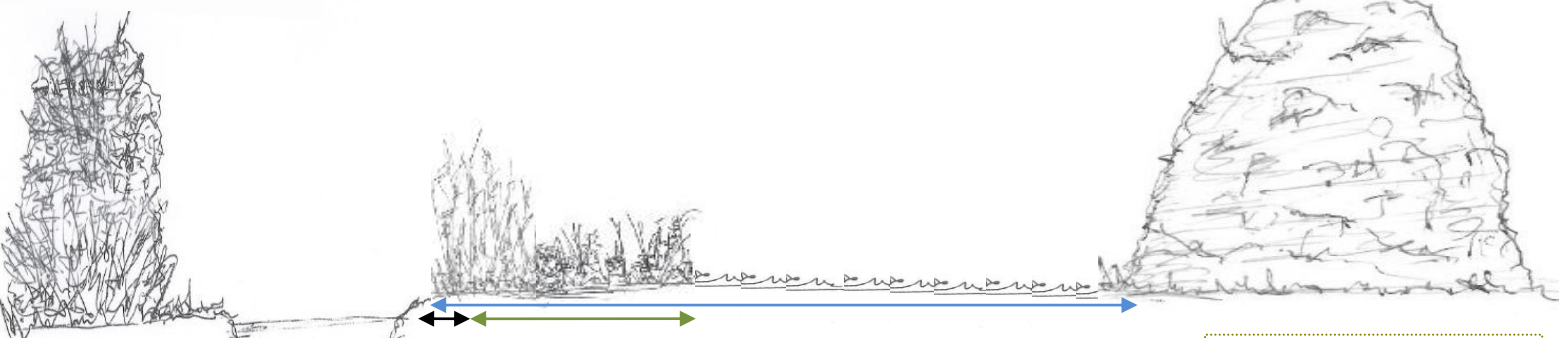


Teresa Meadows – Catchment Advisor
PO Box 969, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 0XL

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

Focus on... Buffer Strips

With the changes associated with CAP reform coming into play before long, the importance of adhering to water quality standards in our rivers and the need to make the life of the operator as easy as possible, we take a fresh look at buffer strips and the rules and regulations that you need to know....



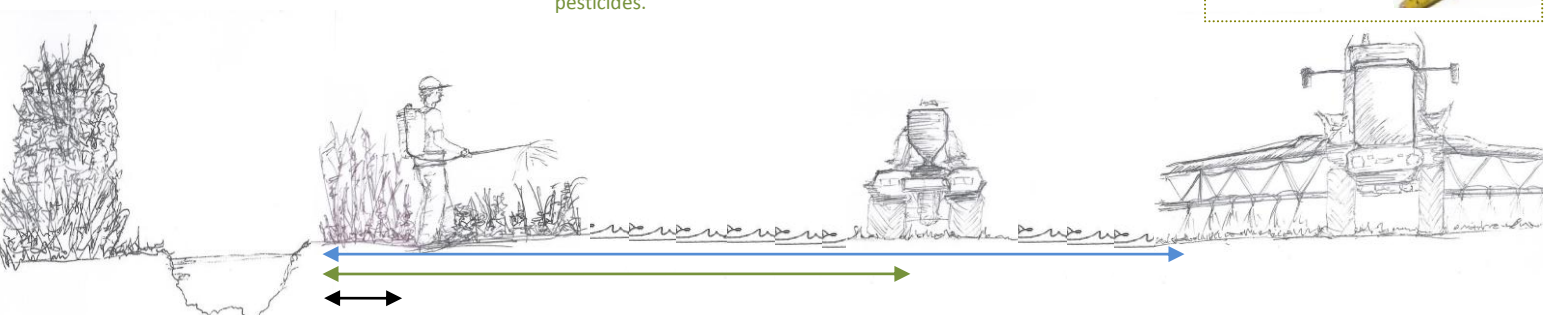
1m Cross Compliance Strip from the top of the bank - **ESSENTIAL**

2, 4 or 6m buffer strip. Could be funded through ELS and great for adhering to LERAP's for pesticides.

Manure heaps should be sited **10m** from a watercourse and away from land drains. They should be on as small a footprint as possible and temporary field heaps should not be in the same place for more than a 12 month period.

Want to check your buffer widths to make sure you are compliant?

Ring Teresa for your free 1m ruler or pick one up at the YF show.

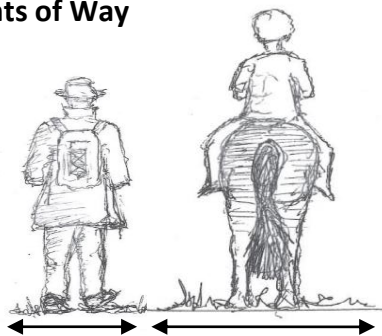


Knapsack sprayers should always be used more than **1m** away from watercourses.

Metaldehyde-based slug pellets should not be spread within **6m** of a watercourse. Establishing a 6m buffer would therefore allow spreading to the crop edge or consider using a ferric phosphate based pellet on the headlands. Manufactured N fertiliser should not be spread within **2m** of a watercourse.

Some active ingredients require a buffer zone, for example chlorpyrifos requires a **20m** no-spray buffer zone AND the use of LERAP 3* low-drift nozzles. Check your product labels or ask your agronomist about specific products and their buffer zone...and think about where you are turning on and off your sprayer, fertiliser spreader or slug pellet...remember the spread behind you!

Public Rights of Way



Footpath Buffer Width

- Field-edge path: min. 1.5m - max. 1.8m
- Not a field-edge path: min. 1 m - max. 1.8m

Bridleway Buffer Width

- Not a field-edge path: min. 2m - max. 3m

Illustrations courtesy of J. Williams

DID YOU KNOW?

A well established 6m buffer strip can reduce surface run-off losses by 50%.

Would this >1m buffer pass an RPA inspection?



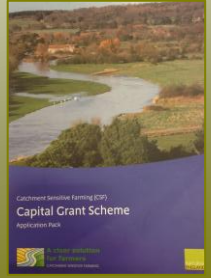
This well established 6m buffer would pass with flying colours!



Capital Grant Scheme Applications

We received 12 applications to the grant scheme this year from the catchment, which covered pesticide filling areas linked to a biofilter or biobed, concrete yard works and watercourse fencing. The applicants will hear if they have been successful by 30th June 2014.

Reminder: Those with successful extensions for the 2013/14 year need to have their work completed and claim form submitted with invoices and receipts by 31st May 2014.



What has been found in the rivers of the catchment over the Spring?

Metaldehyde – Metaldehyde levels have remained low across the catchment this Spring – thank you. Please continue to have conversations with your agronomist about using a good quality pellet, 1.5% a.i. pellets and ferric phosphate based pellets on your farm, when planning your applications this year.

Propyzamide – Propyzamide (the active ingredient in Kerb, for example) has been detected at high concentrations in the rivers (Can, Wid, Chelmer, Ter, Pant and Blackwater) across the catchment until the beginning of March. Please continue to take care when applying this product, because the water quality impacts have been seen from the application period at the beginning of November until March.

Upcoming Events

Tyres, Traction and Compaction

1st May
09:00-12:30
Or
12:45 – 16:30

Great Slamseys,
Blackley Lane, Great
Notley, Braintree,
Essex, CM77 7QW

Come along to this workshop and learn from the experts (Bill Basford and Gordon Brookes, Michelin) about wheels, loads, tyre pressures, tyre selection and their effect on compaction and soil husbandry. Technical information on low ground pressure tyres available.

To register for your FREE place, tasty lunch and BASIS/NRoSO points, call Teresa on 07792 169545 or e-mail teresa.meadows@nwl.co.uk.

Sheep “Live to Dead” Event

14th May
9am – 1:30pm

C Humphrey’s &
Sons, Blixes Farm,
Chelmsford, Essex,
CM3 2BH

This practical event, run by EBLEX & MLC Services Ltd, allows you to handle live animals and make your assessment of fat cover and conformation using the EUROP grid. You will then see the same animals on the hook in the chillers and the actual classification so you can compare the assessments made whilst the animals were alive.

To register for your FREE place ring Stevie on 01904 771211 or email brpevents@eblex.ahdb.org.uk.

Essex Young Farmers Country Show

18th May
Show opens at
9:30am

Boyton Hall, Boyton
Cross, Roxwell,
Chelmsford, Essex
CM1 4LN

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership has a stand in Block E2 at the show...come and say hello and pick up your free 1m rule stick for checking your buffer strip widths!

Cereals

11th and 12th
June
Show opens at
8:00am

Chrishall Grange
nr Heydon
Cambridgeshire
SG8 7NT

Come and visit us on the Water UK stand at Cereals (Stand number C - 439 -4), just off the Central Avenue and en route to the Spray and Sprayers demonstration area - take part in the Slug Trail from here and earn NRoSO points.

Look out for the next catchment newsletter: Summer 2014

The Chelmer and Blackwater Catchment Partnership is supported by: