



## A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

### Catchment Sensitive Farming Norfolk Newsletter Autumn 2015

Paul Sorrell  
Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer  
Tel: 07826 940 397 paul.sorrell@naturalengland.org.uk

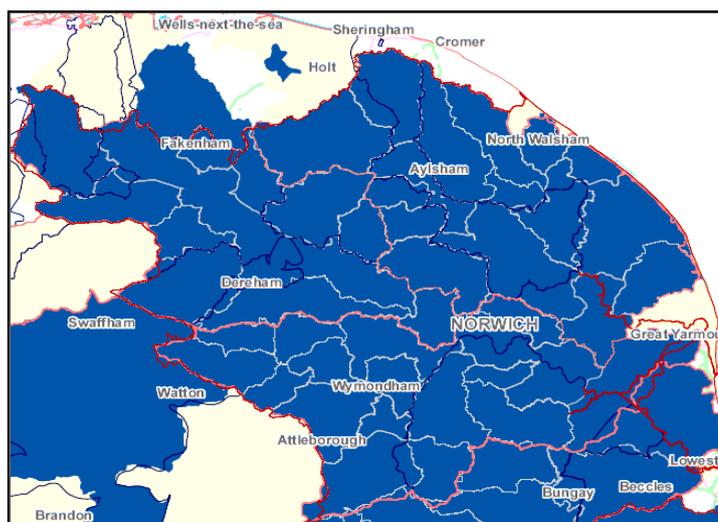
Rosanna Kellingray  
CSF River Basin Coordinator  
Tel: 07785 513 119 rosanna.kellingray@naturalengland.org.uk

As you may know CSF is a joint Natural England, Environment Agency and Defra project offering free advice and grants to help farmers reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture. Sediment and phosphates are of particular concern for example to our chalk rivers such as the Wensum, and pesticides (especially Metaldyhide) have been recorded over the drinking water standard in the Wensum, upper Bure and Trinity Broads. You can find out what your local issues are by using the Environment Agency online tool at [www.wiyby.co.uk](http://www.wiyby.co.uk)

#### Where we are working

The areas in Norfolk where CSF advice and grants are available have slightly changed from previous years. The targeting map illustrates the new priority areas in blue. These areas have been designated by the Environment Agency as having the highest risk of failing WFD because of agricultural pollution.

Whereas some of the target areas have expanded other areas such as The Glaven, Burn and the Nar catchment will no longer be targeted. There is still the opportunity for CSF to offer one-to-one advice in these areas for this year, so if you are in one of the pink or white areas but would like to take advantage of CSF advice this year whilst it is available please get in touch.



### **Countryside Stewardship Scheme**

The new Countryside Stewardship Scheme has been launched to replace the previous Environmental Stewardship Scheme (ELS/HLS) and CSF Capital Grants. By talking to your Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer you could improve your chances of getting a 'Middle Tier' agreement, which is now a competitive scheme.

The new scheme has more emphasis on improving water quality. If you are in a current ES agreement then there is the potential to have a standalone capital grant to help manage water and reduce contaminated runoff. The grant can help towards the cost of concrete yard renewal, pesticide sprayer loading and wash-down areas, roofing for sprayer wash down areas, manure storage, livestock gathering areas, slurry and silage stores and much more.

The application window next opens in July 2016 for agreement start dates of January 2017. You can look up details at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) and enter Countryside Stewardship in the search box. Alternatively just give Paul or Rosanna a call (contact details above) to discuss how the scheme can benefit your business.

### **One-to-one on-farm advice visits available**

Specialist farm visits are available on topics such as how to improve farm infrastructure, pesticide handling facilities, soil and nutrient management, as well as free fertiliser spreader and pellet applicator calibration. The advice you receive will be confidential and tailored to you farm business. If you would like a full list of the types of visits we can offer or would like a general visit please contact us. Advice visits can be arranged at a time to suit you and please take advantage whilst they are still **FREE**.

### **Upcoming events**

Look out for your event invitation through the post. Is there a topic you would like to learn more about? If so please let us know!

- **Soil Management for Maize and Controlled Traffic Farming.** Eglington & Son, Letton, Norfolk IP25 7PS **4th Nov 2015.**
- **Sensitive Ditch Management** event with CSF, Norfolk Rivers Trust, Water Management Alliance and North Norfolk Internal Drainage Board. Sculthorpe Moor Nature Reserve, Turf Moor Rd, Fakenham, Norfolk NR21 9GN **10<sup>th</sup> Dec 2015.**
- **Catch and Cover Crops** at the Demonstration Test Catchment in association with the Wensum Alliance. Salle farms, Manor Farm, Salle, Reepham, Norwich NR10 4SF **21st Jan 2016.**
- **Middle Tier Countryside Stewardship** – How CSF can help you get an agreement and capital items. **February Date TBC.**

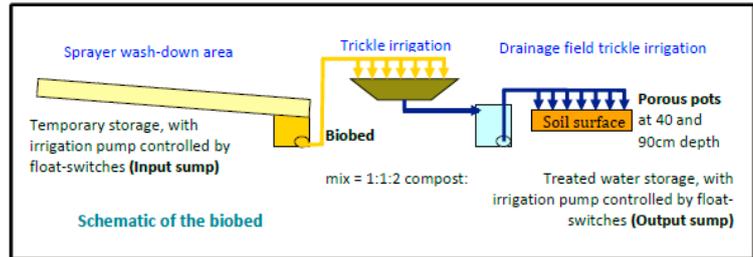


## A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

### Bio-beds case study

Using bio-beds as a cost-effective way to capture and reduce point source pesticide inputs into surface water and groundwater.



In 2013 as part of the Demonstration Test Catchments project a bio-bed was installed at Manor farm, Salle. Manor farm is in the Wensum catchment where drinking water protected areas are at risk from pesticides.

The bio-bed has been monitored and sampled since 2014 and has recorded a reduction in total pesticide concentrations of 45% - 99%. The results indicate that the bio-bed is able to significantly reduce concentrations of a complex mix of pesticides. This experiment allows for monitoring of any accumulation of pesticide residue over time giving a greater understanding on bio-bed management practices. This farm operation has reduced the risk of point-source pollution, having a positive impact on farm business. Bio-beds and Bio-filters are items available under the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. For further information on this project email Andrew Lovett at, [a.lovett@uea.ac.uk](mailto:a.lovett@uea.ac.uk)

### Out and about with the Environment Agency

Last autumn the Environment Agency drove around the roads near the Bure Broads and Marshes during heavy rain to check for runoff from fields. This was part of broader diffuse water pollution work and involved working in partnership with Natural England. We are working to reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering this Site of Special Scientific Interest.



During the Bure drive round, the EA officers found two fields that were producing large quantities of muddy runoff which was entering the watercourse. One farmer owned both fields, he was approached and accepted a Catchment Sensitive Farming visit to recommend changes in farming practices. For more information contact Lisa Turner at; [lisa.turner@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:lisa.turner@environment-agency.gov.uk)

CSF staff have also been contacted this year where heavy field run off has been sighted. Heavily silted water has been seen running off field onto highways collecting further contaminated sediments and entering watercourses. CSF will happily help and advise in a confidential manner with the farmer when these issues arise.

### Broadland Catchment Partnership, 'Slow the flow'

All of Broadland Catchment Partnership's 'Slow the Flow' funding for rural drainage has been allocated following close working with Norfolk FWAG, Internal Drainage Board and Catchment Sensitive Farming officers. The partnership is now seeking future funding to tackle road run-off in collaboration with local Highways teams. Contact Neil Punched for more information Neil Punched.

[Neil.Punched@broads-authority.gov.uk](mailto:Neil.Punched@broads-authority.gov.uk)





## A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

### Get PelletWise with Essex & Suffolk Water

Essex & Suffolk Water are working with the Metaldehyde Steering Group to promote the 'Get Pelletwise!' guidelines. As Metaldehyde cannot be completely removed from water, managing levels require Water Companies to blend different sources of water from rivers, boreholes and reservoirs to ensure that the water that leaves the treatment works is compliant.



#### Help protect river water quality:

- ✓ Use minimum active per ha to avoid drainage and run-off losses
- ✓ No pellets to be applied within six metres of a watercourse
- ✓ Do not apply when heavy rain is forecast
- ✓ If drains are flowing do not apply metaldehyde based slug pellets



As well as following the Get Pelletwise guidelines above, you can ask your agronomist about the following ideas to further protect watercourses:

- ✓ **Plant buffer strips next to watercourses and leave an appropriate width when using pesticides;**
- ✓ **Fill and clean equipment away from drains and watercourses;**
- ✓ **Keep machines calibrated, especially when changing between pellets or products;**
- ✓ **Consider using precision application methods;**
- ✓ **Consider reducing your metaldehyde use overall e.g. by using lower a.i. or non-metaldehyde pellets on highest risk fields and / or headlands.**

If you farm in the Upper Bure or Trinity Broads and would like to benefit from free calibration of slug pellet spreading equipment and PA4S training please get in contact with Ian Skinner from Essex & Suffolk Water on 07919 496949 or [ian.skinner@nwl.co.uk](mailto:ian.skinner@nwl.co.uk)