

Jonathan brings life back to his Slurry

On 25th January, Jonathan McGeown from Magheralin shared his experience of treating slurry with his neighbour farmers. With an on farm demonstration he showed how little mixing he had to do and how easy it was to pump to an over-ground store.

“We demonstrated on our most difficult tank which holds young bulls and has a lot of straw going into it” Jonathan explains. “This is the first season we have used Slurry Gold, and I suppose like most we were sceptical about its claims. Each year we would usually have at least a foot of thick crust by the end of January. After treating our tanks in October, the results even took my father by surprise. We have no crust whatsoever and the tanks are much easier to pump.”

During the demonstration Jonathan showed how his “difficult” tank only took 15mins to mix. It was then pumped straight into the store. “The slurry even looks healthier” Jonathan claims as he works the surface “and there does seem to be less of a smell”.

Mark Crawford from Slurry Gold was on hand to explain what has actually happened and how it can benefit the farmer.

“Essentially you are boosting life back into your slurry thereby making it more nutritious and easier to manage. Where slurry becomes stagnant as in many long term storage situations, its biological activity becomes depressed and hence the slurry will physically

separate and become lifeless. Valuable nutrients become degraded and the physical nature of the slurry becomes difficult to handle” Mark explains. “By adding Slurry Gold to the slurry the boost of life it needs essentially keeping it alive! The best way to illustrate this to the farmer is through the easier mixing, less smells and the colour of the slurry. Healthy slurry will have a more green-yellow colour to it versus a dark brown-black.”

Slurry Analysis

Jonathan is keen to get the most from his “healthy slurry” and has sent a sample off to get analysed. Mark explains “by getting an analysis done, the farmer has a much more accurate method of balancing the fertiliser needs of their grass. A detailed report can give you the N,P & K levels along with the mineral content where sulphur and calcium are of most interest.

We generally find that farmers who treat their slurry will save a bag of N per acre”.

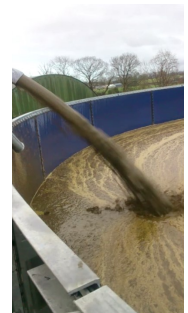
Jonathan has got some slurry out this week and is also impressed on how it takes to the ground. “It gets into the ground very well because of its liquid nature. You nearly couldn’t tell the field has been spread”.



The store, untreated a year earlier



A clearly visible difference after treatment



No mixing required whilst transferring



A close up of the “healthy” looking slurry