A clear solution for farmers
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING

Priority Catchment Targeting Summary
March 2011 – March 2014

River Basin District: Severn Catchment
West Midlands Meres and Mosses Total Area: 143 km²

Reasons for designation
The Meres and Mosses form one of the most important wetland areas in the country. The catchment is made up of 27 individual catchments and was designated because the area includes 35 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) which have become increasingly high in nutrients and in some cases, sediment. Farming is a major contributor to these problems. Phosphate levels in the Meres and Mosses are generally high but it is nitrate, from fertilisers and manures, which is often the main problem.

Priorities
SSSIs failing due to sediment/nitrate/phosphate –

Cheshire
Bar Mere, Chapel Mere and Norbury Meres
Comber Mere and Oss Mere (Shrops)
Flaxmere Moss and Hatch Mere
Quoisley Meres
Rostherne Mere, The Mere, Mere and Tabley Mere
Bagmere

Shropshire
Bomere, Shomere and Betton Pools
Brown Moss
Fenemere
Marton Pool, Chirbury
White Mere
Sweat Mere and Crose Mere

Staffordshire
Aqualate Mere (Shrops)
Betley Mere
Black Firs and Cranberry Bog
Cop Mere

Objectives
Catchment Sensitive Farming is working with farmers to try and reduce the amount of nutrients and sediment entering watercourses and waterbodies.

The aims of Catchment Sensitive Farming in the Meres and Mosses are:

- To help farmers make better use of fertiliser, slurry and manure to increase nutrient efficiency. This will also reduce the amount of nutrients entering watercourses and water bodies.
- To advise farmers on appropriate changes in land management to reduce the loss of sediment.
- To explain how farming practices contribute to increased nutrient levels in the meres and encourage farmers to take action to reduce pollution levels.

- To advise farmers on improvements to farm infrastructure. This helps to reduce nutrients and sediment entering water from farm yards, tracks and other areas. Farmers are encouraged to apply for the CSF Capital Grant Scheme if appropriate. The following capital items are included in the scheme: farm yard works for separation of clean and dirty water, roofing of manure storage and livestock gathering areas, roofs for slurry and silage stores and livestock and machinery tracks.
- To encourage the use of suitable resource protection Entry Level Scheme options. The following options should be encouraged in the catchment for reducing water pollution: management of maize crops and in-field grass areas to reduce soil erosion and run-off, maintenance of watercourse fencing, winter cover crops and permanent grassland with low or very low inputs. In addition to these, appropriately located buffer strips, wild bird seed and flower mixes, beetle banks and unfertilised cereal headlands can all help to reduce water pollution from agriculture.

Delivery

- Training farmers to develop and maintain nutrient management plans through soil sampling, slurry/manure analysis and on farm 1:1 advice.
- 1:1 training will be delivered on farm infrastructure and soil and water issues around the farm through Farm Infrastructure Audits and Whole Farm Plans.
- Workshops will be used to advise farmers about the Capital Grant Scheme which should lead to successful applications that really tackle diffuse water pollution problems.
- Fertiliser Spreader testing will ensure farmers are applying fertiliser appropriately.
- Slurry and manure 1:1 advice will provide advice to help farmers improve the handling and storage of slurry and improve nutrient utilisation.
- Workshops will be used to advise farmers on grassland management. These workshops will also cover soil management and advice will be provided on how soil problems can be managed.

Targeting Map