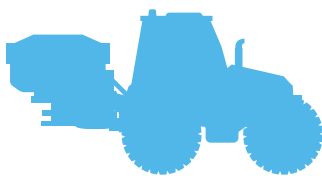


AGRICULTURE AND WATER QUALITY

Achieving 'good status' under the Water Framework Directive may require many years of improvements in individual elements to be reflected in the ecology of a waterbody. Agriculture has made significant improvements in recent years, including:



Fertiliser application rates have been decreasing since the 80's

35% less nitrogen fertiliser
60% less phosphate fertiliser
But achieving similar crop yields



Farmers protect water voluntarily

CFE options that directly or indirectly benefit water cost farmers **£60million** in 2013/14



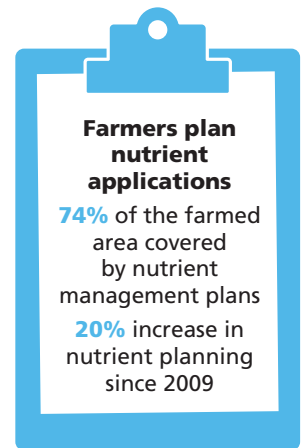
Voluntary uptake of key CFE measures for water quality

400,000ha of voluntary measures benefitting water quality
7387km of voluntary watercourse fencing



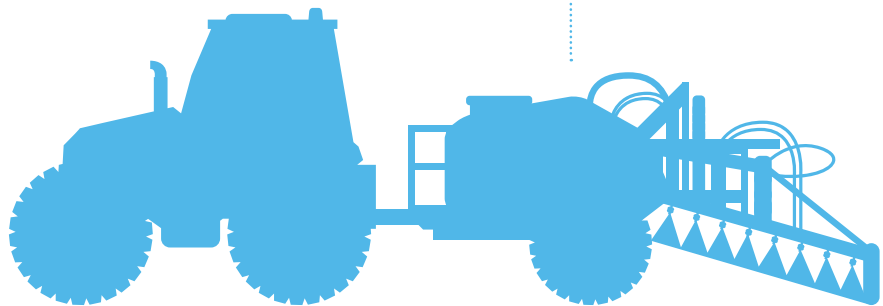
Nutrient inputs from manure have decreased
20% less manure nutrients due to more efficient livestock production

Nutrients are used more efficiently
Soil N balances reduced by **34%** since 1990
Soil P balances reduced by **50%** since 1990



Farmers plan nutrient applications

74% of the farmed area covered by nutrient management plans
20% increase in nutrient planning since 2009



Pesticide use is highly targeted

50% less active ingredient applied since 1990
Average weight applied per area decreased by **71%** by 1990

Pesticide stewardship is highly professional

Over **20,000** members on the National Register of Sprayer Operators
Around **90%** of the UK sprayed area covered by NSTS tested sprayers



Catchment Sensitive Farming reduces agricultural pollution

4-12% reduction in pollutant losses on average
Farmers implement **62%** of measures recommended by CSF
16,133 farm holdings have received CSF advice
£160million in infrastructure funded 50:50 by farmers and CSF



Soil and water stewardship

100,000 agreements for options under Environmental Stewardship and CSF that benefit soil and water