

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Autumn 2021



Isle of Wight
area of outstanding
natural beauty

Welcome

Autumn - Now that the 1st of September has arrived, have we moved into autumn? The answer is yes and no. For farming, weather is of course all important, and the meteorological autumn is indeed underway. Our four seasons coincide with the Gregorian calendar and is perhaps how most of us instinctively think about what weather to expect throughout the year. Perhaps the change to 'normal' weather patterns will be thought differently now that the climate seems to be very disrupted? Some of my time this year has been dealing with the impact of intense rainfall events. These occurrences are not good for harvest or indeed the flooding of farmsteads. By the 30th November we finish autumn and head into winter – let's help there aren't too many downpours.

The other autumn is the astronomical one defined by the earth's axis and orbit around the Sun. It starts on 22nd September and ends on the 21st December. The astronomical calendar determines the seasons due to the 23.5 degrees of tilt of the Earth's rotational axis in relation to its orbit around the Sun. In times past, it's easy to imagine the relief of lengthening daylight beginning after the solstice.

Farming in Protected Landscapes - Many farmers/landowners are submitting applications for this new grant and money will be finding its way to support imaginative projects covering **Climate, Nature, People** and **Places**. This funding is under Island control so it can be spent in the best way for our farms within and around the designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The application process is simple and easy so if you have a project in mind do get in touch for help and advice.

Pesticide Washdown – This year has seen interest in farmers wishing to upgrade infrastructure for dealing with pesticide sprayers. It is well known that even tiny quantities of pesticide can have a devastating impact upon water quality and wildlife. Should an incident be tracked to a farm, financial penalties can be eye-wateringly costly.

Through CSF, a free advisory visit by an external consultancy can be arranged should you have any doubts about your pesticide handling set up. They can provide a report covering:

- Design detail of, for example, a biobed or biofilter/wash-down facilities
- Positioning of facilities in the Yard

Other Construction Details:

- Biobed mix and materials
- Management of water flow and water storage requirements
- System management and maintenance (*including operations in frozen weather*)
- Breakdown of estimated costs (*higher and lower*)

Look out for a forthcoming visit to an Island farm's washdown setup.

CSF can arrange a completely free visit by qualified external consultants to advise on soil and nutrient management planning, slurry/manure handling storage, machinery testing and calibration (fertiliser and manure spreaders), soil sampling and slurry/manure sampling and analysis. Contact us for further details.

Catchment Sensitive Farming

For a free advisory farm visit contact:

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This Newsletter is being provided to through a partnership between Natural England and the Isle of Wight Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) for the purpose of delivering Catchment Sensitive Farming. The AONB take looking after your data as seriously as we

take looking after the environment. Your data is only used by us so we can email, call, write or text you about our Catchment Sensitive Farming work. This will include free advice, access to grants, events and campaigns.

We hope you want to hear from us, but you can change your preferences or mind at any time by emailing **mark.simmons@iow.gov.uk**

Please provide your contact details and tick how you would like to be contacted by the Isle of Wight for Catchment Sensitive Farming partnership or Natural England below:

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