James McCarthy, a dairy farmer from Ireland, is participating in the Dutch Nitrogen Tour. The Dutch approach to the nitrogen problem is the focus of this study tour, which takes place from 23 to 25 November. What are this Irish participant’s expectations of the Tour?

What is the situation regarding nitrogen in your region?

“In Ireland, the most important problem regarding nitrogen is the compliance with regulations. The vast majority of farms are governed by one regulation - the EU Nitrates Directive. The regulations are updated every three years according to changes to Ireland’s Nitrates Action Plan approved by the EU Commission. Ireland is not partitioned into separate Nitrogen Vulnerable Zones.”

Why will you participate in the Dutch Nitrogen Tour?

“I am a dairy farmer in the south-west of Ireland. I have to manage the nitrogen use on my farm to comply with legislation and to optimise grass production. I am also the Chairman of the Irish Farmers Association for the Munster region, which is the most intensively farmed part of Ireland. I wish to participate in the tour to learn how farmers in other countries are managing nitrogen.”