



Catchment Sensitive Farming

News from your local Catchment Sensitive Farming team

Issue 8 / Spring 2022

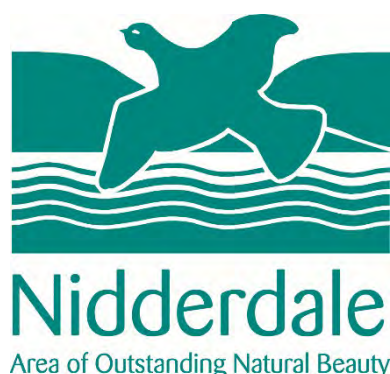
River Nidd CSF Catchment Partnership

Welcome to the Spring 2022 update from your local Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) Team.

Your local CSF Officers, Marian Wilby and Claire Foster, offer **free and confidential one to one advice** within the whole of the River Nidd catchment, plus the River Ure catchments within Nidderdale AONB.

The **River Nidd CSF Catchment Partnership** has been delivered by Nidderdale AONB and Natural England since 2009.

The project brings together a range of organisations with an interest in our local rivers, including Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Dales to Vale Rivers Network) and the Environment Agency. Arguably, our most important and valued partners are the **farmers and landowners** who get involved in CSF.



Online events

CSF Slurry Bag Event February 2022

On almost every farm slurry storage capacity is an issue. Through this event we wanted to highlight one possible solution to the increasing legislation, mitigate against the cost of artificial fertiliser and not forgetting increasingly difficult spreading conditions which has left many wondering which way to jump.

Speakers Charles Hirst- a pig and arable farmer, Simon Mosley- from SlurryBag.co.uk and Iain McDonnell – Senior Environment Officer for Agriculture – Yorkshire gave a practical and helpful guide on slurry bags their use and legislative requirements.

Charles of Brecks Farm has utilised various technologies to improve the sustainability of the farm by future proofing, increase efficiency and profitability.

In Charles's system he uses a separator and stores some of the separated slurry in bags on land that is some distance from the main farmstead so he can fill them during the winter months which takes approximately 5 weeks and then spreads when conditions are suitable via umbilical using low emission equipment which takes 5 hours.

He hopes to completely replace his artificial fertiliser this year using slurry saving him £120,000.



Miss an event?

All the recordings from our recent online CSF events are available to watch on the Nidderdale AONB website. These include updates on technical issues relating to air and water quality and farm grants and support.

We always welcome ideas for future events! Please get in touch with us, our contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Countryside Stewardship 2022 – ACT EARLY!

Countryside Stewardship opened for applications on 8th February 2022

From April 2022, CSF advice is expanding and items requiring CSF approval will be available in both high **and medium** water quality priority areas, subject to criteria being met for the item.

All land options and capital items requiring CSF approval are listed in:

- **Annex 2: CS Capital Grant manual**
- **Annex 5: CS Mid-Tier manual**



To request CSF **advice or option approval**, download and complete **this form on GOV.UK** and submit it **at least 10 weeks before you apply**. For Mid tier the deadline to request CSF support is **20th May 2022**.

Send the completed form to Marian or Claire (contact details are at the end of this newsletter) or your local CSF mailbox shown on **GOV.UK**.

There is no guarantee that your request will be considered so apply early to avoid disappointment.

KEY DATES Countryside Stewardship

Key upcoming dates:

- **Higher Tier** pack requests by **31st March 2022**
- **Higher Tier** applications due by **29th April 2022**
- **Mid Tier and Wildlife Offer** applications due by **29th July 2022**
- **CS Capital Grants** are open year round with 6 weeks' notice if the scheme is oversubscribed.

Countryside Stewardship presents opportunities for most farmers, and is likely to be more attractive in 2022 due to an increase in revenue payment rates. However, it can be a complicated scheme and it is best to seek advice early to discuss suitable land options and capital items. *Our advice is to fit the scheme around your farm; not your farm around the scheme.*

Next year (2023) will be the **last chance to apply for Countryside Stewardship**, with the last agreements starting 1st January 2024 ahead of the launch of E.L.M.

All the information on Countryside Stewardship can be found on the GOV.Uk webpage **Countryside Stewardship: How to apply**.

Need help?

Speak to your local CSFO (contact details below). Alternatively, farm advice support may be available through **Natural England / RSK ADAS**.

CS agreement offers, consents and claims

A reminder for those of you in an existing CS agreement:

- We are aware of RPA delays in issuing CS agreement offers for 2022. It is important you **check your agreement thoroughly** before signing.
- **DON'T FORGET** to check for and obtain any **necessary consents and/or permissions** before starting *capital works, e.g., planning permission, SSSI consent*.
- Those of you in **Mid Tier (5 year) or Higher Tier (5-10 year)** agreements need to submit an **annual revenue claim** – **deadline 16th May 2022**.

For agreements that started on 1st January 2020, the deadline to submit CS **capital works claims** is **31st March 2022**.

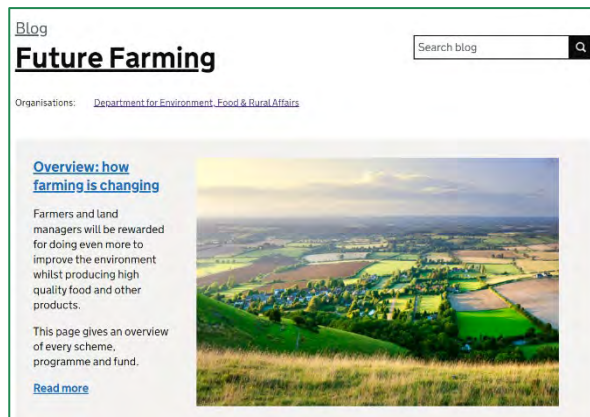
Stay up to date

Subscribe to the Defra Farming Blog

With so many changes and announcements happening it can be hard to keep up to speed with what's going on.

A good way to stay up to date is by subscribing to the **Defra Farming Blog**.

It's updated regularly and covers all the latest announcements and developments with the various schemes and incentives.



Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) 2022

One of the first E.L.M schemes to be launched – the Sustainable Farming Incentive – will begin its phased rollout in 2022.

SFI 2022 will be an early version of the scheme, focusing on **soil health**.

The 3 standards on offer will include:

- **Arable and horticultural soils** (paying £22/ha or £40/ha)
- **Improved grassland soils** (paying £28/ha or £58/ha)
- **Moorland and rough grazing** (paying £148 per agreement per year, plus up to £6.45 / ha)
- An annual **livestock health and welfare** review



More standards and ambition levels are set to be added to the scheme. For example, a standard for hedgerows is expected in 2023; low / no input grassland is expected in 2024; and a dry stone walls standard is expected in 2025.

Farmers already in an **Environmental Stewardship** or **Countryside Stewardship** agreement will be eligible for SFI 2022, as long as the SFI is compatible and does not create double-funding. Agreements will last 3 years, with amendments allowed at 12-monthly points to add land, add standards or increase ambition levels.

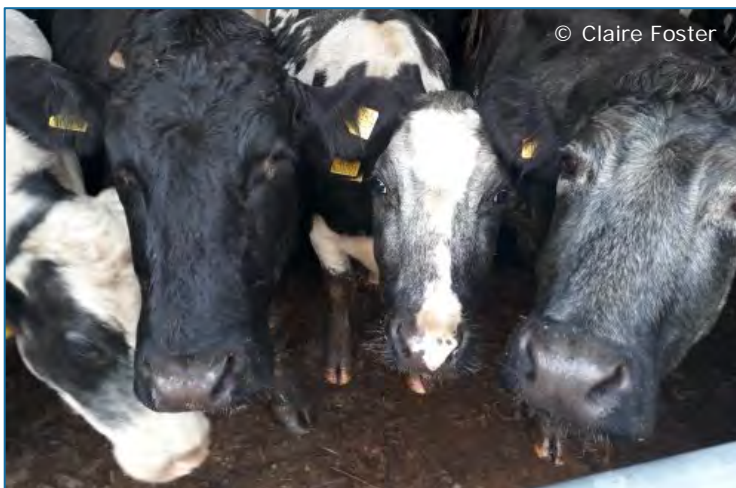
There will be no capital payments available under SFI 2022, but farmers will be able to apply for Countryside Stewardship capital grants alongside an SFI agreement.

Farmers in the **SFI pilot** will not be able to apply for SFI 2022 and there is a **dedicated capital grant scheme** for SFI pilot farmers.

What are the latest manure spreading rules?

Restrictions around the use of organic materials on-farm has coincided with a period of extreme volatility in the global fertiliser market, and as a result, has been a key talking point among farmers.

The **Farming Rules for Water** (FRfW) were introduced in April 2018 and apply to **all** farmers in England. **FRfW Rule 1** states farmers must **plan** the application of nutrients **to meet but not exceed soil and crop need**.



Clarification of the interpretation of Rule 1 by the Environment Agency in August 2021 confirmed that **autumn and winter applications** of organic manure containing readily available N (RAN) are effectively in breach of Rule 1, except where applied to crops such as winter oilseeds and grass in August and September.

Applications of **organic materials** in the autumn, particularly those with high RAN, such as cattle and pig slurry, poultry manure and digestate – are deemed to pose the **highest risk to water quality**, due to the potential for the greatest losses via **nitrate leaching**.

Nitrate leaching risk associated with applications of cattle and sheep FYM (solid manure) is much lower, as these materials contain a much higher proportion of organic N which is released slowly.

The **MANNER-NPK** programme can be used to calculate nitrate leaching risk and the monetary value of applications of organic materials.

If necessary, farmers should obtain advice from a FACTS-qualified adviser to ensure compliance with the FRfW and NVZ rules.

If you need any advice regarding nutrient management, soil analysis, manure analysis, slurry and manure management & storage, get in touch with your local CSFO.

Slurry management and grants update

Increased bagged fertiliser prices = increased monetary value of organic manures.

An application of 30 m³/ha cattle slurry is now worth around £205/ha in N, P & K*.

Compliance with the **Farming Rules for Water** is likely to necessitate an expansion of slurry storage facilities, and the need to cut dependency on bagged fertiliser provides further justification for increasing storage capacity.



Slurry storage tends to mean significant, high cost investment. Planning new slurry storage also needs to take into account regulatory and design aspects.



New or significantly altered stores must be constructed in line with **SSAFO regulations** and must not present a pollution risk. **You must notify the Environment Agency 14 days before construction commences.**

Obtaining **planning permission** can be time consuming and applications are subject to scrutiny around air quality and ammonia impacts on sensitive sites.

Defra is currently developing a **slurry infrastructure grant scheme** to launch in autumn 2022. Farmers may also be able to make use of grants through the **Farming Equipment & Technology Fund**, as well as Countryside Stewardship options e.g., for self-supporting **slurry store covers**.



If you need any advice regarding slurry and manure management and storage, get in touch with your local CSFO.

*Based on slurry applied on 1st March by dribble bar, using standard RB209 nutrient contents and at estimated fertiliser prices as of 14/03/2022.

Get in touch with your local CSF Officers



- **Swale, Ure, Nidd and Upper Ouse (inside Nidderdale AONB)**

Marian Wilby

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- **River Nidd (outside Nidderdale AONB)**

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CSF works with farmers, organisations and catchment communities across England to improve the quality of air, water, and supports the use of nature-based solutions to improve sustainable water management.

Working together for a healthy environment

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is led by Natural England, in partnership with Defra and the Environment Agency.



Natural England take looking after your data as seriously as we take looking after the environment. For more information about how we handle your data visit gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming