

To meet this GMP, you must:

1. Know your soil phosphorus levels (Olsen P).
2. Make sure your soil phosphorus is staying at or below the farms optimum level.

***Fertiliser GMP 4: Store and load fertiliser to minimise risk of spillage, leaching and loss into water bodies***

***Animal effluent GMP 1: Ensure the effluent system meets industry specific Code of Practice or equivalent standard.***

To meet this GMP, you must:

1. Make sure your effluent system is meeting industry requirements.

***Animal effluent GMP 2: Have sufficient, suitable storage available to enable farm effluent and wastewater to be stored when soil conditions are unsuitable for applications.***

To meet this GMP, you must:

1. Ensure the storage on your property for effluent and wastewater has adequate storage.
2. Make sure that effluent is being stored and is only applied to the land when conditions are suitable.

***Animal effluent GMP 3: Ensure equipment for spreading effluent and other organic manures is well maintained and calibrated.***

To meet this GMP, you must:

1. Make sure that the equipment used for spreading effluent is maintained to a good working condition.
2. Calibrate the spreading equipment to ensure the spreading of effluent is even and at the desired rate.

***Animal effluent GMP 4: Apply effluent to pasture and crops at depths, rates and times to match plant requirements and minimise risk to water bodies.***

To meet this GMP, you must:

1. Apply effluent at a rate and time the soil can absorb it to avoid effluent ponding. (Note: The definition of ponding is when you stamp your foot and it creates a splash. Many consents state that effluent ponding can't occur. Effluent ponding occurs when the soil profile is saturated because effluent is being applied faster than the soil can absorb it. The pooled effluent can hinder grass growth, stock tend to not eat the grass where effluent has ponded and ponded effluent can runoff into the waterways, pivot ruts and/or leach through the soil profile).
2. Time the spreading of effluent so it matches plant requirements. Plants will be more likely to take up the nutrients from the effluent and it will reduce the possibility of leaching and minimise the amount of nitrogen fertilisers you'll need to use.