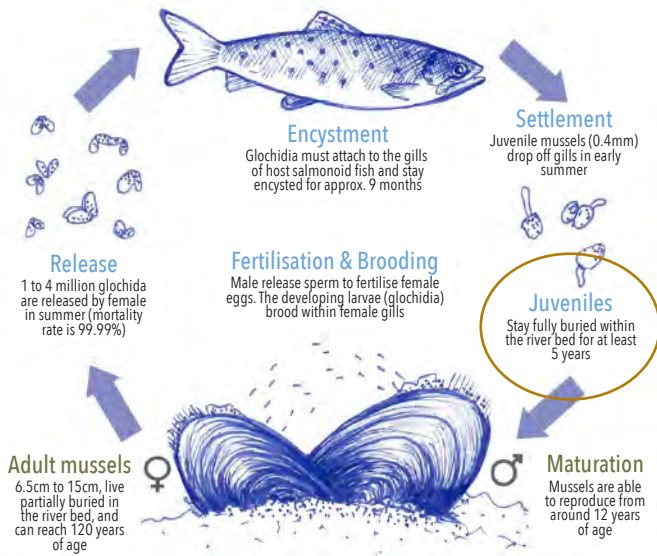




Fertiliser & Slurry Guidance

The Pearl Mussel Life Cycle



Algae growing in river due presence of nutrients

Nutrients from slurry/fertiliser cause extreme algae growth which smothers the mussels at juvenile stage.



Dead and stressed pearl mussels

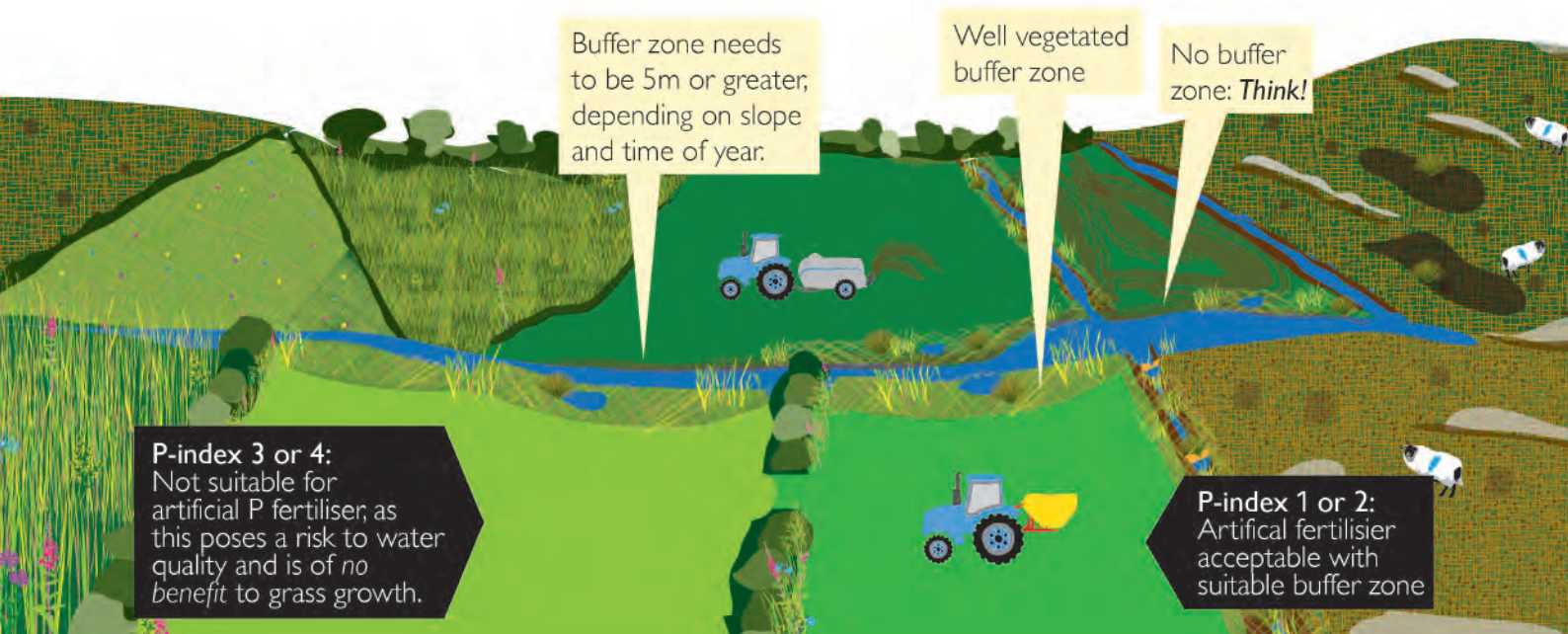
Freshwater pearl mussels are in decline due to lack of reproduction, so ensuring the survival of juveniles is key to protecting the species for future generations.

Artificial Fertiliser

Applying artificial chemical phosphorus (P) without soil samples and with insufficient buffer strips in place, is recognised as being a major source of nutrient loss to watercourses in the PMP catchments.

Protected urea fertiliser is preferable to artificial P fertiliser in freshwater pearl mussel catchments.

Artificial chemical phosphorus (P) can only be applied once soil sample results show deficiency of P and there is no risk of loss to watercourse.



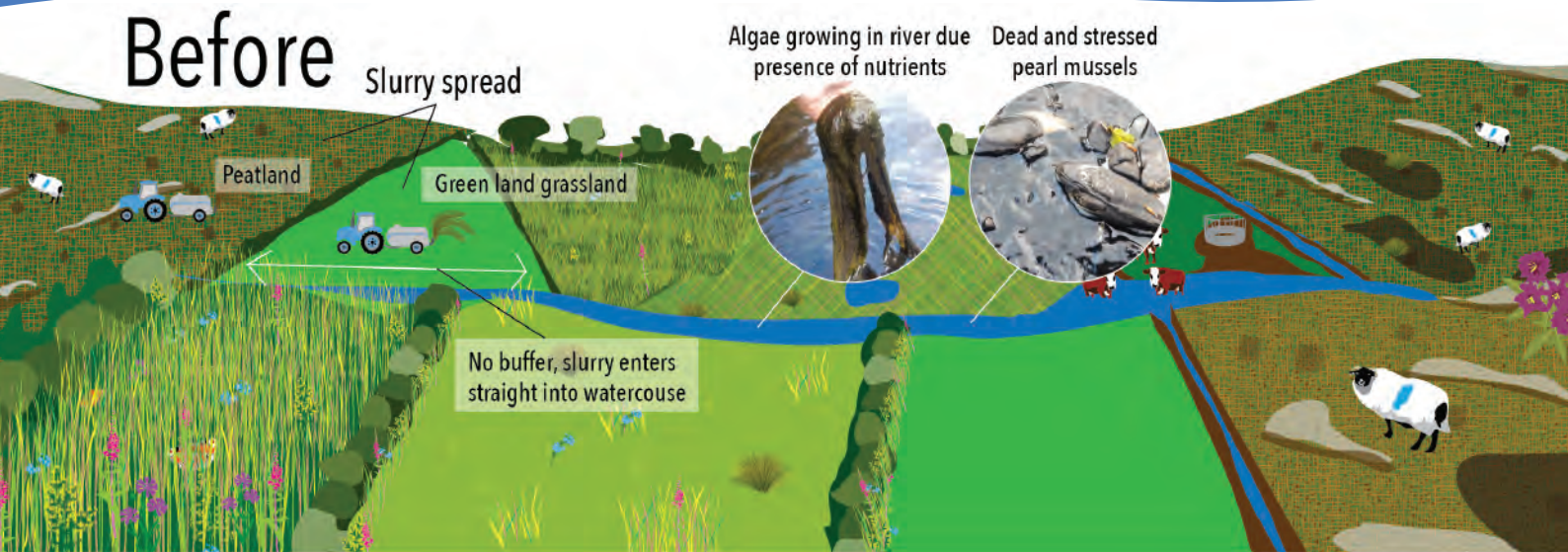
Lime is toxic to freshwater pearl mussels.

Farmers must seek approval from Project Team before spreading lime.

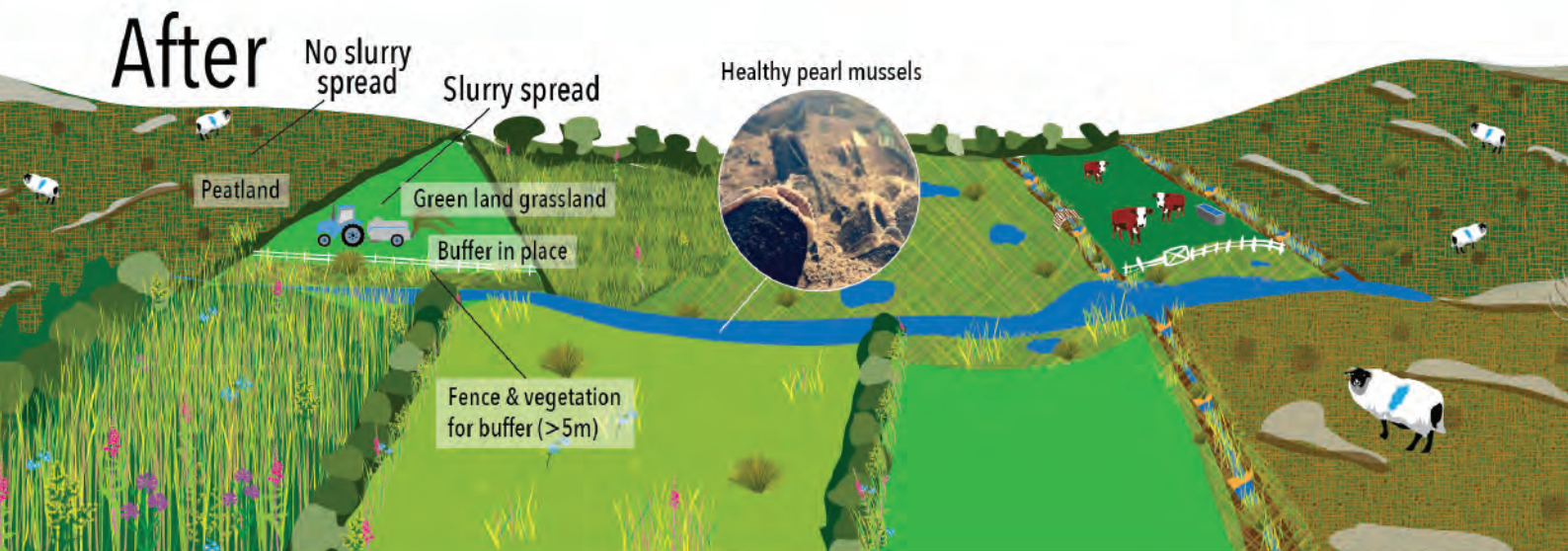
Consent from NPWS is required if lime is to be spread within 20m of a SAC river, stream, or floodplain.



Fertiliser & Slurry Guidance



Low scoring peatland and WFA is 0.6



Peatland scores increase and WFA increases to 1 because of buffer.

The practice of housing livestock over the winter period gives rise to significant volumes of slurry. Given the nature of farmland in the catchments, this slurry can only be spread on a small portion of farm.

Options for slurry spreading

Spread on suitable land outside of catchment.



Exporting of slurry to suitable farm with capacity (DAFM movement form required).

Look at more traditional breed of cattle - suitable for out-wintering.

- Spreading slurry on any peatland is not permitted.
- Spreading should only be done during dry weather and when ground conditions are suitable.
- Consider split applications during the summer season to ensure maximum uptake and reduce losses.
- It should be noted that spreading of any fertiliser, slurry, or lime within 20m of an SAC river, stream or floodplain and within 50m of a wetland or lake requires the consent of NPWS.