



NEWSLETTER

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Communications from CFE

Pollinators

The UK government has recognised the issue of declining populations of pollinating insects and is currently drawing up a National Pollinator Strategy. Currently CFE partners are exploring how the Campaign can contribute to the Strategy. There are actually three very effective activities that farmers and growers can do on their land to benefit pollinators: provide habitats and food for wild pollinators, provide sites for hives for honeybees and take care when using insecticides.

CFE concentrates on wild pollinators, and by implementing certain of the Campaign's Voluntary Measures farmers and growers can provide habitats and food. Finding food and sites for nesting and hibernation is a challenge that faces all pollinators. A farm will already be home to a range of bees and by using the right environmental measures, putting them in the right place to make the biggest difference, and managing them in the right way, growers can help increase the number and diversity of insects that pollinate the crops and wild plants across the farm.

Examples of CFE Voluntary Measures to provide food and shelter for pollinators include: sowing a wildflower or a pollen and nectar mix; providing legume and herb rich temporary grass; leaving field corners uncultivated; and reducing the use of spring herbicide on land to encourage a diverse range of non-competitive weeds in the crop.

Further information is on the CFE website (<http://www.cfeonline.org.uk/campaign-themes/pollinators/>) or look out for events being run by local CFE coordinators.

Partnership Working

CFE Regional Coordination Teams are now working closely with a range of local partners. One of CFE's core aims is to "To provide a coordinated industry delivery platform to achieve delivery of consistent, coherent, non-contradictory messages and advice to farmers". To deliver this, it is essential that we work closely with all other organisations that have an interest in the farmed environment. As an example, the current activities in two regions are highlighted below:

East Midlands: A meeting was held with Farming Advice Service (FAS) and Environment Agency (EA), to organise a series of 6 events across the region focussing on soil management. In these events, FAS will focus on Soil Protection Review & Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs); EA will look at the issues of phosphate and sedimentation; and CFE will focus best practice soil management and good use of relevant Voluntary Measures (VMs).

East: This region is about to start the third round of events in collaboration with FAS.

In autumn 2012 CFE ran 9 events: one farm walk in each county on cross compliance and ELS options; two workshops/ walks on resource protection and nutrient management; and one focusing on competition and sustainability. In spring 2013 CFE ran 6 events (one in each county) also in collaboration with Catchment Sensitive Farming, focusing on soils. The current round starts next week, and in collaboration with FAS we are running 6 events on cross compliance and managing CFE options (ELS and VMs), with particular emphasis on invertebrates (including pollinators).

In early 2014 CFE will be involved in the multi-partner Farm Business Updates, further FAS/CSF/CFE soil events, and later spring collaboration with FAS. CFE is also featuring in a joint East / East Midlands FAS adviser event

VI Leaflets

We now have in the office supplies of the VI's new SUD card, BioBeds and H20K leaflets. Please contact the office if you would like to order supplies.



Working with or Industry Initiatives

The CFE is proud of its working relationship with other Industry led initiatives.



Tried & Tested (T&T) provides tools and resources designed to assist farmers and their advisors in improving farm nutrient management in an environmentally friendly, cost effective and practical way. For more information and for access to their tools visit www.nutrientmanagement.org.



The Voluntary Initiative (VI) promotes responsible pesticide use by encouraging operator training through NRoSO, sprayer testing via NSTS and careful management of pesticides using an integrated approach supported by BASIS registered advice. For more information visit their website at www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk.



The Green House Gas Action Plan (GHGAP) focusses on improving resource efficiency in order to enhance business performance whilst reducing GHG emissions from farming.

CFE Events

The CFE regional teams will be involved in a variety of events through the autumn and winter. These will provide advice on subjects such as soil management, nutrient planning, manure management, effective slug control, encouraging farmland birds and boosting pollinators. Details of all CFE events can be found at www.cfeonline/events or via the @CFEOnline Twitter feed.

Keep up to date via Twitter!

To keep up to date with CFE and to be the first to hear about all the work we are doing and news from our partners, don't forget to 'follow' us to Twitter: @CFEOnline. You can also get in touch with us via Twitter and leave us any comments and feedback.



Free farm signs

Farmers and land managers across England are being offered free signs to show they are protecting the environment and wildlife on their farms to support the

Campaign. The signs, supported by Syngenta, can be used to indicate key target options in Entry Level Stewardship (ELS) and Campaign voluntary measures. Request a sign by emailing cfeonline@nfu.org.uk or calling 024 7685 8644



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