

Hi Rachel,

I've been asked by Pauline and Edward to email you with regard to the slurry store at Threapthwaite Farm. There has been a condition put on the lagoon that we can't put slurry in until there is a floating cover in place. Both Pauline and Edward are accepting of this and want to put a cover on the lagoon but it's just not possible to do at this stage. We have contacted various companies about the cover and there is no reliable way of mixing the slurry yet as the cover will effectively seal the lagoon. Any options have a timescale that would run longer than the winter, use unproven technology and are prohibitively expensive.

At present Edward and Pauline are looking at installing a separator and mixer under the cover but this again is not straight forward and not possible for this Winter.

The whole idea behind the lagoon was to apply slurry 4 to 5 times through the Spring and Summer to a growing crop and never have to apply slurry in the Autumn or Winter. Currently, if we do not use the lagoon, we will have to spread slurry once every month right through winter, that will be 6 mixings of the current store and 6 spreading's before the Spring when we should be applying the slurry from the lagoon if we were able to use it. The slurry applied through winter only leaves 10% of the nutrients for the next year's crop, the rest unfortunately are lost to the atmosphere. By using the lagoon and then spreading in the Spring we retain nearly 50% of the nutrients applied for the current crop and retain a further 10-25% for next year's crop meaning much lower losses to the atmosphere – reducing our carbon footprint, amount of bought in fertiliser and helping the local environment. We are also in unprecedented times with fertiliser prices, currently nitrogen fertiliser is up to £700/t from £250/t we paid last year, that's 2.8 times more money. This will take the farms fertiliser bill from £25,000 to £70,000, if we can use the lagoon, we can reduce this by 50% with all the costs saved being put towards the cover as soon as we can source a reliable option.

If we could get an extension on the cover for 12mths we can capitalise on all the benefits the lagoon will bring us, the environment and our neighbours and happily cover it as soon as we can.

The trees have arrived so they will be in place soon to screen the lagoon and we have planted wild flower mix on the sides. We have also sourced a security fence, in green, to blend in as much as we can with the field.

I hope this helps explain the current situation

If you require any further info please just give me a call

Kind regards

Paul



BOS Associates Ltd  
12 Low Road  
Cockermouth  
Cumbria  
CA13 0GU

Company Number: 8342633  
Registered in England and Wales