

Free one-to-one advice and capital grants available to farmers

Catchment Sensitive Farming and Grants

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is a project run by Natural England, The Environment Agency and DEFRA, which aims to reduce water pollution from agriculture, in turn contributing to Water Framework Directive objectives of the Rivers Nene and Welland.

Locally, a partnership made up of River Nene Regional Park, Anglian Water, The Wildlife Trust, The Environment Agency, Welland Rivers Trust and Natural England covers the Nene and Welland catchments and delivers a range of advice on topics such as pesticide handling, soil management and many more. Free one-to-one farm visits are also available to provide information on the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme, and capital grants to improve infrastructure.

Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship

Advice given on the scheme is free and confidential and is tailored to each business to suit individual farms and the nature of the local environment. Given that the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme is competitive, only the highest scoring applications will be offered an agreement. The idea of having a competitive scheme is to ensure local issues are being addressed. There may be an opportunity to get a 20% boost of your application score through a Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer (CSFO) Endorsement, which can be given following engagement with your local CSFO. For more information on the scheme, and to discuss available grants, please contact your local CSFO, Georgina Wallis – contact details can be found at the bottom of this page.

Capital grants are also available for a number of items to improve water quality/reduce diffuse and point source pollution from agriculture such as concrete yard renewal, pesticide sprayer loading and washdown areas, roofing for sprayer wash down areas, manure storage, livestock gathering areas, slurry and silage stores and much more. These grants can be separate to a Countryside Stewardship agreement - you don't have to sign up to a Countryside Stewardship Scheme to apply for a grant. There is a £10,000 limit on grants to farmers who access Capital Grants outside of a Countryside Stewardship Agreement. Not all grants are available to farmers outside of the CSF target areas.

For more information please contact:

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