

Farm Waste Disposal through Brokerage Scoping Study (Phase 1)

The project was designed to evaluate whether or not there is a need for farm waste brokerage in England and Wales. Brokerage could be used to help re-distribute manure surpluses from intensive livestock farms to other farms who could utilise the fertiliser value of animal manures on their land. The project aimed to address 4 points:

- 1) To assess why, and how, schemes have been implemented in the USA and European countries.
- 2) To evaluate if any of the American / European schemes could be used in England and Wales and if so, which is the most appropriate scheme.
- 3) To identify, with the help of Agency officers, any areas in England and Wales which might be appropriate for an experimental brokerage scheme.
- 4) To provide a design with costings for the implementation of an appropriate scheme.

The project reported that the complicated integrated brokerage schemes operated in the Netherlands and Denmark were driven by strict pollution control legislation and were costly, not always successful, and unlikely to be taken up by farmers in England and Wales. The simple "bureau" schemes operated in some North American states on the other hand were thought to be an appropriate model for England and Wales. These voluntary schemes consisted simply of circulating lists of farmers willing to supply and others willing to receive manures and had the benefits of simplicity, low cost and little bureaucracy. The bureaus are operated by pollution control workers as part of local campaigns to improve river water quality.

If "bureau" schemes were to be implemented, the study identified intensive pig-rearing areas in East Anglia, substantial poultry farming areas in the Midlands and Welsh Borders and intensive dairying catchments in the South West as the most suitable areas for inclusion. A programme of activities to deliver a brokerage scheme is outlined in the study, with activities to fully develop the scheme stretching over three years.

This R&D Technical Summary relates to information from R&D Project P2-013 in the following output: **R&D Technical Report P192 "Farm Waste Disposal Through Brokerage Scoping Study - Phase 1"**

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Copies of the Technical Report are available internally from the Regional Information Centre (Library) and externally from the Environment Agency R&D Dissemination Centre, c/o WRc, Frankland Rd, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 8YF Tel 01793 865138 Fax 01793 514562.

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