

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

### **INFORMATION PAPER ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE AND PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Introduction**

1. In the course of discussions on 22 January 2002 in relation to the strengthening of environmental protection in the context of agriculture, representatives of the Irish Farmers Association asked for a written statement as to the reasons in support of an “all areas” or “whole territory” approach to good agricultural practice and the Nitrates Directive. This paper was prepared in response to that request. In addition to the specific information requested, the paper sets out some general background information and some additional information in question-and-answer format.

#### **Environmental Protection in Agriculture**

##### **Agricultural Waste**

##### **Agricultural Activities**

##### **Codes of Practice**

##### **Water Quality**

##### **European Community Legislation**

*Waste Directive*

*Nitrates Directive*

*Water Framework Directive*

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**

**What is the aim of the Department of the Environment and Local Government ?**

**Why is action required in relation to agriculture ?**

**Why are Regulations needed ?**

**What aspects of agriculture will the Regulations address ?**

**How were these aspects selected for attention ?**

**Will farmers be consulted in relation to the Regulations ?**

**Will the Regulations apply nationwide ?**

**Will the Regulations impose the same requirements everywhere ?**

**How onerous will the Regulations be ?**

**Will a farmer have to get a permit to spread slurry on his own land ?**

**What will be the main impact on farmers arising from the proposed Regulations ?**

**Will financial assistance be available for farmers for this purpose ?**

**Will farmers be compensated for extra operating costs arising from new Regulations ?**

**How is it that payments can be made to farmers under REPS for environmental protection measures ?**

**How much time will farmers have to comply with new Regulations ?**

**Will REPS payments to farmers be affected ?**

**Will the Regulations designate certain areas as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones?**

**What is the proposed limit for application of livestock manure ?**

**How many farmers will be affected by this limit ?**

**Will an affected farmer be forced to reduce stocking levels ?**

**Are additional spreadlands available ?**

**Is EU-Funding of Agri-Assistance Under Threat ?**

**Besides Regulations, what other measures will a programme of action contain to address pollution from agriculture ?**

**Is there a sound scientific basis to support the charges that agriculture is a major polluter ?**

**Who will enforce the Regulations ?**

**Most farmers comply with good farming practice. Why are new Regulations needed ?**

**Existing legislation prohibits a person from polluting waters. Is this not sufficient ?**

**END**