



TITLE Ammonia emissions from cattle dung, urine and urine with dicyandiamide in a temperate grassland

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1 **Ammonia emissions from cattle dung, urine and urine with dicyandiamide**  
2 **in a temperate grassland**

3  
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13

14 **Short running head title:** NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from dung, urine and urine+DCD

15

## 16 **Abstract**

17 Deposition of urine and dung in pasture-based livestock production systems is a major source  
18 of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) volatilisation, contributing to the eutrophication and acidification of water  
19 bodies and to indirect nitrous oxide emissions. The objectives of this study were to (i)  
20 measure NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation from dung and urine in three seasons, (ii) test the effect of spiking  
21 urine with the nitrification inhibitor dicyandiamide (DCD) on NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation and (iii)  
22 generate NH<sub>3</sub> emission factors (EFs) for dung, urine and urine+DCD in temperate maritime  
23 grassland. Accordingly, simulated dung, urine and urine spiked with DCD (at 30 kg DCD/ha  
24 equivalent rate) patches were applied to temperate grassland. Treatments were applied three  
25 times in 2014 with one measurement of NH<sub>3</sub> loss being completed in spring, summer and  
26 autumn. The NH<sub>3</sub>-N EF was highest in spring, which was most likely due to the near absence  
27 of rainfall throughout the duration of loss measurement. The EFs across the experiments  
28 ranged between 2.8 and 5.3 % (mean 3.9 %) for dung, 8.7 and 14.9 % (mean 11.2 %) for  
29 urine and 9.5 and 19.5 % (mean 12.9 %) for urine+DCD, showing that ammonia loss from  
30 dung was significantly lower than from urine. Aggregating country specific emission data  
31 such as those from the current experiment with data from climatically similar regions  
32 (perhaps in a weighted manner which accounts for the relative abundance of certain  
33 environmental conditions) along with modelling are potentially resource efficient approaches  
34 for refining national ammonia inventories.

35

36 **Key words:** Ammonia , dung, urine, DCD, grazing, grassland

## 37 **Introduction**

38 Livestock production systems are major contributors to global agricultural ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)  
39 emissions and are responsible for between 16 and 27 (mean 21) Tg/yr emission. Grazing  
40 animals contribute between 17 and 37 % of this total (Beusen et al., 2008). Therefore, NH<sub>3</sub>

41 emissions from livestock systems are a substantial issue in many countries, particularly in the  
42 European Union where member states have agreed to establish national NH<sub>3</sub> emission  
43 ceilings (European Commission, 2015). In Ireland, for example, agriculture contributes  
44 approximately 98 % of national NH<sub>3</sub> emissions and in 2012 it is estimated that 12 % of these  
45 emissions arose from dung and urine-N deposited by grazing livestock (EPA, 2014).

46 Ammonia volatilisation is a major loss pathway for nitrogen (N) from dung and urine  
47 deposited on pasture. Volatilisation represents a loss in terms of soil fertility and causes  
48 negative environmental impacts by contributing to eutrophication and acidification of water  
49 bodies (Grizzetti, 2011). In addition, NH<sub>3</sub> deposition results in acidification of soils due to  
50 release of H<sup>+</sup> during nitrification (Velthof, 2011). Ammonia is also vulnerable to the  
51 formation of secondary aerosols such as NH<sub>4</sub>NO<sub>3</sub> and (NH<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> because of its alkaline  
52 nature (Warneck, 1999). The transport distance of these secondary ammonium salt aerosols is  
53 considerably greater than for NH<sub>3</sub> gas (Warneck, 1999; Aneja et al., 2000). Furthermore, re-  
54 deposition of volatilised NH<sub>3</sub> is an important source of N for the production of nitrous oxide  
55 (N<sub>2</sub>O) via biological nitrification of ammonium (NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>) (Martikainen, 1985) and subsequent  
56 denitrification of nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>). Therefore, NH<sub>3</sub> contributes indirectly to greenhouse gas  
57 production. As a consequence, estimates of NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from urine and dung play an  
58 important role in determining the indirect element of N<sub>2</sub>O emission factors (EFs) and are  
59 necessary to compliment recent studies which measured direct emission N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from  
60 cattle excreta in temperate grassland (Bell et al., 2015; Krol et al., 2015).

61 The rate of NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation from dung and urine is influenced by meteorological factors  
62 such as temperature, rainfall and wind speed. Generally, weather conditions which increase  
63 evaporation will increase volatilisation of NH<sub>3</sub> (Meisinger & Jokela, 2000). Ammonia  
64 volatilisation increases with increasing temperature (Clay et al., 1990; Lockyer & Whitehead,  
65 1990; Sommer et al., 1991; Whitehead & Raistrick, 1991) due to increased urease activity in

66 soil and decreased water solubility of  $\text{NH}_3$  (Freney et al., 1983), provided adequate soil water  
67 is present for hydrolysis of urea (Lockyer & Whitehead, 1990). The influence of rainfall on  
68 emissions depends on the intensity of the rainfall event: small volumes of rainfall ( $\leq 5$  mm)  
69 with low intensity increase  $\text{NH}_3$  volatilisation due to enhanced hydrolysis of urea (Engel et  
70 al., 2011; Sanz-Cobena et al., 2011), whereas higher volumes of rainfall minimise  
71 volatilisation due to increased soil infiltration of deposited N (Bouwmeester et al., 1985;  
72 Engel et al., 2011; Sanz-Cobena et al., 2011).

73 Mitigation strategies, such as the use of nitrification inhibitors, have been widely investigated  
74 to assess their effectiveness in reducing N losses from urine patches. For example, the  
75 nitrification inhibitor dicyandiamide (DCD) has been reported to reduce  $\text{NO}_3^-$  leaching losses  
76 by 10 to 76 % (Di & Cameron, 2004; Zaman & Blennerhassett, 2010; Dennis et al., 2012)  
77 and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emissions from urine patches by 25 to 70 % (Di et al., 2007; Smith et al., 2008;  
78 Zaman & Blennerhassett, 2010; Misselbrook et al., 2014). Dicyandiamide reduces these  
79 losses by slowing the conversion of soil  $\text{NH}_4^+$  to  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and consequently increases the period  
80 of time in which soil  $\text{NH}_4^+$  is available for  $\text{NH}_3$  volatilisation. Therefore, although the use of  
81 DCD is an effective leaching and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$  emission mitigation strategy, it may promote increased  
82  $\text{NH}_3$  volatilisation from urea fertilisers and urine patches. However, this has not been  
83 consistently reported in the literature (Table 1): most previous studies (Prakasa Rao &  
84 Puttanna, 1987; Davies & Williams, 1995; Asing et al., 2008; Zaman & Blennerhassett,  
85 2010) have found increased  $\text{NH}_3$  volatilisation in presence of DCD, whereas Clay et al.  
86 (1990) and Di & Cameron (2004) did not observe a significant effect of DCD. Hence there is  
87 some uncertainty as to the effect of DCD usage on  $\text{NH}_3$  loss when used as a  $\text{NO}_3^-$  and  $\text{N}_2\text{O}$   
88 loss mitigation strategy.

89 Table 1 here

90 At present, the grazing cattle contributions to national NH<sub>3</sub> inventories in many countries are  
91 estimates based on a limited number of urine and dung EF studies, often derived in other  
92 countries subject to differing environmental conditions. In Ireland's case, EFs from the UK  
93 are currently used. To address the urine and dung NH<sub>3</sub> emission knowledge gap for grazing  
94 systems in Ireland, the objectives of this study were to (i) measure NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation from  
95 dung and urine across three seasons (spring, summer, autumn), (ii) test the effect of spiking  
96 urine with the nitrification inhibitor DCD on NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation and (iii) generate NH<sub>3</sub> EFs  
97 for dung, urine and urine+DCD, all in grassland in temperate maritime climatic conditions  
98 using dung and urine collected from animals grazing in these individual seasons.

## 99 **Material and Methods**

### 100 *Experimental Site and Experimental Design*

101 The experiment was conducted at a grassland site located at Teagasc Research Centre,  
102 Johnstown Castle, Co. Wexford, Ireland (52°18'N, 6°30'W; 62 m above sea level). In this  
103 area of Ireland the mean annual air temperature is 10.6 °C and the mean annual precipitation  
104 is 905.5 mm (Met Éireann, 2015). The soil is a luvisol with a loam texture at the  
105 surface (0 to 10 cm depth). Soil properties (0 to 10 cm depth) at the site are presented in  
106 Table 2. The sward was a perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) and white clover mixture  
107 (*Trifolium repens* L.).

108 Table 2 here

109 The experimental design was a randomised complete block with three treatments and three  
110 replicates per treatment. The treatments were (i) dung, (ii) urine and (iii) urine+DCD. These  
111 treatments were applied three times over the course of the experiment to represent dung and  
112 urine depositions in spring, summer and autumn.

113

114 *Weather and Soil Conditions*

115 Meteorological parameters including air temperature, air pressure, rainfall and wind speed  
116 were recorded on an hourly basis at the nearest automatic weather station “Johnstown Castle”  
117 from the Irish Meteorological Service (Met Éireann) (ca. 500 m distant from the study site).  
118 Additionally, volumetric soil moisture in field was determined weekly with a theta probe  
119 (Delta-T, Cambridge, UK).

120

121 *Collection and Application of Dung and Urine*

122 Dung and urine were collected 7 to 10 days before each application. Urine was collected  
123 directly from lactating Holstein-Friesian dairy cows by stimulating the cows’ perineum  
124 before and after evening milking. The dung was collected in the field immediately following  
125 deposition. In all seasons, the cows’ diet consisted of grazed perennial ryegrass pasture. Urine  
126 and dung were homogenised following collection and stored in sealed plastic containers at  
127 4 °C until application to reduce the risk of NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation. For the urine+DCD treatment,  
128 DCD was added at a rate to deliver equivalent of 30 kg DCD/ha on application. Luo et al.  
129 (2015) indicated that increasing the DCD application rate from 10 to 60 kg/ha could decrease  
130 N<sub>2</sub>O emissions from urine patches; the DCD rate chosen in this study was the same as their  
131 mid-point rate of 30 kg/ha.

132 Treatment application took place on 8 April 2014, 28 July 2014 and 30 September 2014 for  
133 spring, summer and autumn applications, respectively. The dung patches were simulated by  
134 applying 2 kg of fresh dung, which is within the range of 1.5-2.7 kg reported by Haynes and  
135 Williams (1993), in a constrained 28 cm diameter ring (0.0615 m<sup>2</sup>). Four of these dung  
136 patches were applied in a square configuration (edge length: 1 m), with the centre of the dung  
137 patch placed on each corner of the square. The urine and urine+DCD patches were applied in  
138 the same square configuration. These patches were simulated using 2 L of urine, the same

139 volume as used by Williams and Haynes (1994) and close to the 2.1 L mean urination volume  
140 from dairy cows reported in a meta-analysis by Selbie et al. (2014), and were applied using a  
141 watering can with a rosette attachment. The urine patches were constrained to a 0.16 m<sup>2</sup>  
142 surface area using a stainless steel frame which was placed in the ground to a maximum  
143 depth of 1 cm and removed promptly following urine infiltration into the soil. The sward was  
144 cut to a uniform height of 5 cm ten days before each of the three treatment applications and  
145 allowed to regrow. A new plot was used for each of the three seasonal applications.

146

#### 147 *Ammonia Emission Measurement*

148 A system of nine wind tunnels (Lockyer, 1984), were deployed to measure NH<sub>3</sub>  
149 volatilisation. Briefly, each wind tunnel unit consisted of (i) a canopy (0.5 m x 2 m) made of  
150 polycarbonate into which an inlet air sample line was integrated, (ii) a galvanised sheet steel  
151 duct housing an axial fan, anemometer and an outlet air sample line and (iii) a control box  
152 housing a diaphragm pump for the air sample lines, a flow meter and a critical orifice for both  
153 air sample lines. The air pumped through the inlet and outlet air sample lines passed through  
154 two individual conical absorption flasks which contained 100 ml of 0.02 M orthophosphoric  
155 acid (H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>, 85 %, Merck, Darmstadt, Germany), to capture NH<sub>3</sub>-N in the air (i.e. acid  
156 traps).

157 The wind tunnel canopy was placed over two of the four urine or dung patches on each  
158 replicate immediately after treatment application. Emissions were measured continuously for  
159 a period of 15 to 17 days after each application. The acid traps were replaced every ~24 h  
160 (except during the first 24 h period in the summer application when they were changed twice  
161 in the initial 24 h), until 10<sup>th</sup> day after application and thereafter every ~48 h until the end of  
162 the experiment. The rain-shielding effect of the wind tunnel canopy in periods of rain was



163 minimized by moving the canopy back and forth between the two pairs of simulated urine or  
164 dung patches on each occasion that the acid traps were changed.

165 To account for evaporation in the field the acid trap samples were refilled to 100 ml with  
166 deionised water (Sartorius arium 611UV, Göttingen, Germany), decanted in plastic tubes  
167 (50 ml, Sarstedt, Nürnberg, Germany), and stored at 4 °C until analysed.

168

#### 169 *Ammonium Analysis*

170 The ammonium-N concentration in the acid trap samples ( $\text{NH}_4^+$ -N in 0.02 M  $\text{H}_3\text{PO}_4$ ) was  
171 determined photometrically using an Aquakem 600A Analyser (Thermo Electron OY,  
172 Vantaa, Finland). Ammonium was converted by reaction with hypochlorite ions and  
173 salicylate ions into a blue compound. After 600 s incubation time absorbance was measured  
174 at wavelength 660 nm. The detection limit was 0.02 mg/L.

175

#### 176 *Dung and Urine Analysis*

177 On each day of application, subsamples from the dung, urine and urine+DCD to be applied  
178 were taken and analysed for total N. A 10 mL portion of the urine subsamples was diluted  
179 1:500 with deionised water (Sartorius arium 611UV, Göttingen, Germany) and then analysed  
180 unfiltered with Ganimede N (Hach-Lange, Düsseldorf, Germany). The dry matter content of  
181 dung samples was measured by freeze drying. A portion of the freeze-dried sample was ball  
182 milled and analysed for total N content with LECO TruSpec CN (St. Joseph, USA).

183

#### 184 *Data Analysis*

185 The calculation of  $\text{NH}_3$ -N loss in kg/ha was carried out as described by Meisinger et al.  
186 (2001). If the difference between the inlet and outlet acid trap concentration was negative the  
187 loss was set to zero. The  $\text{NH}_3$ -N flux was calculated by dividing the emission rate by the

188 exposure time. The statistical analysis software R (version 3.1.2, R Development Core Team,  
189 2014) was used to test for treatment effects with mean comparisons by F-protected LSD test.  
190 Data from each season were analysed separately because the effect of season was confounded  
191 with the effect of the slightly changed location at each application. A statistical probability of  
192  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant for all statistical tests.

## 193 **Results**

### 194 *Weather Conditions*

195 The average air temperatures during the measurement periods were 9.1, 15.4 and 11.6 °C  
196 during the spring, summer and autumn applications, respectively (Table 3). Total rainfall  
197 varied greatly between experimental periods (Table 3). During the spring application  
198 cumulative rainfall and intensity (Figure 1d) was very low compared with the summer and  
199 autumn applications (Figures 1i, n). Additionally, little rainfall occurred during the initial 11  
200 days following the spring application (Figure 1d). The initial volumetric soil moisture at  
201 treatment application was highest in spring (42 %) and lowest in summer (11 %), while there  
202 was little difference in mean wind speed between seasons.

203 Table 3 here

204

### 205 *Dung and Urine N Content, Dry Matter and N Loading*

206 Dung dry matter contents were 15, 12 and 9 % for spring, summer and autumn applications,  
207 respectively. The dung N loading was highest in spring (Table 4). The mean urine N load was  
208 695 kg/ha or in the case of urine+DCD 717 kg/ha (Table 4), with the highest N loading in  
209 summer.

210 Table 4 here

211

212 *Ammonia Emissions*

213 Hourly ammonia emissions (kg NH<sub>3</sub>-N/ha/h) ranged from 0 to 0.66 kg N/ha/h for dung, 0 to  
214 1.7 kg N/ha/h for urine and 0 to 2.02 kg N/ha/h for urine+DCD (Figures 1a, f, k). Hourly  
215 emissions peaked within the first two days following application for urine treatments and  
216 declined thereafter until the end of the measurement period in each season. Hourly NH<sub>3</sub>  
217 emissions from dung were lower compared to urine treatments in the first four days after each  
218 application and displayed little temporal variation within each season.  
219 Emissions from urine treatments were rapid following application, with the majority (> 80 %)  
220 of the NH<sub>3</sub>-N emissions occurring within the first three days in each of the three seasons  
221 (Figures 1b, j, l). Emissions from dung followed a more consistent emission pattern with  
222 > 80 % of the emissions occurring within 11 to 14 days of application in each of the three  
223 seasons (Figures 1b, j, l).

224 Figure 1 here

225  
226 Total NH<sub>3</sub>-N losses and EFs for each season are presented in Table 5. The EFs for urine  
227 treatments were significantly higher than the dung in each season. However, the EFs for urine  
228 and urine+DCD did not differ significantly. Substantial differences in NH<sub>3</sub> loss, particularly  
229 for urine and urine+DCD, were noted between spring and the other two seasons. These  
230 differences were not statistically evaluated as the experiment was not randomised to  
231 accommodate such comparison bearing in mind that the specific environmental factors  
232 following dung and urine application were expected to have a large influence on the  
233 measured EFs. Over the three applications dates the mean EFs were 3.9, 11.1, and 12.9 % for  
234 dung, urine and urine+DCD, respectively.

235 Table 5 here

## 236 **Discussion**

### 237 *Ammonia Emission Factors*

238 The NH<sub>3</sub>-N EFs for urine across the three seasons ranged between 8.7 % and 14.9 % (Table  
239 5). Other researchers have observed larger ranges in urine EFs for temperate grassland. For  
240 instance, EFs for urine ranged between 3.7 % and 26.9 % in the UK (Ryden et al., 1987;  
241 Lockyer & Whitehead, 1990), between 3 % and 52 % in Denmark (Petersen et al., 1998) and  
242 between 3.6 % and 23 % in New Zealand (Zaman et al., 2009, 2013; Zaman &  
243 Blennerhassett, 2010). The lower range of emissions in the current experiment may be in part  
244 due to the small range in rainfall quantities experienced during the initial days following each  
245 urine application (Figure 1d, i, n). Ammonia EFs for urine applied to grassland have been  
246 found to decrease four-fold with the application of simulated rainfall (20 mm) immediately  
247 after urine application, compared to urine receiving no rainfall (Saarijärvi *et al.*, 2006). This  
248 is a period which is highly influential on cumulative NH<sub>3</sub> loss as illustrated by Lockyer and  
249 Whitehead (1990) who reported that at least 70% of NH<sub>3</sub> loss occurred within four days of  
250 urine application and the current experiments where >80% of emissions occurred within three  
251 days of urine application.

252 In the current experiments, dung NH<sub>3</sub>-N EFs ranged between 2.8 % and 5.3 % (Table 5).  
253 These values are consistent with values reported in the literature for dung EFs from temperate  
254 grassland of 1.2 % (Ryden et al., 1987), 4.7 % (MacDiarmid & Watkin, 1972) but  
255 substantially lower than the 11.6 % reported by Laubach et al. (2013); Petersen et al. (1998)  
256 detected only “insignificant” NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation from dung pats. The lower NH<sub>3</sub> emission  
257 from dung compared to urine in this and previous studies is most likely due to the form of N  
258 in dung which is bound in proteins and bacterial cells as compared to the high proportion of  
259 urea N present in urine (Ryden et al., 1987). Petersen et al. (1998) suggested that the lower

260 emission from dung could also be due to the formation of a surface crust on the dung pat  
261 which limits NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation.

262 The somewhat lower EFs reported in this study may be due, in part, to the specific  
263 environmental conditions experienced at the experimental site following the treatment  
264 applications. Inconsistency in EFs between studies conducted in different countries and  
265 indeed within countries is to be expected. This is because measurements are taken from a  
266 subsample of all possible soil and environmental conditions which occur in a given country  
267 and ammonia loss is heavily influenced by these factors. This presents challenges for  
268 generating robust loss estimates for grazing systems where urine and dung are deposited  
269 continually during the grazing season and each patch is subject to a very specific set of soil  
270 and environmental conditions following deposition. The generation of country-specific EFs is  
271 important to help refine the accuracy of national NH<sub>3</sub> emissions inventories, but importantly  
272 so too is the generation of larger NH<sub>3</sub> loss datasets across countries with similar climatic  
273 conditions. Given the limitations of subsampling all possible climatic and soil conditions  
274 which a urine or dung patch will be subjected to in a specific country, a practical approach  
275 may be to aggregate studies which have assessed loss under environmental conditions which  
276 are representative of a country. It may be useful to do this in a weighted manner which takes  
277 account of the relative occurrence of the environmental conditions of specific experiments.  
278 This approach has potential to generate a more robust climatic (rather than country specific)  
279 EF. Currently emissions from dung and urine for Ireland's national NH<sub>3</sub> emissions inventory  
280 are estimated using UK data, these loss estimates can be improved by incorporation of  
281 country specific data such as those from the current study.

282

283 *Temporal variation in NH<sub>3</sub> loss*

284 The temporal pattern of NH<sub>3</sub> emission peaks for urine treatments was similar between  
285 seasons (Figures 1a, b, f, g, k, l). However, the emission period was substantially longer in  
286 spring than in summer and autumn experiments (14 days versus eight and seven days,  
287 respectively). Accordingly, higher cumulative emissions were measured in spring. In general,  
288 emissions in spring are thought to be lower than in summer and autumn due, in part, to lower  
289 air temperatures. Several studies have found NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation to increase with increasing air  
290 temperature (Clay et al., 1990; Lockyer & Whitehead, 1990; Sommer et al., 1991; Whitehead  
291 & Raistrick, 1991). However, the highest emission in this experiment was measured in spring  
292 which had the lowest air temperature (Table 3). This highlights the point that other factors  
293 can play an influence which overrides the temperature effect on NH<sub>3</sub> loss. The high spring  
294 emissions observed can be explained by both high emission on day two and the protracted  
295 period of NH<sub>3</sub> emission in the spring measurement where rainfall did not occur (Figure 1d).  
296 The lack of rainfall may have allowed for this protracted period of NH<sub>3</sub> loss compared to  
297 other seasons. Previous studies have reported that significant levels of rainfall/irrigation, soon  
298 after application, can restrict NH<sub>3</sub> emissions from urea fertiliser (Bouwmeester et al., 1985;  
299 Engel et al., 2011; Sanz-Cobena et al., 2011) and urine patches (Saarijärvi *et al.*, 2006).  
300 Initial soil moisture content was highest in spring (Table 3) which may have promoted NH<sub>3</sub>  
301 loss due to increased urease activity (McGarry et al., 1987; Kemppainen, 1989; Whitehead &  
302 Raistrick, 1991). Higher initial soil moisture contents may have slowed the infiltration of  
303 urine N into the soil profile, contributing to the large peak in NH<sub>3</sub> loss observed in spring  
304 (Figure 1a). Similarly, Sommer & Jacobsen (1999) reported lower infiltration of slurry  
305 ammoniacal N and increased NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation. Furthermore, protracted drying conditions  
306 due to the absence of rainfall (Figure 1d) for most of the duration of measurement in spring is  
307 consistent with higher NH<sub>3</sub> loss due to a prolonged emission period in addition to the initial

308 peak (Figure 1a). In the absence of rainfall, previous studies (Burch & Fox, 1989; Engel et  
309 al., 2011) have reported greater NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation from urea fertiliser which could be either  
310 due to an increased transition of dissolved to gaseous NH<sub>3</sub> which is lost to the atmosphere or  
311 due to increased soil water evaporation and subsequent volatilisation of NH<sub>3</sub> dissolved in soil  
312 water.

313

#### 314 *Impact of Dicyandiamide on Ammonia Emissions*

315 Although there is strong evidence in the literature, summarised by Kim et al. (2012), that the  
316 use of a nitrification inhibitor can increase NH<sub>3</sub> emissions, there was no statistical difference  
317 between urine and urine+DCD in the current experiments. However, in two seasons a trend  
318 towards increased EFs was present. Although not significantly different, EFs for the  
319 urine+DCD treatments in spring and autumn were numerically 31 % ( $P = 0.2$ ) and 9 %  
320 ( $P = 0.38$ ) higher compared to urine only. The soil properties at this site may have  
321 contributed to the lack of difference in NH<sub>3</sub> emissions between urine and urine+DCD  
322 treatments. For instance, a meta-analysis conducted by Kim et al. (2012) found that studies in  
323 which DCD significantly increased NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation relative to control treatments (e.g.  
324 Davies & Williams, 1995; Asing et al., 2008; Table 1) had an average soil pH of 6.5 and CEC  
325 of 10.2 meq/(100 g), whereas the soils in studies with no significant effect of DCD (e.g. Di &  
326 Cameron, 2004; Table 1) had lower soil pH (5.5) and higher CEC (15.8 meq/(100 g)). These  
327 lower pH and higher CEC values are similar to the soil pH and CEC in the present study (5.8  
328 and 15.5 meq/(100 g), Table 2). Therefore, the pH and high CEC of the soil at this site may  
329 have mitigated against DCD increasing NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation loss.

#### 330 **Conclusions**

331 Mean ammonia EFs in this study were 3.9 (2.8–5.3 %), 11.1 (8.7–14.9 %) and 12.9 % (9.5–  
332 19.5 %) for dung, urine and urine+DCD, respectively. Differing EFs between seasons were

333 attributed to the contrasting soil and ambient environmental conditions immediately  
334 following application of dung and urine, specifically soil moisture, and precipitation volume  
335 and pattern following application. The results of this experiment will aid refinement of  
336 national NH<sub>3</sub> inventories in Ireland and add to the limited body of excreta EFs available for  
337 temperate maritime grassland, particularly for urine+DCD. Other researchers have shown  
338 increased NH<sub>3</sub> emissions when nitrification inhibitors are used. However, the current  
339 experiments did not detect such an effect, indicating that increased NH<sub>3</sub> loss due to  
340 nitrification inhibitor usage will not occur in all cases. The present study highlights the need  
341 to fully understand the potential pollution swapping implications of utilising nitrification  
342 inhibitors as an N<sub>2</sub>O loss mitigation strategy because their effect on NH<sub>3</sub> loss remains  
343 difficult to predict. Further research is needed to identify techniques for NH<sub>3</sub> mitigation from  
344 dung and urine, and practical and cost-effective mechanisms for implementation in grazing  
345 systems, which is quite challenging owing to the spatially and temporally haphazard nature of  
346 excreta deposited at pasture.

347

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353

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507 **Table Captions**

508 **Table 1** Summary of literature reported influence of DCD on NH<sub>3</sub> volatilisation.

509 **Table 2** Soil properties (0–10 cm depth) at the experimental site.

510 **Table 3** Applied N rate for each season and treatment.

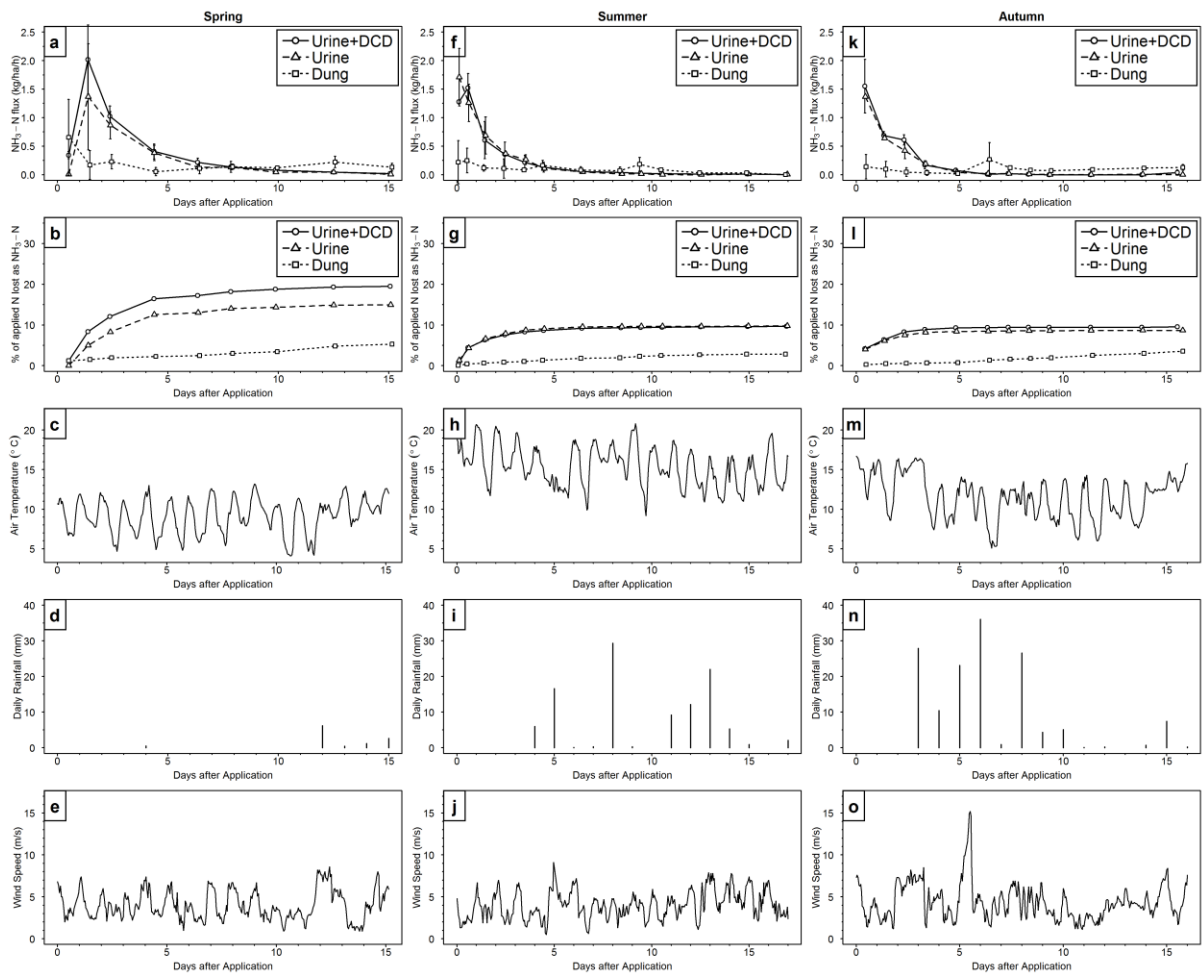
511 **Table 4** Summary of weather conditions during each experimental period.

512 **Table 5** Total NH<sub>3</sub>-N losses and emission factors for spring, summer and autumn dung and  
513 urine applications.

514 **Figure Captions**

515

516 **Figure 1** Temporal trend of NH<sub>3</sub>-N emissions and cumulative NH<sub>3</sub>-N loss for dung, urine and  
 517 urine+DCD in spring, summer and autumn. Air temperature, daily rainfall and wind speed for  
 518 each experimental period. Error bars indicate standard deviation (n = 3).



519  
520

521 **Table 1**

<b>Type of Study</b>	<b>Control</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Effect of DCD</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Glasshouse	Urea, organic manure	Urea+DCD, organic manure+DCD	Increased volatilisation by 58 %* and 38 %	Asing et al. (2008)
Field	Urea	Urea+DCD	No effect	Clay et al. (1990)
Lysimeter	N-fertiliser	N- fertiliser+DCD	Significantly increased volatilisation	Davies & Williams (1995)
Lysimeter	Urea, urine	Urea+DCD, urine+DCD	No effect	Di & Cameron (2004)
Field	Urea	Urea+DCD	“Tremendous” increase in volatilisation	Prakasa Rao & Puttanna (1987)
Incubation	Urea	Urea+DCD	In- and decreased volatilisation	Rodgers (1983)
Lysimeter	Urine	Urine+DCD	Increased volatilisation by 41 %* and 18 %*	Zaman & Blennerhassett (2010)
Field	Urine	Urine+DCD	Increased volatilisation by 19 % and 55 %*	Zaman & Nguyen (2012)
Field	Urine	Urine+DCD	Increased volatilisation by 9– 56 %	Zaman et al. (2009)
Field	Urine	Urine+DCD	Increased volatilisation by 10– 45 %*	Zaman et al. (2013)

522 \* Increase was significant

523

524 **Table 2**

<b>Soil pH</b>	<b>CEC<sup>a</sup> (meq / (100 g))</b>	<b>Soil LOI<sup>b</sup> (%)</b>	<b>Soil Ca (mg/L)</b>	<b>Soil K (mg/L)</b>	<b>Soil Mg (mg/L)</b>	<b>Sand (%)</b>	<b>Silt (%)</b>	<b>Clay (%)</b>
5.8	15.5	7.0	917	125	121	51.7	33.9	14.4

525 <sup>a</sup> Cation exchange capacity

526 <sup>b</sup> Loss on ignition

527



528 **Table 3**

	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Autumn</b>
Pressure (hPa)	1012	1002	999
Mean air temperature (°C)	9.1	15.4	11.6
Cumulative rainfall (mm)	10.9	104.2	142.9
Rain days	5	12	13
Initial volumetric soil moisture (%)	42	11	18
Mean wind speed (m/s)	4.0	4.0	4.4

529

530

531 **Table 4**

	<b>Spring</b>	<b>Summer</b>	<b>Autumn</b>
		kg N/ha	
<b>Dung</b>	1274 ± 263 †	1220 ± 83	1091 ± 47
<b>Urine</b>	638 ± 12	731 ± 6	716 ± 4
<b>Urine+DCD</b>	664 ± 8	746 ± 4	741 ± 4

532 † standard deviation

533

534 **Table 5**

	Total NH <sub>3</sub> -N losses (kg/ha)			NH <sub>3</sub> -N Emission factors (%)		
	Spring	Summer	Autumn	Spring	Summer	Autumn
Dung	67 ± 36 <sup>†</sup>	34 ± 18	39 ± 12	5.3 b ‡	2.8 b	3.5 b
Urine	95 ± 19	72 ± 19	62 ± 7	14.9 a	9.8 a	8.7 a
Urine+DCD	129 ± 33	72 ± 25	71 ± 14	19.5 a	9.7 a	9.5 a

535 <sup>†</sup> standard deviation536 <sup>‡</sup> Emission factors in the same column followed by a different letters are significantly  
537 different according to the LSD test ( $P < 0.05$ ).

538

539