The Yorkshire Dales Catchment Sensitive Farming Partnership
A holistic approach

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Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)

CSF provides farmers advice to reduce water pollution from agriculture

- Soil/nutrient/pesticide/livestock management, slurry handling, farm infrastructure, machinery, field drainage, water holding features

CSF evidence shows water quality has improved in CSF catchments:

- Pesticides: 25% lower than in 2006/07 with fewer drinking water standard exceedances
- Sediment reductions ave 12% and up to 36%
- Phosphate reductions ave 7% and up to 23%
- Ecology - invertebrate improvements in water driven by sediment reduction
CSF working in partnership

- CSF works in priority areas for water quality in 80 catchments in England via a network of CSFOs
- Range of national & local partners including water companies, NGOs
- 7 CSF catchment partnerships
  - Partners employ CSFO & lead delivery
  - CSF and partners - overlapping objectives, pool resources and expertise, avoid duplication
  - Builds on existing networks and roles
  - Integrated catchment approach
CSF partnership with the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

- CSF & YDNPA steering group plans project activities to address water quality issues
- YDNPA CSFO engages farmers
- CSF contracts follow-up specialist farm advice visits when needed
- Countryside Stewardship grants
  - CSFO supports farmers, CSF approval/scoring
- Farm advice and grants are based on CSF measures to reduce water pollution
  - CSF evaluate impact on water quality
The statutory purposes of National Parks

• To conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park
• To promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public.

In pursuing these purposes, we are also required:
• To seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the National Park.
Key facts & figures

- Yorkshire Dales National Park covers 2179 km²
- Over 750 km² CSF Priority Catchment
- 95% of Park in private ownership
- 50,600 ha of SSSI including Semerwater
Why We Work with Farmers

• Farming in the Uplands is challenging both physically and economically.

• Livestock farming is responsible for many of the special qualities of the National Park.

• Farming conserves the natural beauty of the landscape & some of Britain's rarest habitats

• Farming is deeply woven into local life & culture

• We need to keep farmers farming!
Trusted consistent advice

• National Park Authority has provided a dedicated farm advice service since 1996
• Work with approx 1300 farms
• Farm team now consists of 4 advisers and 2 support staff who work across the NP
• All staff have a good working knowledge and experience of upland farming
Joined up working

Internal Partners

- Development Management
- Historic Environment
- Rangers
- Trees and Woodlands
- Wildlife Conservation

External Partners

- National Trust
- Rivers Trust
- Millenium Trust
- Natural England (CSF)
- Environment Agency

A clear solution for farmers
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING
Catchment Sensitive Farming

• In partnership with NE since 2009
• Over 500 Farm visits
• Brought in over £1 million worth of grant funding
CSF advice and training
Pesticide and sheep dip workshops
Riveting demos
Outdoor events: Wet
Indoor events: still wet
Future delivery

• Facilitation Funds: 4 Farmer led groups with approx 100 members focussed on Natural Flood Management

• Payment by Results: Expand pilot to include water quality and soil health?

• Farm Business Management – Important!
Key points

- Keep one point of contact for farmers throughout advice delivery
- Look at the whole farm
- Consider the farm business when proposing actions which have a financial impact
- Be imaginative and forward thinking
- Recognise when to bring in the experts
- Make use of the whole authority
- Keep up to date with industry issues and innovations
- Share best practice
- Understand and respect the farmers point of view

Satisfied customers
The real benefactors
Thank you – any questions?

Catchment Sensitive Farming

https://www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming-reduce-agricultural-water-pollution