

Catchment Sensitive Farming Arun and Western Rother September 2014



A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Welcome to this edition of the Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) newsletter for the Arun and Western Rother catchment. We work with farmers and growers, on a voluntary basis, to provide free and confidential assistance in managing resources with the aim of reducing run-off and leaching to water. This can bring benefits in efficiency, regulatory compliance, staff training and investment through Capital Grants.

In this newsletter we will look at: New Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) for the catchment, The range of services and advice currently available through CSF, Reminders on Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) and Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) rules and some events coming up in 2014/15.

New CSF officer for the catchment

I would like to open this newsletter by introducing myself. My name is Robin Kelly and I am the new Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) for the Arun and Western Rother catchment. For the past year or so I have been the CSFO for the Pevensy catchment and am pleased to now be working in the Arun and Western Rother. As I am new to the area I hope to catch up with as many farmers and growers as I can in the coming months and would be more than happy to speak to you about CSF's work in the catchment (contact details below). Read on for some updates and more info on what CSF can offer.



The boundary of the CSF Arun and
Western Rother catchment

Sustainable Use Directive – are you prepared?

The introduction of the Sustainable Use Directive will effectively remove 'grandfather rights', whereby anyone born before 31st December 1964 does not require a certificate to use Plant Protection Products (PPPs). After 26th November 2015 anyone using PPPs for professional use must have a recognised certificate. There are changes relating to equipment, buying PPPs and Integrated Management Plans (IMPs) too.

The NFU have published some helpful FAQs at the following website:

www.nfonline.com/science-environment/pesticides/faq-the-sustainable-use-directive

See below for details of **FREE PA1 and PA2 training** being offered by CSF in November.

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If you would prefer to receive this newsletter by email or would prefer not to receive it, please contact Robin Kelly on the details above. Thanks.

Catchment Sensitive Farming: What's on offer?

Free one to one, confidential on-farm advice:

We offer a range of visits which aim to contribute towards improved efficiency, ease of working, regulatory compliance and ultimately reduce the risk of runoff and leaching from yards and fields. Examples include:

- **Whole Farm Plan** a detailed overview of the farm business in relation to water quality. This includes discussing known problems and practical solutions with an experienced specialist, a look at soil type and texture and a written report with recommendations.
- **Farm Infrastructure Audits** to review the current use of farm infrastructure and get ahead of the regulations.
- **Nutrient Management Planning with free soil sampling.** This 1:1 visit aims to help farmers better plan their Nitrogen which may help increase efficiency and reduce fertiliser costs.
- **Biobed and Pesticide Handling facilities.** This visit offers a comprehensive review of your current pesticide handling facilities and gives recommendations to comply with regulations and protect watercourses.

The 1:1s available will help to inform and support any future capital grant applications. Please contact your Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO), Robin Kelly, to request a visit or for more information.

Free CSF events in the catchment:

- **Cover crops / green manures.** 20th November. A farm visit to look at cover crop trial plots, in association with Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE). There will be a follow-up visit in the Spring. Cowdray Estate nr Midhurst. Contact Tim Clarke of CFE to book your place 07713 333196 or email southeast@cfeonline.org.uk.
- **PA1 (Foundation module) / PA2 (Boom sprayer) training.** 6th and 18th November. A chance to attend a FREE two day training to prepare farmers for the Sustainable Use Directive (SUD) and loss of grandfather rights. Medhone Farm, Petworth, GU28 9NZ. Unfortunately we cannot cover the costs of the assessments.
- **Sediment trap workshop.** 4th December. Farm visit and workshop to look at the costs and practicalities of using sediment traps as part of the solution to soil erosion on vulnerable soils, in association with the Arun and Rother Rivers Trust (ARRT). Leconfield Estate nr Petworth.
- **Soil biology and organic matter.** Date and venue TBC. Workshop to highlight the importance of soil biology and organic matter to farm productivity including methods of increasing organic matter. This workshop is being run in conjunction with Royal Agricultural Society of England (RASE)

Places are limited on all the events listed above. For more information or to book a place contact CSFO Robin Kelly.

Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) rule changes in 2014:

Two new rules for NVZs come into force in 2014:

1. 1st January 2014 – new N max limits apply to all horticultural crops.
2. 16th May 2014 – In-field manure heaps must now occupy as small a footprint as possible and cannot be placed within 30m of a ditch or watercourse where land slopes steeply (>1 in 5).

For more information see: www.gov.uk/nitrate-vulnerable-zones

Useful Links and Info:

- **Farm Advice Service** (including cross-compliance) Tel 0845 345 1302 or www.defra.gov.uk/farming-advice. To receive free newsletters please call the above number or email: bookings@farmingadvice.org.uk with 'Register for newsletter' as the subject.
- **Tried and Tested nutrient management** on-line support and toolkits: www.nutrientmanagement.org.
- On-line **interactive maps** inc NVZ, Source Protection Zones and other land and water based designations: <http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby>
- **The Voluntary Initiative (VI)** promotes responsible pesticide use and their website including details of the new SUD Grandfather Certificate and Integrated Pest Management Plan as well as bio-bed and bio-filter guidance. www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk
- **Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE):** Encouraging farmers and land managers to adopt voluntary measures to benefit the environment. <http://www.cfeonline.org.uk/home/>