

Tap into capital grants in Derbys, Lincs and Northants

This year's catchment sensitive farming capital grant scheme opens for applications on 1 March 2012. The fund is open to farmers in priority catchment areas and can provide grants for a range of improvements that reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture. For example, eligible items could include construction of fencing near rivers and streams, roofing manure and silage stores, and installing bio-beds and pesticides loading and wash down areas. The grant limit is £10,000 per holding and this year £10.5m of funding is available nationally.

The funds come from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and since the scheme began five years ago, thousands of farmers in England have received more than £25m in grants for capital works.

The grants are competitive with high-quality applications from farms in the priority areas standing the best chance of success. This year's application window closes on 30 April.

In Lincolnshire, the target catchments are the Long Eau, Great Eau, South Dike and coastal areas to the north of South Dike and Hobhole Drain and the East Halton Beck in North Lincolnshire. In Northamptonshire, the CSF grant scheme and advice is on offer to farmers on the River Ise and the River Nene above Northampton, and in Derbyshire, farmers in the catchment for Tittesworth Reservoir, the River Hamps and Manifold catchment, the bottom of Dovedale, the top of the River Lathkill, Millers Dale and Nun Brook, near Buxton, are eligible.

Find out more information and download an application pack at www.naturalengland.org.uk/our-work/farming/csf/default.aspx. Alternatively application packs can be obtained by telephoning 0300 060 1111.