



Catchment Sensitive Farming

Working together for a healthy environment

Dorset pesticide amnesty helps protect water and nature

A successful pesticide amnesty scheme has removed over 4.5 tonnes of pesticides and chemicals from farms across Dorset to protect water quality and the environment.

Led by Natural England's Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) partnership and match-funded by Bournemouth Water and Wessex Water the scheme enabled Dorset's priority farms to dispose of expired, redundant, and banned pesticides safely.

A participating Dorset Farmer said:

"I am really pleased I took part. The amnesty offered me an easy way to safely dispose of pesticides – they had been in my chemical store for years and I just didn't know what to do with them. It's been brilliant to work with the partnership scheme to reduce the risk my farm might pose to water and the local environment."

Through the amnesty, each farm could dispose of up to 75 kg of pesticides, free of charge, on a first-come-first-served basis and in confidence. Thanks to the work of local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officers, the scheme successfully signed up almost 100 farms across Dorset. Some farmers went even further, and covered the costs themselves, to get rid of more pesticides above the scheme limit.

The result – reduced risk of dangerous pesticides polluting our water.



Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer Tom Hicks with teams from South West Water and Bournemouth Water.

Over 4,500 kg of pesticides from farms have been safely removed and disposed of from Dorset's river catchments. These chemicals could have posed a real risk to nature, biodiversity and water quality.

Richard Lambourne; Dorset's CSF team who led the project said:

"The scheme is a great example of a co-ordinated approach between farmers, CSF and water companies to reduce the risk to water quality."

The collection and disposal of the pesticides was carried out by Peake (GB) Ltd, a waste disposal company based in the South West who specialise in agricultural waste.

Catchment Sensitive Farming is a successful partnership led by Natural England in partnership with Defra and the Environment Agency.

To find out more and get in touch with your local Catchment Sensitive Farming Officer visit gov.uk/catchment-sensitive-farming

