



Nene Catchment Partnership

Newsletter Autumn 2011

Capital Grant Scheme

From March/April 2012 farmers within the priority areas will be able to apply for funding from the Capital Grant Scheme (national pot). The priority areas have now been extended to include all of the River Ise and all the River Nene above Northampton. The actual local priorities within the catchment have been set and these are outlined below. The procedure will be a visit from the Catchment Officer followed by support to complete the application. Up to **£10,000 per holding** can be claimed but the applications need to be strongly focused on national and local priorities to have the best chance of being successful.

- **Relocation of gates and gapping up of boundary following gate relocation**
- **Watercourse fencing**
- **Livestock drinking bays**
- **Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders**
- **Livestock troughs with associated pipework**
- **Sediment ponds and traps**
- **Resurfacing of gateways**
- **Livestock and farm machinery tracks**
- **Lined biobeds (off-set or drive-over) and associated loading/wash down area**
- **Pesticide sprayer or applicator loading and wash-down areas and roofing for pesticide sprayer or applicator loading and wash-down areas**

Sediments & Fisheries - The importance of clean river gravel

River gravel plays a very important function in our river systems. Gravel is especially important for our local fish populations. Gravel beds are used for hunting, feeding and spawning. Many fish species will benefit from clean gravels which are free from silt, with plenty of oxygenating flow.

Course fish species (barbell, chub and dace) and game species (brown trout, sea trout and grayling) all spawn on gravel beds. Gravel beds need to be clean with well sorted particle

sizes. The gravel also needs to be mobile (un-compacted). Fish will form nests within gravel beds using their tails, these are called redds. Heavy siltation and compaction caused by cattle poaching and poor land management will result in gravel being unsuitable for spawning and unattractive to fish. Accumulated silt will also cause an increase in river weed growth. Managing bankside habitats and reducing siltation will greatly improve opportunities for fisheries and biodiversity within our river systems.

Do you know the state of your local environment?

Ever wondered what environmental data is collected in your catchment? Or, what the actual levels of chemicals are in the brook that runs through your fields? Well wonder no more! Catchment scale bulletins are being produced by the Environment Agency (who collect the samples) to let you know the details of the data collected in your local area. The bulletins will summarise (where applicable):

- the area of your local catchment and where samples are taken
- sample readings for a number of different chemicals and pollutants such as nitrate, phosphate and Metaldehyde
- how many sewage treatment works there are in the catchment and how well they function
- soil types, groundwater information and rainfall averages

Data is collected regularly from all catchments all over the country. It is used for a variety of things such as to inform Water Framework Directive classifications, quantify the effect of pollution incidents and to track river improvements. However, the people that this directly affects rarely know the details. This is your chance to easily find out. These will be updated on a quarterly basis and can be viewed at www.nrp.org/CSF or hard copies can be ordered from Jo Chandler on 01535-385175.

Metaldehyde update

So far this year we haven't seen the autumn peaks in Metaldehyde experienced in previous years in the catchments feeding the Pitsford and Raversham water treatment works. The very



dry conditions have meant that flows are down and we haven't had the incidents of flashy rainfall events leading to field run-off and drain flow. From what I understand and again because of the dry conditions the application of slug pellets has been lower than in previous years,

Pitsford WTW: the pumped abstraction from the River Nene at Duston saw a few peaks >0.1 ug/l in August and September. Subsequently there has been a slight rise in Metaldehyde concentrations through the autumn in the main feeder streams but no significant peaks. Currently the concentration in the reservoir is hovering around the 0.1 ug/l mark.

Ravensthorpe WTW: Ravensthorpe reservoir has been above the pesticide drinking water standard since October 2010 following significant peaks in Metaldehyde concentration coming down the Coton Mill stream last Autumn/Winter. Concentrations have been steady through most of 2011 at around 0.15 ug/l. There is a slightly different picture in the Hollowell where no significant peaks in our weekly monitoring results suggests less Metaldehyde has entered the reservoir from the Crow Hill stream catchment. Nevertheless currently the concentration in the Hollowell reservoir just crept over the 0.1 ug/l mark at the beginning of November. Monitoring continues and it will be interesting to see what happens when we get some significant rainfall.

Spreading rates

We have been asked to confirm the amounts of Metaldehyde that can be spread:

	1st August to 31st December rates to minimise pollution			
	5%	4%	3%	1.5%
Maximum total dose: 210g/ha of Metaldehyde (1 st Aug to 31 st Dec)(210g Metaldehyde is also the maximum individual dose rate at any time of the year)	4kg/ha	5kg/ha	7kg/ha	14kg/ha
Best practice guideline dose: 160g/ha	3kg/ha	4kg/ha	5kg/ha	10kg/ha

	Maximum kg/ha of product per calendar year			
	5%	4%	3%	1.5%
Legal maximum 700g Metaldehyde per year	14kg/ha	17kg/ha	23kg/ha	46kg/ha



A clear solution for farmers

ENGLAND CATCHMENT SENSITIVE
FARMING DELIVERY INITIATIVE

Sediment workshop 15th November

Information from the sediment workshop held last week at Newton Field Centre can be found on the web page www.rnrp.org/CSF. The presentations are available for viewing and further information can be obtained by contact Dr Robin Field on 01604-237243.

Future Events

November 30th: Soils Management workshop, in conjunction with Great Ouse Catchment Partnership. Holiday Inn, Northampton, 9.45-3.30. Lunch provided. To book contact ADAS at: ecsfdi.events@adas.co.uk or 0845 6023864

January 31st: Soil review event, half day training event (am or pm). Light lunch provided for both groups. To book please contact: Simon Draper. 01359 251 804 - Simon@indagronomy.co.uk

More free visits: 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 also available.

If you are interested in finding out more about the free advisory services available from the Nene Catchment Partnership please contact us at:

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

Or return this slip to: River Nene Regional Park Community Interest Company
C/o Northamptonshire County Council
PO Box 163, County Hall, Guildhall Road
Northampton, NN1 1AX

Name: _____ Position: _____
Organisation: _____
Address: _____
Post code: _____
Telephone: _____ email address: _____

I would like to have a visit please

