

## Case Study 1

# Cover Crops

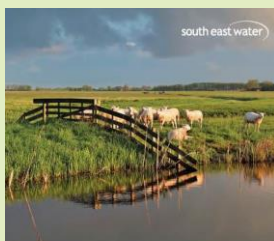
CSF worked with partners to set up a series of cover crop field plots to demonstrate how to grow a range of cover crops. Potential benefits of cover crops include improving water quality as they capture and fix nitrogen, boost soil organic matter, improve soil structure and help reduce soil erosion.



## Case Study 2

# Partnership working

A 5 year catchment management plan, funded by South East Water and delivered by CSFOs, is benefitting not only water quality and the biodiversity of the river, but also helping farmers and land managers improve their businesses and save money.



The Ouse Upstream Thinking Project

Working in partnership to improve water quality

For case studies relevant to your farming business speak to your CSFO and see [www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming](http://www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming)

## Background

Catchment Sensitive Farming is a joint venture between the Environment Agency and Natural England, funded by Defra and the Rural Development Programme for England.

CSF works in priority catchments within England. It delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers and land managers to take action to protect water bodies and the wider environment.

CSF offers free advice to help farmers improve farm practices to tackle water pollution through a network of CSFOs and range of local partners in CSF catchment partnerships. CSF works with national partners to make information and tools that help tackle water pollution widely available.

For advice and tools from CSF national partnerships: [Tried & Tested](#) nutrient management tools [Voluntary Initiative](#) (VI) **pesticides best practice** [The Rivers Trust PINPOINT project](#) **reducing diffuse water pollution from agriculture**

## Contact Us

For further information on CSF catchment partnerships contact your River Basin Coordinator. Find more information about CSF and contact details for Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers (CSFOs) and River Basin Coordinators (RBCs) at:

[www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming](http://www.gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming)

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) is delivered in partnership by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Defra.

# A guide to Catchment Sensitive Farming



## A clear solution for farmers

CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

# The Challenge

The pollution of water bodies in England is a problem for the whole country to confront. With agricultural land covering three-quarters of the country, it follows that farmers have an important role to play in protecting our rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, groundwater and coastal waters.

It is estimated that, overall, agriculture accounts for a high proportion of these pollutants reaching water:

- 10 to 60 per cent of phosphorus;
- 50 to 60 percent of nitrates;
- 75 per cent of sediment and pesticides
- 25 to 50 percent of faecal indicator organisms

CSF advises farmers on how to reduce losses of these pollutants. CSF contributes to water quality improvements in affected water bodies, designated sites and protected areas, including rivers and lakes, Natura 2000 sites, Bathing, Shellfish and Drinking Waters. CSF is also helping to improve aquatic habitats and species.



# The Solution

**Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF)** works with farmers through local CSF Officers (CSFOs) and partners in water priority areas across England. CSF encourage farmers to implement voluntary measures to improve the environmental performance of farms through advice and help with schemes. Such improvements have led to significant environmental and farm business benefits.

For more information about the challenges and solutions in your area contact your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer.

# The Benefits

**Farm Business Savings** – Introducing careful nutrient and pesticide planning and reducing soil loss has the potential to produce significant savings for any farm business. Catchment Sensitive Farming can also provide advice and support for farm infrastructure improvements that can help save costs of slurry and manure handling and storage.

**Environmental and Social Benefits** – See water bodies in your area improve, giving you cleaner drinking water, safer bathing water, healthier fisheries, thriving wildlife and lower flood risk for your whole community.

# Action

The main focus of CSF is **advice to farmers** and land management. Since 2015 we have been focusing CSF in high priority water areas for **Countryside Stewardship (CS)** and helping farmers with applications in these areas. Grants for water capital items and land management options are available through CS mid-tier and high-tier agreements.

Whilst focused on water quality, CSF seeks to help farmers develop CS applications that address a range of environmental issues on their holding. Farmers interested in our advice, and the Countryside Stewardship schemes, should look on our mapping system, [MAGIC](#), to see if they are in a priority area. If eligible, then please visit [our CSF page](#) and our [Countryside Stewardship page](#) for details on how to apply.

In order to reduce pollution from your holdings you should consider deploying the following **BIG THREE** solutions:

**1. Reduce the source of pollution** from fields, yards, buildings and pesticide handling areas



**2. Break or slow the pathway** of pollutants to water bodies



**3. Protect the receptor** or water body from pollutants

