



Rivers Ouse, Cuckmere and Waller's Haven Upstream Thinking - October 2015

Catchment Sensitive Farming and South East Water are working in partnership to help farmers and land managers deliver water quality improvements and increase on-farm efficiency.

We are offering free training, advice and other incentives to support our work. For more information contact your local catchment officer - details below.

Ferric phosphate field trials and metaldehyde discussion groups:

Metaldehyde from slug pellets has a significant impact on our ability to abstract drinking water at this time of year. As part of our work to help farmers reduce losses of metaldehyde to watercourses we are running two workshops in November. They will include speakers from the Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG), a Certis representative to answer questions on ferric phosphate, an update on the latest water quality results in your area and a farm walk to look at the performance of both ferric phosphate and metaldehyde slug pellets in winter cereals:

- **Tuesday 10th November 8am – 11am** - The Horseshoe Inn, Herstmonceux, BN27 4RU. Trial plots kindly hosted by Alex Ainslee at Cowden Farm.
- **Friday 13th November 8am – 11am** – The Roebuck Inn, Laughton, BN8 6BG. Trial plots kindly hosted by Michael Richards at Broyle Park Farm.

Bacon roll and a tea/coffee on arrival – please contact Robin Kelly (email: robin.kelly@naturalengland.org.uk, tel: 0300 060 3875) to book your place.

Please follow Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) guidelines:

With winter cultivations almost complete we need to minimise the risk of metaldehyde entering our drinking water sources during the inevitable wet weather. We are asking all users of agricultural slug pellets to think:



- **Soil** - is the soil heavy and under-drained?
- **Slope** - is the field on a gradient?
- **Stream** - is there a ditch or watercourse in close proximity?

...and to follow the best practice guidelines. For more information visit the MSG website: www.getpelletwise.co.uk or contact your catchment officer.

Cover crop workshops:

Cover crops have a range of benefits including preventing the loss of nitrate through leaching in the winter months and minimising the risk of soil erosion. Catchment Sensitive Farming, Campaign for the Farmed Environment and Action for the River Kennet are running a series of **on-farm demonstrations to look at cover crops:**

- Thursday 12th November - Northbrook Farm, Micheldever Station, Hampshire
- Wednesday 18th November - Park Barn Farm, Leeds Castle, Kent

There are also workshops in Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire – booking is essential.

Telephone bookings: **07816 648112**

Email bookings: southeast@cfeonline.org.uk

Free PA1 and PA4s training:

South East Water is offering to fund **PA1** (foundation module) and **PA4S** (pellet applicator module) training for farmers and farm staff in the Upstream Thinking catchments. We will be running courses early next year, contact your catchment officer to book a place.

Free calibration of slug pellet applicators:

South East Water is offering to pay for slug pellet applicators in our Upstream Thinking catchments to be calibrated. This will enable pellets to be applied more accurately, which will increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the application and will help to keep the pellets out of watercourses.

Support for the use of alternative slug pellets:

South East Water is offering qualifying farms £1/kg towards the cost of ferric phosphate pellets. Claims must be agreed in advance. Contact your catchment officer for more details.



Drinking Water Protected Area Safeguard Zones (DrWPA SGZs)

south east water

Scale (at A3): 1:174,881
Map produced by Robin Kelly
Catchment Officer
Date: 18/10/2015. Map Reference: 016
Contents, or is derived from, information supplied by Ordnance Survey & Crown copyright and database rights 2015. Ordnance Survey 100020231

Upstream Thinking:

Our current working areas are shown in **red** on the map to the left. If you farm in these areas you may be eligible for free services as part of Catchment Sensitive Farming and South East Water's Upstream Thinking project. Contact your catchment officer for more information.



The Upstream Thinking Catchment Management team

Left to right: Charles Chantler (NE), Emma Wood (NE), Amy Swales (SEW), Tom Abbotts (SEW), Simon Cereda (SEW) and Robin Kelly (NE)

Water quality in your area:

As part of our work we are undertaking a regular programme of water quality sampling. If you would like updates for your local area or would like to arrange a free farm visit to discuss opportunities for your Farm, please contact your local catchment officer.

For any questions about the Upstream Thinking project please contact:

- Charles Chantler - River Ouse
Tel: 0300 060 4759, email: Charles.Chantler@naturalengland.org.uk
- Robin Kelly - Rivers Cuckmere and Waller's Haven
Tel: 0300 060 3875, email: Robin.Kelly@naturalengland.org.uk