



**A clear solution
for farmers**
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Nene and Welland Catchment Sensitive Farming Partnership Autumn 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the Autumn 2018 edition of the Nene and Welland CSF newsletter.

Local News and Events

It has been a busy couple of months following the last CSF Newsletter which was sent out back in February of this year. Most of the CSF work locally has been dedicated to assisting farmers across the Nene and Welland catchments with Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship applications, as well as the new Wildlife Offers which have proved to be a popular alternative to those wishing to enter into a simpler scheme. The application window for this year has now closed and agreements are now being scored and checked by Natural England.

There have been two events for local farmers across the catchment. The first being an RB209 Nutrient Management workshop which took place in March at Glooston Village Hall, near Market Harborough with expert speaker Sajjad Awan from AHDB. The second a Ditch Management event which took place at Pytchley Golf Course near Kettering in April, with expert speaker Rob Burtonshaw of Farm Services Ltd. Both events were very well attended with great feedback; it is hoped that similar events will run in different locations in the future. Planning is ongoing for events throughout the rest of 2018/19, which will include workshops and events such as a Countryside Stewardship Grants Tour, where local farmers can see existing grant funded capital items, such as biobeds, roofing, fencing and other options and ask any questions they may have, a farm legislation update, a woodland creation/flood management workshop and a soil management workshop. Please look out for invites to these events in the near future.

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Upcoming Events

Do you have any ideas or suggestions for upcoming events? Please get in touch using the contact details below.

Useful Contacts

Georgina Wallis – Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer

☎ **07921 941734.**

✉ georgina@rnrf.org

No-Till Drill

Farmers in the Nene and Welland catchments can make use of the opportunity to use the Dales no-till drill which is available for farmers to trial at no cost. This is a fantastic way to see how a no tillage system could work on your land. Please contact Georgina Wallis for further details.

Recently changed your soil management? We want to hear from you!

Have you recently started growing a cover crop, reduced your tillage, started a crop rotation or used microbial inoculants? If you've changed your soil management practices in some way over the last year or so, we want to hear from you! Newcastle University, working with the Allerton Project, want to find out what prompted this change. We're working on a European study called SOILCARE, funded by Horizon 2020, and we're trying to find out why farmers decide to try new soil management practices.

Soil quality has been declining across the globe and, whilst there are some practices that can help to reduce this issue, these techniques are not being taken up by everyone. We want to find out what prompts farmers to choose to try these practices and equally what stops them from using them. We're particularly keen to understand the role of information flow - that is how farmers learn about new practices and who they go to for advice. For further information about the study or to speak to one of our researchers, contact Dr Niki Rust niki.rust@ncl.ac.uk or go to <https://soilcare-project.eu>



Welland Valley Farmers Facilitation Fund Group

There were 37 applications nationally for the Countryside Stewardship Facilitation Fund in 2017, with one of the successful applications coming from Andrew Brown in the Welland Catchment. The group consists of 5 members

and covers more than 840Ha within the Welland Valley. The agreement was submitted in October 2017 and was accepted in March 2018. The aim of the group is to encourage landscape scale working between



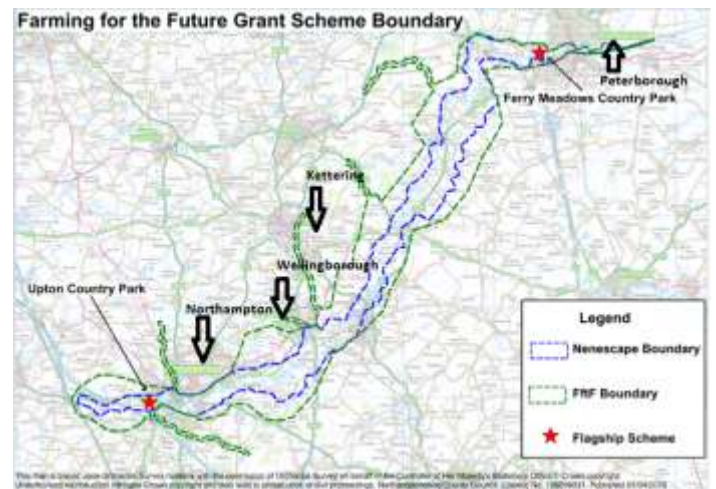
farmers, to address issues further afield, rather than stopping at the farm gate. Local priorities including restoration of wet meadows, improving habitats for farmland birds and pollinators, and to address water quality issues such as phosphate and pesticide levels within watercourses. If you are farming along the Welland Valley and would like to find out more about the group and what it has to offer, please contact Andrew Brown on 07801 057417.

Five Ways CSF Can Help you in 2018

1. Take advantage of free specialist advice to help you plan your farm management. Topics include slurry & manure handling, soil husbandry, machinery testing and calibration, pesticide handling and application and farm infrastructure audits
2. Receive bespoke, individual guidance on the best implementation of Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship Options and the opportunity to gain an uplift to your final score only available through CSF engagement
3. Get access to limited options only available with CSFO endorsement, including Concrete Yard Renewal, Sprayer Loading & Washdown Areas, Underground Drainage Pipework & Livestock and Machinery Hardcore Tracks, to name a few
4. Attend free specialist events from a range of well recognised speakers on topics of interest to local farmers
5. Discuss issues you may be facing on your farm with the confidence of upmost privacy and professionalism from your CSFO

Introducing Farming for the Future

Farming for the Future offers grants and guidance to encourage the restoration and creation of meadows and wetlands alongside the river Nene. These margins will provide a haven for wildflowers and wildlife and will help to provide a buffer between river and land.



Farmers in the catchment area can also access capital grants such as fencing, livestock drinkers, riparian tree planting and many more. Contact Land Advisor Helena Darragh on 01694 744048, M: 07540 670229 or helena.darragh@wildlifebcn.org.