

Diffuse Pollution from Agriculture: A Field Guide

Under this project the findings of previous R&D (Project i615/R&D Technical report P40) on best management practices (BMPs) to control diffuse pollution have been collated and presented in the format of a field guide (R&D Publication 13) for use by Agency staff and other environmentalists.

The guide contains examples of situations where diffuse pollution of water is likely to arise and suggests methods of reduction and prevention. The aim of the guide is to raise awareness about the general problems and solutions.

Subjects covered in the guide include:

- What is diffuse pollution?
- The role of the Environment Agency
- Recognising signs of diffuse pollution
- Impacts of diffuse pollution
- Encouraging farmers to act
- Integrated crop management
- Integrated Farming systems
- Pesticide minimisation
- Nutrient management
- Cultivation techniques
- Winter cover
- Use of grass
- Livestock management
- Tracks and access routes
- Hedge planting and management
- Wetland restoration and creation

The Agency is currently carrying out further R&D (Project P2-128) on BMPs to find practical solutions to diffuse pollution that have cost savings for farmers. These BMPs will be collated into a pack for farmers. Drafts of this pack will be published for consultation and testing in a trial catchment in the South West during 1999.

This R&D Technical Summary relates to information from R&D Project P2-074 in the following output:

R&D Publication 13 - Diffuse Pollution from Agriculture - a field guide

Internal Status: Released to regions

External Status: Released to Public Domain

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Copies of these documents are available internally from the Regional Information Centre (Library) and externally from the Agency's R&D Dissemination Centre at WRc plc, Frankland Road, Blagrove, Swindon, Wiltshire SN5 8YF (Tel: 01793 865138; Fax: 01793 514562)

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