

# 3.D - Agricultural Soils

## Short description

NFR-Code	Name of Category	Method	AD	EF
<b>3.D</b>	<b>Agricultural Soils</b>			
<b>consisting of / including source categories</b>				
3.D.a.1	Inorganic N-fertilizers (includes also urea application)	T2 (NH <sub>3</sub> ), T1 (NO <sub>x</sub> )	NS, RS	D (NH <sub>3</sub> ), D (NO <sub>x</sub> )
3.D.a.2.a	Animal manure applied to soils	T2, T3 (NH <sub>3</sub> ), T1 (NO <sub>x</sub> )	M	CS (NH <sub>3</sub> ), D (NO <sub>x</sub> )
3.D.a.2.b	Sewage sludge applied to soils	T1 (NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> )	NS, RS	D (NH <sub>3</sub> ), D (NO <sub>x</sub> )
3.D.a.2.c	Other organic fertilisers applied to soils (including compost)	T2 (NO <sub>x</sub> , NH <sub>3</sub> )	M	CS
3.D.a.3	Urine and dung deposited by grazing animals	T1 (NH <sub>3</sub> , NO <sub>x</sub> )	NS, RS	D
3.D.a.4	Crop residues applied to soil	T2 (NH <sub>3</sub> )	NS, RS	D
3.D.c	Farm-level agricultural operations including storage, handling and transport of agricultural products	T2 (TSP, PM <sub>10</sub> , PM <sub>2.5</sub> )	NS, RS	D
3.D.d	Off-farm storage, handling and transport of bulk agricultural products	NA & NR (Black Carbon only)		
3.D.e	Cultivated crops	T2 (NMVOC)	NS, RS	D
3.D.f	Use of pesticides	T2 (HCB)	NS	D
<b>Method(s) applied</b>				
<b>D</b>	Default			
<b>T1</b>	Tier 1 / Simple Methodology *			
<b>T2</b>	Tier 2*			
<b>T3</b>	Tier 3 / Detailed Methodology *			
<b>C</b>	CORINAIR			
<b>CS</b>	Country Specific			
<b>M</b>	Model			
* as described in the EMEP/EEA Emission Inventory Guidebook - 2019, in category chapters.				
<b>(source for) Activity Data</b>				
<b>NS</b>	National Statistics			
<b>RS</b>	Regional Statistics			
<b>IS</b>	International Statistics			
<b>PS</b>	Plant Specific			
<b>As</b>	Associations, business organisations			
<b>Q</b>	specific Questionnaires (or surveys)			
<b>M</b>	Model / Modelled			
<b>C</b>	Confidential			
<b>(source for) Emission Factors</b>				
<b>D</b>	Default (EMEP Guidebook)			
<b>CS</b>	Country Specific			
<b>PS</b>	Plant Specific			
<b>M</b>	Model / Modelled			
<b>C</b>	Confidential			

	NO <sub>x</sub>	NMVOC	SO <sub>2</sub>	NH <sub>3</sub>	PM <sub>2.5</sub>	PM <sub>10</sub>	TSP	BC	CO	Pb	Cd	Hg	As	Cr	Cu	Ni	Se	Zn	PCDD/F	B(a)P	B(b)F	B(k)F	I(x)P	PAH1-4	HCB	PCBs
3.D.a.1	L/T	NA	NA	L/T	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.a.2.a	L/-	IE	NA	L/T	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.a.2.b	-/-	NA	NA	-/-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.a.2.c	-/-	NA	NA	L/T	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.a.3	-/-	IE	NA	-/-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.a.4	NA	NA	NA	-/-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.c	NA	NA	NA	NA	L/-	L/-	L/-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.e	NA	-/-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
3.D.f	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	L/-	NA

L/-	key source by <b>Level</b> only
-/T	key source by <b>Trend</b> only
L/T	key source by both <b>Level</b> and <b>Trend</b>
-/-	no key source for this pollutant
IE	emission of specific pollutant <b>Included Elsewhere</b> (i.e. in another category)
NE	emission of specific pollutant <b>Not Estimated</b> (yet)
NA	specific pollutant not emitted from this source or activity = <b>Not Applicable</b>
*	no analysis done

## Country specifics



### NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub>

In 2024, agricultural soils emitted 295.1 kt NH<sub>3</sub> or 61.0 % of the total agricultural NH<sub>3</sub> emissions in Germany (484.0 kt NH<sub>3</sub>). The main contributions to the total NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from agricultural soils are the application of manure (3.D.a.2.a), with 171.4 kt (58.1 %), the application of other organic N-fertilizers (3.D.a.2.c) with 57.2 kt (19.4 %), and the application of inorganic N-fertilizers (3.D.a.1) with 42.9 kt (14.5 %).

N excretions on pastures (3.D.a.3) have a share of 15.2 kt NH<sub>3</sub> (5.2 %), emissions from crop residues (3.D.a.4) are 7.1 kt NH<sub>3</sub> (2.4 %), and the application of sewage sludge (3.D.a.2.b) 1.4 kt NH<sub>3</sub> (0.5 %).

In 2024, agricultural soils were the source of 98.3 % (96.4 kt) of the total of NO<sub>x</sub> emissions in the agricultural category (98.0 kt). The NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from agricultural soils are primarily due to application of inorganic fertilizer (3.D.a.1) (40.5 kt) and manure (3.D.a.2.a) (36.1 kt) Application of other organic N-fertilizers (3.D.a.2.c) contributes 14.7 kt, 5.3 kt are due to excretions on pastures (3.D.a.3). Emissions from application of sewage sludge (3.D.a.2.b) contribute 0.4 kt.

### NM VOC

In 2024, the category of agricultural soils contributed 8.9 kt NM VOC or 2.9 % to the total agricultural NM VOC emissions in Germany (300.6 kt NM VOC). The only emission source was cultivated crops (3.D.e).

### TSP, PM<sub>10</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub>

In 2024, agricultural soils contributed, respectively, 38.4 % (23.2 kt), 66.7 % (23.2 kt) and 33.6 % (1.8 kt) to the total agricultural TSP, PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions (60.4 kt, 34.7 kt, 5.3 kt, respectively). The emissions are reported in category 3.D.c (Farm-level agricultural operations including storage, handling and transport of agricultural products).

### 3.D.a.1 - Inorganic N-fertilizers

The calculation of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> (NO) emissions from the application of synthetic fertilizers is described in Vos et al. (2026)<sup>1)</sup>, Chapters 5.2.1.2 and 5.2.2.2 1).

#### Activity Data

German statistics report the amounts of fertilizers sold which are assumed to equal the amounts that are applied. Since the 2021 submission, storage effects are approximated by applying a moving average to the sales data (moving centered three-year average, for the last year a weighted two-year average, which assigns 2/3 of the weight to the last year). Since the year 2022, data for the sales of urea that is stabilized with urease inhibitor is available. It cannot be published because of data-privacy issues. Therefore, the emissions are calculated and provided by the federal statistical office using the emission factors as described below. The activity data are published in aggregate for urea, urea+inhibitor and nitrogen solutions to maintain confidentiality. For details see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 2.8.

Table 1: AD for the estimation of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from application of synthetic fertilizers

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Application of fertilizers (total)</b>	2,195	1,723	1,922	1,797	1,635	1,736	1,731	1,622	1,499	1,404	1,327	1,245	1,123	1,048	1,028
<b>calcium ammonium nitrate</b>	1,368	1,044	982	824	689	618	605	571	543	520	497	470	422	396	388
<b>urea and ammonia nitrate urea solutions (AHL)</b>	369	403	508	526	542	590	604	539	460	385	342	318	293	276	262
<b>ammonium phosphates</b>	85	55	66	55	64	84	82	77	65	64	58	51	41	36	38
<b>other NK and NPK</b>	246	162	175	126	63	67	62	54	52	51	51	47	40	34	31
<b>other straight fertilizers</b>	127	60	191	266	277	377	377	381	378	383	379	359	328	306	309

#### Methodology

NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from the application of synthetic fertilizers are calculated using the Tier 2 approach according to EMEP (2023)-3D-16ff<sup>2)</sup>, distinguishing between various fertilizer types, see Table 2. For NO<sub>x</sub>, the Tier 1 approach described in EMEP (2023) [10]-3D-15 is applied.

#### Emission factors

The emission factors for NH<sub>3</sub> depend on fertilizer type, see EMEP (2023)-3D-17. Table 2 lists the EMEP emission factors for the fertilizers used in the inventory. In order to reflect average German conditions, the emission factors for cool climate and a pH value lower than 7 was chosen. For urea fertilizer the German fertilizer ordinance prescribes the use of urease inhibitors or the immediate incorporation into the soil from 2020 onwards. The NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor for urea fertilizers is therefore reduced by 70% from 2020 onwards for the immediate incorporation of urea, according to Bittman et al. (2014, Table 15)<sup>3)</sup>. For the use of urease inhibitors the emission factor for urea fertilizer is reduced by 60%. For details see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 5.2.1.2.

Table 2: Synthetic fertilizers, emission factors in kg NH<sub>3</sub> per kg fertilizer N

Fertilizer type	EF
calcium ammonium nitrate	0.024
ammonia nitrate urea solutions (AHL)	0.087
urea (up to 2019)	0.195
urea (from 2020 with urease inhibitor)	0.078
urea (from 2020 if incorporated)	0.0585
ammonium phosphates	0.084
other NK and NPK	0.084
other straight fertilizers	0.024

For NO<sub>x</sub>, the simpler methodology by EMEP (2023)-3D-13 was used. The emission factor 0.040 from EMEP, 2023-3D, Table 3.1 has the unit of [kg N<sub>2</sub>O per kg fertilizer N] and was derived from Stehfest and Bouwman (2006)<sup>4</sup>.

The German inventory uses the emission factor 0.012 kg NO-N per kg N derived from Stehfest and Bouwman (2006) directly. This is equivalent to an emission factor of 0.03943 kg NO<sub>x</sub> per kg fertilizer N (obtained by multiplying 0.012 kg NO-N per kg N with the molar weight ratio 46/14 for NO<sub>2</sub>: NO). The inventory uses the unrounded emission factor.

Table 3: Emission factor for NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from fertilizer application

Emission factor	kg NO-N per kg fertilizer N	kg NO <sub>x</sub> per kg fertilizer N
EF <sub>fert</sub>	0.012	0.039

## Trend discussion for Key Sources

Since 2016, fertilizer sales have fallen dramatically (by around a third). Emissions have fallen accordingly. This is even more pronounced for NH<sub>3</sub> than for NO<sub>x</sub>, as total NH<sub>3</sub> from the application of mineral fertilizers is, until the year 2019, very strongly correlated with the amount of urea applied ( $R^2 = 0.64$ ), the sales of which have decreased more than for all other mineral fertilizers. Since 2020 the negative trend is reinforced as urea fertilizer has to be either used with urease inhibitors or has to be incorporated into the soil directly, which reduces emissions.

## Recalculations

Table 4 shows the effects of recalculations on NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. The big differences for NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are due to the correction of the EMEP (2023) emission factor for straight fertilizers (**recalculation No. 2**). Concerning NO<sub>x</sub> emissions differences only occur in 2023, resulting from applying the moving average to sales data (see activity data).

Table 4: Comparison of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions [kt] with previous submission

		NH <sub>3</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> emissions from inorganic fertilizer application, in kt														
	Submission	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ammonia	current	121.93	99.21	119.19	118.44	120.16	133.00	135.03	121.47	105.50	91.66	54.81	52.05	47.52	44.08	42.89
	previous	129.55	102.80	130.65	134.39	136.77	155.61	157.68	144.31	128.19	114.66	77.56	73.59	67.18	61.79	
	absolute change	-7.61	-3.59	-11.46	-15.96	-16.61	-22.61	-22.65	-22.84	-22.69	-23.01	-22.75	-21.54	-19.66	-17.71	
	relative change [%]	-5.88	-3.49	-8.77	-11.87	-12.14	-14.53	-14.36	-15.83	-17.70	-20.06	-29.33	-29.27	-29.27	-28.67	
Nitrogen oxides	current	86.53	67.93	75.77	70.84	64.48	68.46	68.24	63.95	59.11	55.34	52.31	49.08	44.29	41.31	40.55
	previous	86.53	67.93	75.77	70.84	64.48	68.46	68.24	63.95	59.11	55.34	52.31	49.08	44.29	40.89	
	absolute change	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	
	relative change [%]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01

## Planned improvements

No improvements are planned at present.

## 3.D.a.2.a - Animal manure applied to soils

In this sub-category Germany reports the NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> (NO) emissions from application of manure (including application of anaerobically digested manure). An overview is given in Vos et al. (2026), Chapters 5.2.1.2 and 5.2.2.2.

Germany uses the Tier 2 methodology for estimating NMVOC emissions for cattle in sector 3.B (manure management). The use of this methodology yields NMVOC emissions which formally could be reported in the sectors 3.D.a.2.a and 3.D.a.3 (grazing emissions). However, to be congruent with the NMVOC emissions for other animal categories, Germany reports these emissions in the NMVOC emissions reported from manure management (3.B). For the NFR codes 3.D.a.2.a and 3.D.a.3 the notation key IE is used for NMVOC emissions.

## Activity data

The calculation of the amount of N in manure applied is based on the N mass flow approach (see 3.B). It is the total of N excreted by animals in the housing and the N imported with bedding material minus N losses by emissions of N species from housing and storage. Hence, the amount of total N includes the N contained in anaerobically digested manures to be applied to the field.

The frequencies of application techniques and incorporation times as well as the underlying data sources are described in Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 2.5. The frequencies are provided in the NID 2026<sup>5)</sup>, Chapter 17.3.1.

Table 5: AD for the estimation of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from application of manure

Application of manure in kt N														
1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1,236	1,088	1,047	1,009	996	1,036	1,032	1,036	1,020	1,007	987	953	927	924	915

## Methodology

NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from manure application are calculated separately for each animal species in the mass flow approach by multiplying the respective TAN amount with NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors for the various manure application techniques. For details see [3-b-manure-management 3.B] and Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 5.2.1.2. For NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from manure application the inventory calculates NO-N emissions (see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 5.2.2.2, that are subsequently converted into NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by multiplying with the molar weight ratio 46/14. The Tier 1 approach as described in EMEP (2023)-3D-13 is used.

## Emission factors

The following table shows the time series of the overall German NH<sub>3</sub> IEF defined as the ratio of total NH<sub>3</sub>-N emission from manure application to the total amount of N spread with manure. For NO<sub>x</sub> the same emission factor like for the application of synthetic fertilizer was used (see Table 3).

Table 6: IEF for NH<sub>3</sub>-N from application of manure

IEF in kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg N in applied manure														
1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
0.216	0.204	0.196	0.183	0.175	0.165	0.163	0.162	0.159	0.157	0.154	0.154	0.157	0.155	0.154

## Trend discussion for Key Sources

Both NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from the application of animal manure are key sources. Total NO<sub>x</sub> is calculated proportionally to the total N applied with manure which decreased remarkably from 1990 to 1991 due to the decline in animal numbers following the German reunification (reduction of livestock numbers in Eastern Germany). In the 1990s and 2000s this was followed by a weakened decline in animal manure amounts. From 2010 to 2014 there was a slight increase and since then the amount of N in manure applied has been declining again, see Table 5. The NO<sub>x</sub> emissions follow these trends. For total NH<sub>3</sub> emissions there is a negative trend. This is due to the decreasing amounts of animal manure and the increasing use of application practices with lower NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors.

## Recalculations

Until 2000, the total emissions of NH<sub>3</sub> from application of manure are higher than those of last year's submission and thereafter they are lower. For NO<sub>x</sub> the changes are similar, however the change from higher to lower values takes place 20 years later.

These differences are predominantly caused by different estimates of manure N, which is applied, compared to the last submission. Many of the recalculations have an effect on this, especially the **recalculations No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, and No. 6**. The two most important ones are **No. 3** (the new methodology to calculate N and TAN excretions of dairy cows leads to higher N excretion at the beginning and lower N excretions at the end of the time series, the percentage shares of TAN are lower for all years. The latter is responsible for the earlier change in the trend of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions) and **No. 4** (higher

milk yields generally increase excretions), see [main page of the agricultural sector](#), list of recalculation reasons. Further details on recalculations are described in Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 1.3.

Table 7: Comparison of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions [kt] with previous submission

		NH <sub>3</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> emissions from application of manure, in kt														
	Submission	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ammonia	current	324.37	268.83	249.29	224.08	211.68	207.35	204.72	203.36	197.44	192.54	184.02	178.16	176.66	174.47	171.37
	previous	320.57	265.78	249.01	225.69	217.80	215.60	211.87	208.09	202.39	197.93	192.18	188.44	185.70	185.00	
	absolute change	3.79	3.05	0.28	-1.61	-6.12	-8.26	-7.15	-4.73	-4.95	-5.39	-8.17	-10.28	-9.04	-10.52	
	relative change [%]	1.18	1.15	0.11	-0.71	-2.81	-3.83	-3.38	-2.27	-2.45	-2.72	-4.25	-5.45	-4.87	-5.69	
Nitrogen oxides	current	48.75	42.89	41.29	39.77	39.27	40.85	40.69	40.83	40.20	39.72	38.91	37.56	36.55	36.44	36.08
	previous	45.94	40.69	39.69	38.54	38.63	40.23	39.98	39.81	39.26	38.98	38.66	37.68	36.65	36.65	
	absolute change	2.81	2.20	1.60	1.23	0.64	0.62	0.71	1.02	0.94	0.74	0.26	-0.13	-0.10	-0.21	
	relative change [%]	6.11	5.42	4.04	3.19	1.65	1.55	1.77	2.57	2.40	1.90	0.67	-0.34	-0.27	-0.58	

### Planned improvements

No improvements are planned at present.

### 3.D.a.2.b - Sewage sludge applied to soils

The calculation of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> (NO) emissions from application of sewage sludge is described in Vos et al. (2026), Chapters 5.2.1.2 and 5.2.2.2.

#### Activity data

N quantities from application of sewage sludge were calculated from data of the German Environment Agency and (since 2009) from data of the Federal Statistical Office.

Table 8: AD for the estimation of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from application of sewage sludge

Application of sewage sludge in kt N														
1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
27	35	33	27	26	19	19	14	13	16	14	12	12	10	10

#### Methodology

A Tier 1 methodology is used (EMEP, 2023, 3D, Chapter 3.3.1). NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are calculated by multiplying the amounts of N in sewage sludge applied with the respective emission factors.

#### Emission factors

EMEP (2023)-3.D, Table 3-1 provides a Tier 1 emission factor for NH<sub>3</sub> (0.13 kg NH<sub>3</sub> per kg N applied) emissions from application of sewage sludge. The German inventory uses the equivalent emission factor in NH<sub>3</sub>-N units which is 0.11 kg NH<sub>3</sub>-N per kg N applied (cf. the derivation of the emission factor described in the appendix of EMEP (2023)-3D, page 35). For NO<sub>x</sub> the same emission factor like for the application of synthetic fertilizer was used (see Table 3).

#### Trend discussion for Key Sources

NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from the application of sewage sludge are no key sources.

## Recalculations

There were no recalculations concerning sewage sludge except the replacement of extrapolated activity data in 2023 with data from the Federal Statistical Office. Further details on recalculations are described in Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 1.3.

Table 9: Comparison of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions [kt] with previous submission

		NH <sub>3</sub> and NO <sub>x</sub> emissions from application of sewage sludge, in kt														
	Submission	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ammonia	current	3.66	4.71	4.40	3.66	3.51	2.52	2.51	1.87	1.78	2.14	1.85	1.61	1.61	1.39	1.39
	previous	3.66	4.71	4.40	3.66	3.51	2.52	2.51	1.87	1.78	2.14	1.85	1.61	1.61	1.61	
	absolute change	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.22	
	relative change [%]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-13.84	
Nitrogen oxides	current	1.08	1.39	1.30	1.08	1.04	0.74	0.74	0.55	0.52	0.63	0.55	0.47	0.48	0.41	0.41
	previous	1.08	1.39	1.30	1.08	1.04	0.74	0.74	0.55	0.52	0.63	0.55	0.47	0.48	0.48	
	absolute change	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-0.07	
	relative change [%]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-13.84	

## Planned improvements

No improvements are planned at present.

## 3.D.a.2.c - Other organic fertilizers applied to soils

This sub category contains the total of Germany's NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> (NO) emissions from application of

- residues from digested energy crops,
- residues from digested waste,
- compost from biowaste,
- compost from green waste, and
- imported animal manures.

For details see Vos et al. (2026), Chapters 5.2.1.2 and 5.2.2.2.

## Activity data

Activity data is the amount of N in residues from anaerobic digestion of energy crops and waste and of compost from biowaste and green waste when leaving storage, as well as the amount of N in imported animal manures. For energy crops this is the N contained in the energy crops when being fed into the digestion process minus the N losses by emissions of N species from the storage of the residues (see 3.1). N losses from pre-storage are negligible and there are no N losses from fermenter (see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 5.1). For residues from digested waste, compost from biowaste and compost from green waste the amount of N was derived from the waste statistics of the Federal Statistical Office (see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 2.8). For imported manure the amounts of N were derived from statistics published by CBS (Statistics Netherlands) and RVO (Rijksdienst voor Ondernemend Nederland) The imported manure is categorized into cattle slurry, pig slurry, poultry manure, horse manure and mixed solid manure. Only imported manures from The Netherlands are taken into account, as for other countries the amounts of imported manures are unknown as are the amounts of exported manure. For details see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 2.8.

Table 10: AD for the estimation of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions emissions from application of other organic fertilizers

		Application of other organic fertilizers in kt N														
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Residues, digested energy crops	0.05	0.59	5.12	43.36	158.69	289.08	287.80	283.33	279.45	279.98	286.48	281.57	302.37	293.35	293.35	

<b>Residues, digested waste</b>	0.00	0.00	1.55	4.97	10.46	15.05	13.97	13.79	14.00	13.75	13.40	15.13	15.62	17.49	18.20
<b>Compost, biowaste</b>	4.51	19.54	31.87	28.82	22.64	22.59	23.34	21.90	25.14	24.31	25.42	22.98	23.10	19.90	18.53
<b>Compost, greenwaste</b>	1.13	4.90	7.67	9.46	11.27	13.67	14.29	14.87	14.92	15.89	16.74	15.95	15.93	14.62	13.85
<b>Imported manure</b>	5.19	19.26	15.56	21.48	28.15	28.75	30.26	27.52	22.17	21.27	18.14	15.32	14.24	16.59	16.51
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.87</b>	<b>44.30</b>	<b>61.77</b>	<b>108.09</b>	<b>231.21</b>	<b>369.15</b>	<b>369.65</b>	<b>361.40</b>	<b>355.67</b>	<b>355.21</b>	<b>360.19</b>	<b>350.95</b>	<b>371.26</b>	<b>361.95</b>	<b>360.44</b>

## Methodology

The NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are calculated the same way as the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from application of animal manure (3.D.a.2.a). The frequencies of application techniques and incorporation times as well as the underlying data sources are provided e. g. in the NID 2025, Chapter 17.3.1. It is assumed that residues of digested waste are applied in the same way and have the same emission factors as residues from digested energy crops. For compost from biowaste and green waste it is assumed that they are applied in the same way and have the same emission factors as cattle solid manure. The amounts of TAN in the residues from digested energy crops applied are obtained from the calculations of emissions from the storage of the digested energy crops (3.l). The amounts of TAN in the residues from digested waste, compost from biowaste and compost from green waste are derived from industry data (provided by Bundesgütegemeinschaft Kompost, BGK). For the imported manures it is assumed that the different imported manure types (see above) were applied in the same way as the corresponding domestic animal manure types. Mixed manure was treated like solid manure from goats, sheep and horses. Corresponding TAN contents were derived from publications of the German federal states. As published TAN contents vary strongly, for each imported manure type the maximum of published TAN contents was assumed to prevent an underestimation of the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions. For details see Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 2.8.

For NO<sub>x</sub> emissions the Tier 1 approach as described in EMEP (2023)-3D-13 is used. The inventory calculates NO emissions that are subsequently converted into NO<sub>x</sub> emissions by multiplying with the molar weight ratio 46/30.

## Emission factors

For NH<sub>3</sub> the emission factors for untreated cattle slurry were adopted for residues from digested energy crops and residues from waste. The emission factors for cattle solid manure were adopted for compost from biowaste and compost from green waste, see Vos et al. (2026), Chapters 5.2.1.2 and 5.2.2.2. For imported manures the corresponding emission factors of the same type of domestic manure were used.

For NO<sub>x</sub> the same emission factor like for the application of synthetic fertilizer was used (see Table 3).

Table 11: IEF for NH<sub>3</sub>-N emissions from application of other organic fertilizers

IEF in kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg N of other organic fertilizers															
	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Residues, digested energy crops</b>	0.182	0.185	0.184	0.184	0.186	0.154	0.152	0.149	0.145	0.142	0.139	0.140	0.140	0.140	0.140
<b>Residues, digested waste</b>	0.000	0.000	0.192	0.193	0.193	0.171	0.164	0.156	0.163	0.162	0.163	0.162	0.160	0.157	0.159
<b>Compost, biowaste</b>	0.042	0.037	0.038	0.036	0.034	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.029	0.033	0.034	0.036	0.037	0.033	0.031
<b>Compost, greenwaste</b>	0.016	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.015	0.015	0.020	0.013	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.011
<b>Imported manure</b>	0.209	0.206	0.202	0.186	0.173	0.150	0.145	0.145	0.151	0.149	0.145	0.144	0.145	0.151	0.149
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.120</b>	<b>0.110</b>	<b>0.092</b>	<b>0.131</b>	<b>0.161</b>	<b>0.142</b>	<b>0.139</b>	<b>0.137</b>	<b>0.132</b>	<b>0.130</b>	<b>0.127</b>	<b>0.128</b>	<b>0.130</b>	<b>0.130</b>	<b>0.131</b>

## Trend discussion for Key Sources

The application of other organic fertilizers is a key source for NH<sub>3</sub>. Emissions are dominated by the emissions from digested energy crops. They have become important since about 2005 and have risen sharply until 2013. Since then, they have changed little each year and tend to decrease slightly in the last few years. The latter is mostly due to the increasing use of



## Methodology

NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from grazing are calculated by multiplying the respective animal population (3.B, Table 1) with corresponding N excretions and relative TAN contents (3.B, Table 2) and the fraction of N excreted on pasture (Table 13). The result is multiplied with the animal specific emission factor (Table 14). NO emissions are calculated the same way with the exception that the emission factor is related to N excreted instead of TAN.

## Emission Factors

The emission factors for NH<sub>3</sub> are taken from EMEP (2023)-3B-29, Table 3.9. They relate to the amount of TAN excreted on pasture. For laying hens, deer and ostriches there are no emission factors given in this table. Germany uses for laying hens an emission factor of 0.35 kg NH<sub>3</sub>-N per kg TAN excreted, based on an expert judgement from KTBL (see Vos et al. 2026, Chapter 5.2.1.1). The same EF is used by UK. It was also used for ostriches. For deer the emission factor of sheep was adopted.

Following the intention of EMEP, 2023-3D, Table 3.1, the inventory uses for NO<sub>x</sub> the same emission factor as for the application of synthetic fertilizer (see Table 3). In order to obtain NO<sub>x</sub> emissions (as NO<sub>2</sub>) the NO-N emission factor of 0.12 kg NO-N per kg N excreted is multiplied by 46/14.

Table 14: Emission factors for emissions of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO from grazing

<b>Dairy cows</b>	0.14 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>Other cattle</b>	0.14 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>Horses</b>	0.35 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>Sheep, goats</b>	0.09 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>Laying hens</b>	0.35 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>Deer</b>	0.09 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>Ostriches</b>	0.35 kg NH <sub>3</sub> -N per kg TAN excreted
<b>All animals</b>	0.012 kg NO-N per kg N excreted

## Trend discussion for Key Sources

Emissions from urine and dung deposited by grazing animals are no key sources.

## Recalculations

Until 2012, NH<sub>3</sub> grazing emissions are lower than those of last year's submission and thereafter they are higher. For NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from grazing in all years are higher than those of last year's submission. **Recalculations No. 3** (new methodology to calculate N and TAN excretions of dairy cows) and **No. 4** (higher milk yields) lead in combination to higher N excretion of dairy cows, especially at the beginning of the time series, but to lower TAN excretions for all years. Since NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are related to TAN excretion and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions are related to N excretion, this leads to lower NH<sub>3</sub> and higher NO emissions. **Recalculation No. 6** (higher N (and TAN) excretion for heavy horses as of 2011) is the reason why, after 2012, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are higher compared with last year's submission. Further details on recalculations are described in Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 1.3.

Table 15: Comparison of NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions [kt] with previous submission

		<b>NH<sub>3</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from grazing, in kt</b>														
	<b>Submission</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1995</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Ammonia</b>	<b>current</b>	24.50	20.91	18.53	16.75	15.95	15.98	15.85	15.83	15.67	15.55	15.33	15.12	15.20	15.35	15.20
	<b>previous</b>	24.58	21.15	18.79	17.00	16.26	15.94	15.73	15.56	15.33	15.19	15.00	14.85	14.93	15.09	
	<b>absolute change</b>	-0.08	-0.24	-0.26	-0.25	-0.31	0.04	0.11	0.27	0.34	0.36	0.33	0.26	0.27	0.25	
	<b>relative change [%]</b>	-0.32	-1.15	-1.38	-1.47	-1.90	0.22	0.71	1.76	2.22	2.36	2.22	1.78	1.84	1.68	

<b>Nitrogen oxides</b>	<b>current</b>	9.44	7.67	6.83	6.12	5.78	5.63	5.56	5.53	5.43	5.35	5.25	5.15	5.15	5.19	5.12
	<b>previous</b>	8.84	7.38	6.66	6.00	5.72	5.55	5.47	5.40	5.30	5.24	5.17	5.11	5.11	5.17	
	<b>absolute change</b>	0.59	0.29	0.17	0.13	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.13	0.13	0.11	0.08	0.04	0.04	0.03	
	<b>relative change [%]</b>	6.73	3.93	2.58	2.09	1.00	1.31	1.55	2.35	2.38	2.05	1.46	0.80	0.70	0.52	

**Planned improvements**

No improvements are planned at present.

**3.D.a.4 - Crop residues applied to soil**

The calculation of NH<sub>3</sub> from crop residues is described in Vos et al. (2026), Chapter 5.2.1.3. According to EMEP (2023) NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are only occurring in a significant amount from crop residues on the soil surface, which are present more than three days and have an N content of more than 0.0132 kg N per kg dry matter. This means that there are no NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from most crop residues of the most commonly used crops in Germany. The major source of the emissions are residues of grassland cuts.

**Activity data**

The NH<sub>3</sub> emissions are calculated proportionally to the amounts of N stored in the above-ground biomass, according to EMEP (2023). This requires the knowledge of the areas of cultivation, of crop yields and of the N contents of the above ground crop residues.

Table 16: AD for the estimation of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from crop residues

<b>N in aboveground crop residues in kt N</b>														
1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
370	377	418	429	411	417	416	443	348	391	403	425	413	424	424

**Methodology**

According to EMEP (2023) the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from crop residues can be neglected when the crop residues are on the field for less than three days. Thus the first step in the emission calculation is determining which share of the crop residues of each crop are incorporated into the soil or removed in the first three days after harvesting the crop. The remaining amounts are multiplied with their respective N contents and the resulting amounts of N are then multiplied with the NH<sub>3</sub>-emission factor.

**Emission factors**

According to the methodology given in EMEP (2023) the emission factor for the NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from crop residues applied to the soil is zero if the N content of the above ground crop residues is below or equal to the threshold of 0.0132 kg N per kg dry matter. In all other cases the NH<sub>3</sub> emission factor is determined using the following linear regression, see EMEP (2023):

$$EF(NH_3)_x = \frac{(410 \times N_{(above\ dm_x)}^{-5.42})}{100}$$

Where x is the according crop and N<sub>above dm</sub> is the N content of the above ground dry matter. The implied emission factors provided in the following table are defined as ratio of the total NH<sub>3</sub>-N emissions from crop residues to the total N in aboveground crop residues. Table 17: IEF for NH<sub>3</sub>-N emissions from crop residues ^ IEF in kg NH<sub>3</sub>-N per kg N in aboveground crop residues ||||| ^ 1990 ^ 1995 ^ 2000 ^ 2005 ^ 2010 ^ 2015 ^ 2016 ^ 2017 ^ 2018 ^ 2019 ^ 2020 ^ 2021 ^ 2022 ^ 2023 ^ 2024 ^ | 0.019 | 0.016 | 0.014 | 0.014 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.014 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.014 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.014 | == Trend discussion for Key Sources == NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from crop residues are no key source. == Recalculations == For all years, NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from crop residues are slightly higher than those of last year's submission. The main reason for this is



8.87 | | ::: ^ previous | 7.69 | 8.19 | 8.79 | 9.17 | 9.53 | 9.91 | 9.69 | 9.74 | 7.82 | 8.56 | 9.16 | 9.44 | 8.91 | 9.23 | | | ::: ^ absolute change | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | | ::: ^ relative change [%] | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | | |



For **pollutant-specific information on recalculated emission estimates for Base Year and 2023**, please see the pollutant specific recalculation tables following [chapter 9.1 - Recalculations](#).

==== Planned improvements ====



At the moment, no category-specific improvements are planned.

==== Uncertainty ==== Details are described in [chapter 1.7](#).

<sup>1)</sup>  
Vos, C., Rösemann, C., Haenel, H.-D., Dämmgen, U., Döring, U., Wulf, S., Eurich-Menden, B., Döhler, H., Steuer, B., Osterburg, B., Fuß, R. (2026) Calculations of gaseous and particulate emissions from German agriculture 1990 - 2024 : Report on methods and data (RMD) Submission 2026. [www.eminv-agriculture.de](http://www.eminv-agriculture.de)

<sup>2)</sup>  
EMEP/EEA air pollutant emission inventory guidebook 2023, EEA Report No 06/2023, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/en/analysis/publications/emep-eea-guidebook-2023>.

<sup>3)</sup>  
Bittman, S., Dedina, M., Howard C.M., Oenema, O., Sutton, M.A., (eds) (2014): Options for Ammonia Mitigation. Guidance from the UNECE task Force on Reactive Nitrogen. Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Edinburgh, UK.

<sup>4)</sup>  
Stehfest E., Bouwman L. (2006): N<sub>2</sub>O and NO emission from agricultural fields and soils under natural vegetation: summarizing available measurement data and modelling of global emissions. Nutr. Cycl. Agroecosyst. 74, 207 - 228.

<sup>5)</sup>  
NID (2026): National Inventory Report 2026 for the German Greenhouse Gas Inventory 1990-2024. Available in April 2026.