

Newsletter spring 2010 - Nene Catchment Partnership

The Nene Catchment Partnership (Environment Agency, River Nene Regional Park and Natural England) aims to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture using the Catchment Sensitive Farming approach. The first year of the partnership project is now complete, and has been a real success in engaging with the farming community. To date the project has proactively engaged with some 85 farmers through a combination of workshops and one-to-one advice visits. The one-to-one visits have resulted in around 25 farmers committing to implement better agricultural practices such as improved manure management, use of buffer strips, and watercourse fencing.



The slug pellet best practice and Soils Protection Review workshops were aimed at reducing contamination of watercourses with Metaldehyde and siltation from soil erosion/run-off. These are problem issues in the catchment which are affecting the Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of the local watercourses, and drinking water quality in Pitsford reservoir. WFD is European Law, with objectives to prevent deterioration in the status of aquatic ecosystems, protect them, and improve the ecological condition of waters. It also aims to progressively reduce or phase out the release of individual pollutants or groups of pollutants that present a significant threat to the aquatic environment. It is anticipated that over the coming 12 months, the catchment sensitive farming practices learnt from this engagement will slowly begin improving water quality in catchments affected by diffuse pollution from agriculture. This approach, coupled with other water quality initiatives planned for 2010 by the Environment Agency, should help us improve the WFD status of watercourses in the Upper Nene catchment.



A clear solution for farmers

ENGLAND CATCHMENT SENSITIVE
FARMING DELIVERY INITIATIVE

Forthcoming events

Wednesday 23rd June 2010 – Farm walk - Species rich grassland created under HLS meeting CSF targets. 7pm-9pm @ Dovecote Farm, Upper Heyford, Northampton NN7 3LX (wine & buffet provided). To book: email: rnrp@northamptonshire.gov.uk Tel: 01604 236764 (numbers limited).

Mid June – Fertiliser spreader calibration demonstration workshop. Details to be sent out by organiser.

Autumn events – Soils management workshop, nutrient management workshop and slug pellet training event . Details TBC.

The Nene Catchment Partnership will be targeting our free advisory activities at farms in the target areas of the Upper Nene and Upper Ise catchments. Farm advisory visits to assist with soil, nutrient, and pesticide management are now available.

If you are interested in finding out more about the free advisory services available from the Nene Catchment Partnership please contact us. Alternatively complete the tear off slip below.

Email: RNRP@northamptonshire.gov.uk Tel: 01604-236764 Web: <http://www.rnrp.org/CSF>

Return your slip to:

Freepost NN4 7BR
River Nene Regional Park
c/o Northamptonshire County Council
PO Box 221, First Floor
John Dryden House
8-10 The Lakes
Northampton NN4 7DE

Name:

Position:

Organisation:

Address:

Post code:

Telephone:

email address:

I would like to have a visit please