



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Capital Grant Scheme Visit Encourages Wider Engagement with Pollution Problems

Somerset Levels and Moors Catchment (12)

CSFO: Roy Hayes

Farm Description

Somerset County Council-owned Greenway Farm's 100 acres of grassland support 100 dairy cows. Greenway lies along the Dowlish Brook (a tributary of the River Parrett). The River Parrett suffers from diffuse water pollution including high phosphorous levels and suspended solids. The farm is in the Somerset Levels and Moors catchment designated SSSI considered to be in an "unfavourable condition" partly due to diffuse agricultural pollution. CSFO Roy Hayes worked with a farmer to prevent sediment and nutrient transfer into the brook. Subsequent to Roy's advice the farmer is now further encouraged to apply for a ELS on the farm.

Pollution Problems

Poor storage facilities for dirty water and slurry, and damaged guttering was adding to the overall waste management problems on the farm. Also Sediments and nutrients could flow



into the brook from poaching on a farm track and run-off from the yard. Poaching and compaction in the fields next to the stream, and an open silage pit, added to the pollution problems. The farmer, new to the tenancy, was coping with poor existing farm infrastructure that could not cope with the large herd.

Pollution Solutions

1. Roy advised resurfacing concreted areas to direct dirty water to collecting areas.
2. Altering the direction of existing guttering so that clean water no longer flowed into the waste management system
3. Improving the cow tracks with hardcore.
4. Fencing the stream to stop the cattle accessing in the stream and installing alternative drinking options for the cows. The farmer has applied for funds under the CSF capital grant scheme to support this activity.
5. The farmer has been offered free soil and slurry testing to ensure he is getting the most from his manures and to better plan his artificial nutrient use.

Farmer Engagement and Motivation:

The farmer is on a Farm Business Tenancy. Therefore it is difficult to plan long-term. Nevertheless he's agreed a specialist from Natural England can carry out a full infrastructure report for further insight into reducing dirty water and its connectivity to the watercourse. The farmer will hope to attend CSF workshops and events in the future. He's agreed that his farm can be used to illustrate CSF initiatives.

This case study emphatically illustrates the importance of the capital grant scheme in enticing some farmers to engage with the CSF, often resulting in issues being discussed that are over and above those which the farmer initially wanted the grant for."



Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO)

Roy Hayes

Natural England, Taunton

07814 233743

roy.hayes@naturalengland.org.uk



www.naturalengland.org.uk/csf

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