

# Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project

## Newsletter – Winter 2014

The Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming (IWCSF) Project is co-ordinated by the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust. This project aims to provide well informed advice and guidance to farmers and landowners on soil, water and wildlife protection. The project officer can also provide assistance with applications for grant funding.

The CSF Capital Grant Scheme has been offered to land managers in priority areas in England since 2007, to support the improvement or installation of facilities that would benefit water quality by reducing the risk of diffuse pollution from agriculture. Many of the options can result in improvements for the farm business as well as assisting with cross compliance.

### *Examples of how the Capital Grant Scheme has benefited farmers and water on the IOW*

A new roof over this livestock feeding yard protects both the quality of the feed and the cattle from rain exposure. Cattle maintain condition over winter and the clean rainwater is diverted away to a nearby ditch, easing the burden on the slurry tank.



*“already, compared to last year, the milk production is up and the amount of concentrates used is down”*

***A hard base was installed under water troughs to reduce soil poaching and damage.***



***This option is also available for in-field livestock feeders.***

For arable farmers, CGS can offer assistance towards the cost of installing a bio-bed which will capture and treat sprayer washings, preventing any residues from entering watercourses. Other systems collect the washings so that they can be re-applied to the fields at a later date.

The Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Project can also offer a free, confidential, no obligation advice service on a variety of subjects including Environmental Stewardship, Ecological Focus Areas, soil compaction, soil erosion, water resource use and protection.

If you would like a free farm visit, or to discuss future funding opportunities please contact Nicola Wheeler on 01983 760016 or by e-mail at [Nicola.wheeler@hiwwt.org.uk](mailto:Nicola.wheeler@hiwwt.org.uk)

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## Countryside Stewardship Schemes

Both the Entry Level and Higher Level Schemes are now closed to new applicants. A new Countryside Stewardship Scheme is being launched in January 2015, which will combine all existing land management schemes, including woodland and catchment sensitive farming. Applications can be made in 2015 with new agreements starting on 1 Jan 2016.

### RECENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Water Capital grants will be available in 2015 for infrastructure which helps improve the water environment. The window for applications is 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 30th April 2015. Please call the office or check the website for up-to-date information.



A range of measures can improve farm livestock and machinery movements and help protect watercourses from run-off.

## Farm infrastructure improvements that could be funded in 2015 are:

- Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas
- Roofs for slurry and silage stores including self feed silage stores
- Yard works for clean and dirty water separation
- Livestock and machinery tracks and associated fencing
- Livestock troughs with associated pipework
- Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders
- Sediment ponds and traps
- Cross drains on or in farm tracks or within farm yards for clean and dirty water separation
- Relocation of gates
- Resurfacing of gateways
- Installation of piped culverts in ditches
- Rainwater storage tanks, first flush rainwater diverters and downpipe filters
- Lined biobeds

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**If you are interested in applying for the grant in 2015 please contact the IWCSF Officer as soon as possible.**

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If you want to find out what's happening in environmental terms around your farm, you can visit the What's in your Backyard for Farmers (WIYBY) website that shows you the environmental features, land designations and any known water quality issues in your area. It's at: <http://goo.gl/AqgSvz>

## Isle of Wight Rivers, Diffuse Pollution and the Water Framework Directive

Many of the UK's rivers, including most of those on the IOW, are failing water quality measures under the Water Framework Directive. Nitrate and phosphate levels are too high and some of the rivers e.g Eastern Yar are also failing because there is too much sediment entering the watercourse. On the E.Yar this is also causing severe problems for Southern Water who abstract drinking water from the river. The Environment Agency must meet it's obligations or face being fined.

Recent studies and nutrient modeling reports show that both Bembridge and Newtown Harbours are hyper-nutriented. Macro-algal growth in Bembridge has grown by 3ha over 9 years and the algal growth at Newtown threatens the unique habitats there. These studies have found that 40% of the nitrogen load at Newtown and 50% of the nitrogen at Bembridge is from diffuse rural pollution in the rivers.

Some of this is from farmland as well as un-maintained or overloaded septic tanks and older sewage treatment plants. For more information or copies of the reports please contact Peter Taylor, Catchment Co-ordinator at the Environment Agency.

[Peter.taylor@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:Peter.taylor@environment-agency.gov.uk)

You can keep up to date with the latest grants and read more about the Catchment Sensitive Farming via the Natural England website;

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/cgs/default.aspx>

## Precision Farming and Nitrogen Management Workshop CSF/HGCA

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Jan  
The Hampshire Hog, Clanfield,  
Waterlooville, PO8 0QD

9am-1pm

When used correctly, precision farming technology – which includes yield mapping, automatic steering and variable rate application – can increase the efficiency of farm operations and help to reduce risk of diffuse pollution.

The workshop covers:

- Tractor & Machine Control
- Targetting Agronomy
- N Management

and is being run by Home Grown Cereals Association expert, Ian Beecher-Jones.

To register interest or book your free place call 0300 060 1695 or visit the webpage

<http://swmc.wildapricot.org/event-1767464>



To request advice and 1:1 farm visits

Please contact:

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# How Run-off from farmland can affect Island Rivers

Farmland run-off can contain nitrates (which leach through the soils) and phosphates (which move across as soil erodes). This, in turn, has an adverse effect on the health of both surface waters and groundwaters for drinking water quality and the environmental status of the receiving waters. Soil sediment deposited in watercourses also alters the river-bed composition by lowering bottom-dwelling animal numbers, damaging fish spawning areas (smothering their eggs), reducing navigable areas, and carrying contaminants and nutrients that degrade water quality. High nutrient levels within the river system encourage algal growth in the watercourses, decreasing the diversity of aquatic plant life. As the algae plants die and decompose, the organisms breaking down the high levels of organic matter deplete the water of oxygen, causing the death of other aquatic life, such as fish.



**Water abstraction point at Burnt House pumping station**

**Role of Local Authority in Flood Defence Strategy and Implementation** : The local authority is now the flood defence authority for non- main river water courses. Works (either temporary or permanent) such as altering or installing culverts, dams or weirs, which may alter or impact the flow or storage of water on these watercourses, will require consent from the Council prior to any work being carried out. **Ordinary Watercourses**: An ordinary watercourse as defined by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 is any watercourse that does not form part of a main river. This includes all streams, ditches, drains, culverts, dikes, ponds, sluices, sewers (other than public sewers) and passages through which water flows. These do not necessarily have to be holding water at all times. Whilst this has been the case since 2012/13 the authority is particularly sensitive to works in the light of the winter floods of 2013/14. For more information contact the planning department or click on the link below:

<http://www.iwight.com/Residents/Environment-Planning-and-Waste/Planning/Watercourse-Consents/Ordinary-Watercourse-Land-Drainage-Consent>

