

Teresa Meadows – Catchment Advisor
PO Box 969, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0XL

E-mail Address: teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk
Contact Numbers: 01268 664403 or 07792 169545

Capital Grant Scheme – 50% funding available

We are pleased to say that this year, farmers and landowners in the Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment are eligible to apply for the Capital Grant Scheme, funded through Catchment Sensitive Farming. Grant funding is available for works that will reduce diffuse water pollution, for example surface run-off, poaching, pesticide and nutrient losses.

The **main details** of the scheme include:

- You can apply for up to £10,000 of funding
- No minimum application limit
- Payments are based on 50% of the actual cost up to the ceiling specified in the scheme handbook
- Application window: **1st March-30th April 2012**
- The scheme is competitive and you will be notified by 13 July 2012 if you have been successful. Receipted claims will need to be submitted by 28th February 2013.

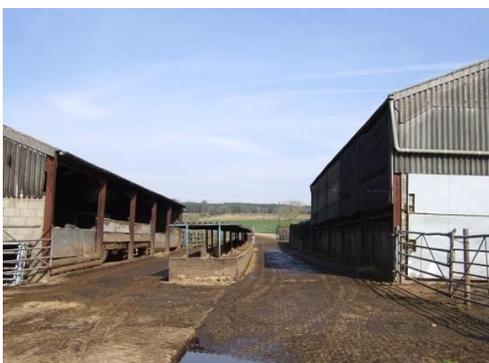
A **wide range of options** are available for grant funding through the scheme and the following are the top priority options for the Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment:

- Watercourse fencing
- Hard bases for livestock drinkers and feeders
- Sediment ponds and traps
- Yard works for clean and dirty water separation
- Resurfacing of gateways
- Rainwater storage tanks
- Livestock and machinery tracks and associated livestock fencing
- Pesticide handling, biobed and biofilter options
- Roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas
- Roofs for slurry and silage stores including self feed silage stores.

Upcoming Catchment Events

25th April – Free PLANET workshop
Essex YFC Barn, Chatham Green
(See enclosed invite)

Before



This livestock gathering area was roofed by a farmer in the Western Rother Catchment in West Sussex. They received a grant of £8,000 towards the work which significantly reduced water entering the slurry store, helping to meet NVZ requirements and care for the local watercourses.

After



More information about the scheme and an application pack is available from Teresa (07792 169545; teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk) or the Capital Grant Scheme team in Nottingham on 0300 060 1111.

Further information can be found at: <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming/csf/cgs/default.aspx> and detailed maps on the MAGIC website (<http://magic.defra.gov.uk>) – select the ‘**interactive map**’ tab then for Step 1 “**What data do you wish to view**” select the ‘**Rural Designations – Other**’ button and for Step 2 “**Where do you want to go**” enter your postcode.

Biobed – Pros and Cons from a Farmer’s Point of View

With over 40 attendees at our biobed and biofilter workshop at the Chelmer and Blackwater demonstration biobed in February, significant interest is building in the catchment. Using a biobed or biofilter provides a complete system for the containment and removal of any pesticide drips, spills, washings and residues from your sprayer fill area.

Robert Stacey who farms a 300ha arable farm at West Hanningfield has reviewed the system below with a set of pros and cons:

Pros

- The biobed removes 99.9% of all pesticide from the sprayer fill area.
- Better operator working environment.
- Good agricultural practice to demonstrate on RPA, Environment Agency and Farm Assurance inspections.
- Bunded area to pressure wash down sprayer.
- The bunded sprayer handling area would minimise effects of an accident.
- Reduce pesticide losses to your own ponds, ditches and local watercourses in the Chelmer and Blackwater catchment.
- Feeling of “doing the job properly”.

Cons

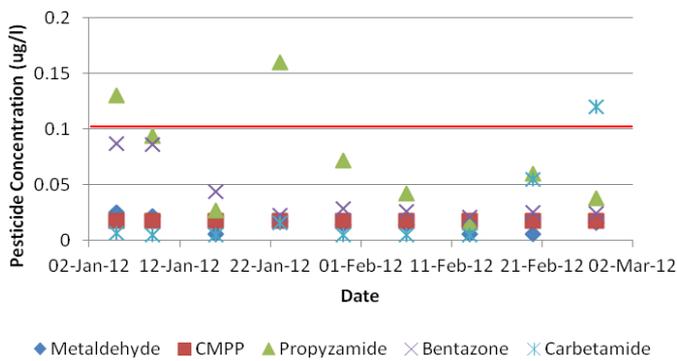
- Removal of exhausted biomix after 5 years.
 - Initial cost of building.
- Don't forget, you can apply for 50% funding towards the cost through the Capital Grant*



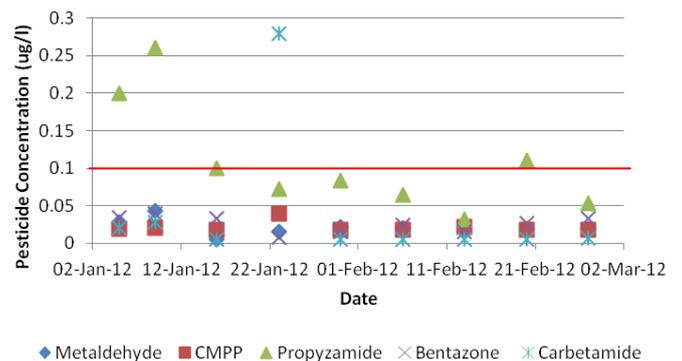
What was found in the catchment rivers this Spring?

The graphs below show the pesticide levels found at the Essex & Suffolk Water abstraction at Langford for both the Rivers Chelmer and Blackwater and their tributaries. Levels have remained below the Drinking Water Standard (0.1ug/l) for the majority of pesticides, with the main exceptions being propyzamide and carbetamide.

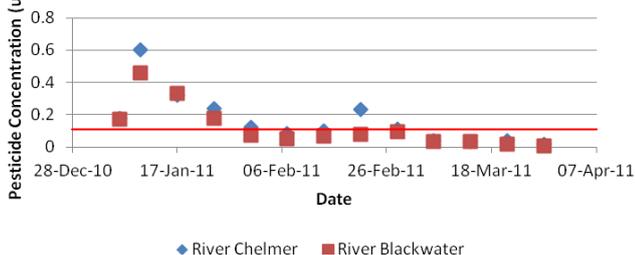
Langford Intake - River Blackwater



Langford Intake - River Chelmer



Langford Intake - Propyzamide Levels January to March 2011



When comparing the propyzamide (active ingredient in Kerb) data from January to March 2011 compared to 2012, it is possible to see that the levels have remained much lower this year.

This can be, in the main, attributed to lower rainfall, but also sprayer operators employing best practice in the farm yard and field – thank you.

Look out for the next catchment newsletter: Summer 2012

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership is supported by:

