



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Severn Catchment: River Roden Total Area: 201 km²

Reasons for designation

The Roden catchment was designated because it contains a Groundwater Protected Area and Drinking Water Protected Area at risk of failure, due to Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture. Also, some of the eight water bodies fail good ecological status based on Environment Agency data. This shows that there is poor water quality due to nitrogen, pesticides including metaldehyde but also phosphorous and sediment. The catchment is also a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone.

Priorities

Initially, focus will be on the three sub catchments (1-3) on the map which are being targeted for the delivery of training and the capital grant scheme. The key priority is to protect the groundwater and surface drinking water areas from pollutants derived from agriculture: nitrates, pesticides (including metaldehyde) and phosphates.

Objectives

Catchment Sensitive Farming is working with farmers to try and reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering watercourses.

In the River Roden catchment the aims of Catchment Sensitive Farming are:

- To advise farmers on appropriate changes in land management and the value of their soil to reduce the loss of sediment.
- To help farmers make better use of fertiliser, slurry and manure to increase nutrient efficiency. This will also reduce the amount of nutrients entering watercourses and water bodies.
- To improve knowledge of the impacts of pesticides (inc. metaldehyde) within the catchment and ways to reduce the inputs. Highlight use of alternatives to metaldehyde
- To advise farmers on improvements to farm infrastructure. This helps to reduce nutrients and sediment entering water from farm yards, tracks and other areas. Farmers are encouraged to apply for the CSF Capital Grant Scheme if appropriate. The following capital items are included in the scheme: farm yard works for separation of clean and dirty water, roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas, roofs for slurry and silage stores and livestock and machinery tracks.
- To encourage the use of suitable resource protection Entry Level Scheme options. The following options should be encouraged in the catchment for reducing water pollution: management of maize crops and in-field grass areas to reduce soil erosion and run-off, maintenance of watercourse fencing, winter cover crops and permanent grassland with low or very low inputs.

In addition to these, appropriately located buffer strips, wild bird seed and flower mixes, beetle banks and unfertilised cereal headlands can all help to reduce water pollution from agriculture.

Delivery

Delivery will be concentrated on offering the following training to farmers –

- 1:1 visits offering soil sampling with nutrient management planning
- Slurry and manure sampling with nutrient management planning
- 1:1 visits for Fertiliser spreader calibration
- 1:1 visits focusing on slurry storage
- Pesticides training (NPTC PA1, PA2 and PA4S, plus Pesticide Handling 1-to-1's)
- CSFO visits to advise on Capital Grant Scheme
- Farm infrastructure visits
- Whole Farm Appraisals

Targeting Map

