

# Essential Freshwater



## Synthetic Nitrogen Fertiliser Cap

The proposed Marlborough Environment Plan is still undergoing appeals and changes are possible.

### Who do the regulations apply to?

Farmers using nitrogen on grazing/pastoral use land that is greater than 20ha. This is regardless of:

- the type of vegetation grazed – pasture or crops
- type of grazing animal – cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, deer, poultry, other animals
- duration of the grazing – a few days, whole months, entire year

Note: the cap does not apply to non-grazed arable land or horticultural crops

### Why are there regulations?

It is aimed to reduce the amount of nitrogen in waterways.

Nitrogen is a major freshwater pollutant which can lead to excessive algal growth, which impacts aquatic habitat quality and oxygen levels.

### What are the regulations?

- From 1 July 2021, applying synthetic nitrogen fertiliser<sup>1</sup> to grazed land is limited to 190kg of nitrogen per hectare per year.
- Applying more than this is allowed on annual forage crops, but only if the average application across your combined pasture, forage crops and other pastoral use land does not exceed 190kgN/ha/yr.

### You will need to:

- plan your annual use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser to stay within the cap.
- seek Council permission if you exceed the cap.
- from July 2022 dairy farmers must provide a report to Council detailing your use of synthetic nitrogen fertiliser in the past year. You can provide this information using:

[Ravensdown Hawkeye app](#)

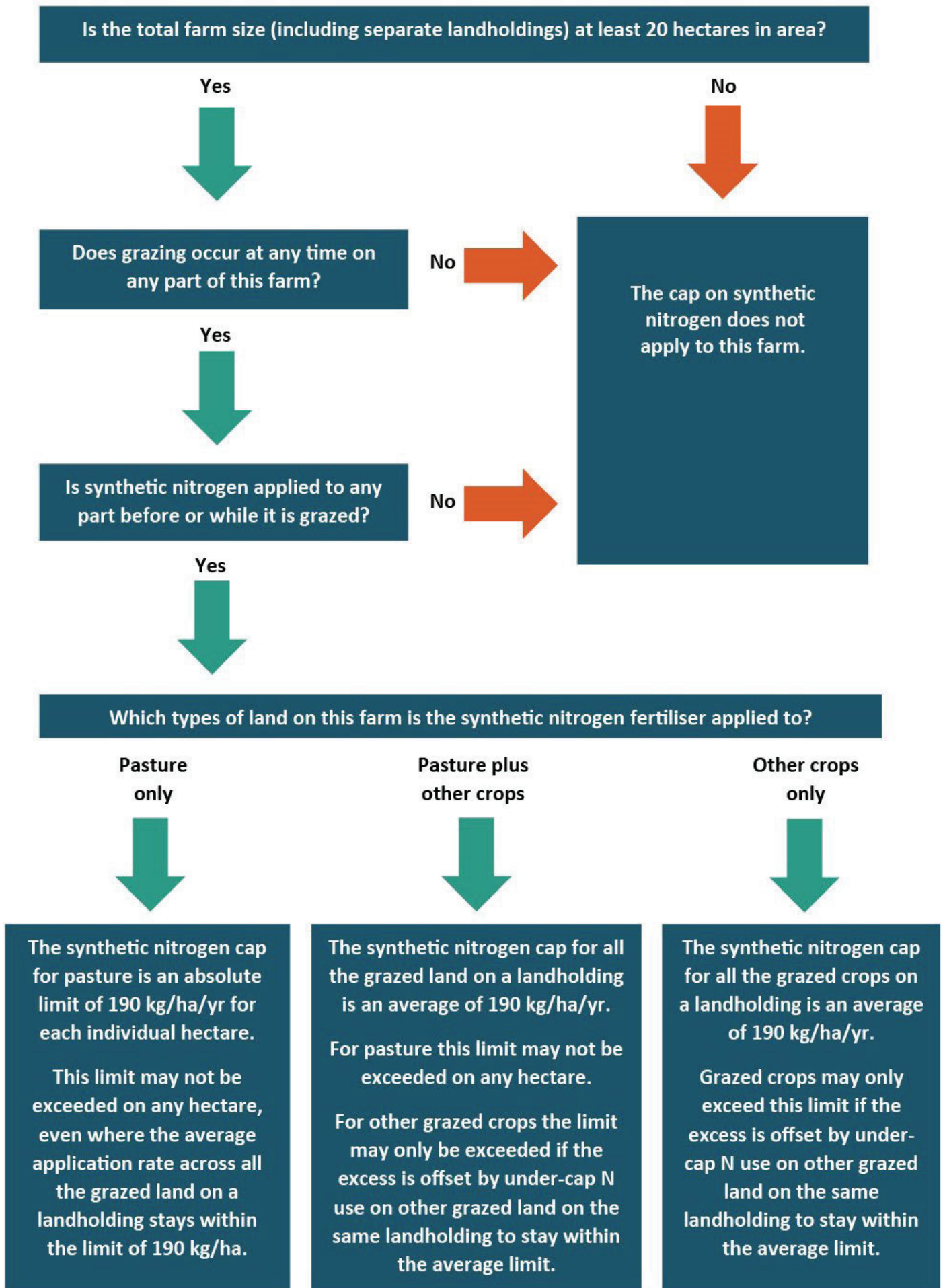
[Ballance's My Ballance app](#)

[N-Cap Webform](#)

- the cap does not apply to non-grazed vegetation. It also does not apply to fertilisers whose nitrogen is from biological sources such as compost, dairy effluent, and chicken manure.

1: Synthetic nitrogen fertiliser is any solid or liquid substance that is more than 5% nitrogen (N) by dry weight and is applied to land as a source of nutrition to plants. E.g., Manufactured urea, diammonium phosphate and sulphate of ammonia.

## How the nitrogen cap applies to different farming operations



Source: Ministry for the Environment

## Are there any other useful resources available?

[Te Uru Kahika Nitrogen Cap YouTube playlist](#)

[MfE implementation guidance on Essential Freshwater policies and regulations](#)

[Dairy NZ nitrogen cap rules](#)

[Ballance nitrogen reporting FAQs](#)

## Contact the MDC Environmental Protection Team

[monitoring@marlborough.govt.nz](mailto:monitoring@marlborough.govt.nz)

### Need a resource consent?

Apply for one online at:

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/applying-for-a-resource-consent](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/applying-for-a-resource-consent)

Contact the duty planner via the form on our website:

[www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/duty-planner-service-information/dutyplanner-enquiry-form](http://www.marlborough.govt.nz/services/resource-consents/duty-planner-service-information/dutyplanner-enquiry-form)

Phone customer services on 03 520 7400

Or visit the Marlborough District Council in person at:

15 Seymour Street, Blenheim

2 Dublin Street, Picton

[marlborough.govt.nz](http://marlborough.govt.nz)

For rural matters: [marlborough.govt.nz/environment/marlborough-rural-hub](http://marlborough.govt.nz/environment/marlborough-rural-hub)

