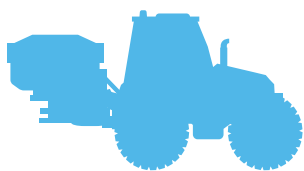


AGRICULTURE AND WATER QUALITY

It may take many years of improvements before changes in the status of a river, lake or groundwater can be achieved. Agriculture has made significant improvements in recent years, including:



Fertiliser application rates have been decreasing since the 80's

31% less nitrogen fertiliser
55% less phosphate fertiliser
But achieving similar crop yields



Farmers protect water voluntarily

CFE options that directly or indirectly benefit water cost farmers **£53 million** in 2014/15



Farmers plan nutrient applications

75% of the farmed area covered by nutrient management plans
20% increase in nutrient planning since 2009

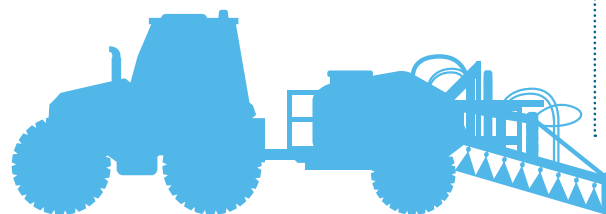


Nutrient inputs from manure have decreased

20% less manure nutrients since 1990

Nutrients are used more efficiently

Soil N balances reduced by **35%** since 1990
Soil P balances reduced by **50%** since 1990



Pesticide use is highly targeted

50% less active ingredient applied since 1990
Average weight applied per area decreased by **73%** since 1990

Average weight of metaldehyde applied per area decreased by **80%** since 1990

Pesticide stewardship is highly professional

The Voluntary Initiative provides schemes that ensure responsible use of pesticides such as NRoSO and NSTS. Over **20,000** members on the National Register of Sprayer Operators

Around **90%** of the UK sprayed area covered by 'National Sprayer Testing Scheme' tested sprayers



Catchment Sensitive Farming reduces agricultural pollution

4-12% reduction in pollutant losses on average

Farmers implement **54%** of measures recommended by CSF
Over **17,000** farm holdings have received CSF advice



Campaign for the Farmed Environment role in water quality

Since 2014 over **6350** farmers have engaged in soil & water protection through CFE co-ordinators and events

A recent CFE survey found over a third of farmers have voluntarily adopted grass buffer strips next to watercourses, **20%** have winter cover crops and **12%** have fenced watercourses.



Soil and water stewardship

Farmers invested more than **£182 million** on farm infrastructure, match-funding CSF or Countryside Stewardship capital grants to improve water quality