

Isle of Wight Catchment Sensitive Farming Winter 2021



Isle of Wight
area of outstanding
natural beauty

Welcome

As winter approaches, the weather can be cold, wet, and windy which affects us all including livestock. Along with the reducing hours of daylight extra thought needs to be given to animal welfare.

Animal welfare is a subject which crops up for comment from both farmers and those who do not keep livestock. From the farmer's perspective it is understandably irritating when there are reports of problems and the RSPCA are called in unnecessarily. The public can of course misdiagnose the condition of animals but are farmers fully aware of the minimum standards for animal care and husbandry as set out in the Statutory Management Requirement No. 13? Failing to meet this standard can reduce your Basic Payment Scheme. At worst a fine, being jailed or banned from keeping animals can result from causing unnecessary suffering.

Checking that animals are healthy should be obvious but how often is enough? For sheep and cattle in the field perhaps Defra state '**as often as needed if they don't depend on you**'. Housed poultry should be checked at least once a day and housed calves at least twice a day. Animals that are sick or injured must be isolated and moved to 'suitable accommodation' and where needed, dry comfortable bedding. Record keeping is important to demonstrate the care provided to animals particularly the date of any treatment and the medicine used. Records must be kept for at least three years. Feeding and watering need to follow the law on food safety and animal feed. There are a number of issues where animals are housed and even a sharp edge or 'protruding parts' can fail an rpa inspection. Lighting and ventilation should be checked. The air must be circulating, dust levels controlled, and humidity kept at a level that will not cause harm. Lighting must be such that inspection of animals is possible.

An early Christmas gift?

The **Farming Equipment and Technology Fund** is now open for applications and offers grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 for equipment that will improve sustainable agricultural, horticultural and forestry productivity. As usual the application window for this first round comes round swiftly, closing at midday on 7th January 2022. Claims must be submitted by 30th September next year.

There are 120 eligible items available for funding, but care must be taken that the item you are seeking matches the specification.

Some items stand out which go hand-in-hand with catchment sensitive farming:

- Cover crop roll (3m or 6m)- Front mounted to terminate and/or bruise cover crops ahead of direct drill.
- Shallow injection systems (3m or 6m) - to incorporate slurry under the soil surface. This would fit to a slurry tanker or attach to flexible pipe/umbilical system.
- Rainwater harvesting (tank size 5,000l - 50,000l) – this would be to collect water from roofs for use on the farms or nursery. A two-stage pre-filter would be included along with a distribution pump and UV filter.
- Electric fencing package – this equipment, including solar power panels is to assist in delivering mob/regenerative/rotational grazing on pasture, cover crops or temporary leys.

Farming in Protected Landscapes - This grant scheme, administered by the Island's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), is continuing to roll out funding for a wide range of farm-based projects. It looks likely that funding will continue during this and the next two financial years, but a high uptake will confirm to Defra that farmers are keen to support environmental management across the Island's landscape. See <https://www.wightaonb.org.uk/farming-in-protected-landscapes/> where the application form can be completed or printed for posting to the AONB.

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:

- You can contact me by phone/mobile:
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