



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary March 2011 – March 2015

Catchment: Eden & Medway (59).	CSFO: Charles Chantler.	
Target Area: River Eden and River Len (Medway) to be Targeted in first phase to 2014.	Total Target Area: 42,484 Ha.	Total Target Farms: 160.

Reasons for designation

Water quality data has shown that high levels of Metaldehyde in surface water, and nitrate in ground water, are a cause of concern in the Catchment. High levels of phosphate have also been detected, the tackling of which serves as a secondary target for the Project.

Metaldehyde is the active component of many brands of slug pellet and presents a significant challenge as it is extremely difficult to remove from water prior to human consumption. This is particularly important as both the River Eden and the River Medway feed substantial drinking water reservoirs at Bough Beech and Bewl Bridge.

Nitrate and phosphate have a direct effect on biodiversity in rivers, ponds and streams, with excessive amounts leading to a process of eutrophication. This causes dense mats of weed to form on the water surface, resulting in fluctuations in oxygen supply. This has a detrimental effect on water-borne life and 'smothers out' aquatic plants.

Drinking water standards also stipulate that nitrate should not exceed a level of 50mg/l.

Priorities

- Metaldehyde in Surface Water Drinking Water Protected Area. (SWDrWPA).
- Nitrate in Ground Water Protected Area (GWPA).
- Phosphate in surface water.

Objectives

Reduce the level of Metaldehyde entering water by:

- Promoting appropriate use, timing and quantity of Metaldehyde based slug pellets.
- Providing training and promoting best practice in pellet applicator calibration and use.
- Encouraging the use of buffer strips by water courses where appropriate.

Reduce inputs of nitrate from entering water by:

- Improve understanding and promote best practice in nutrient planning and

- application to prevent nitrate leaching to ground water.
- Addressing farm infrastructure to improve clean and dirty water separation from yards.

Reduce the levels of phosphate from entering water bodies on soil particles by:

- Promoting best practice to aid understanding of and implement measures to prevent soil erosion, compaction and run-off.
- Encouraging the use of Environmental Stewardship resource protection options where appropriate.

Delivery

A range of 1:1 range, group events and site visits will be offered including:

- Farm infrastructure farm walks.
- Bio-bed and pesticide handling demonstrations.
- PA4 Pelleter applicator training.
- Soil husbandry events.
- 1:1 Farm infrastructure Audits.
- 1:1 Whole farm appraisals.
- 1:1 Soil husbandry training.
- 1:1 Nutrient management planning.

These services will be supported by an annual Capital Grants Scheme and regular updates through Catchment Newsletters. Activity will also be undertaken taken with Natural England Land Management advisers to ensure that resource protection options within Environmental Stewardship are used to reduce diffuse water pollution where applicable.

Catchment Map

