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Briefing 991

Campaign for the Farmed Environment

Summary

A voluntary initiative targeted at English farmers and land managers from most of the leading countryside bodies, including the NFU and CLA, and agreed with Defra, to voluntarily replace the environmental benefits gained under compulsory set-aside, which were lost when it was set to 0% from the 2007/8 cropping year.

This paper is taken from Smiths Gore's Rural Briefing Note 10/03 which can be accessed at:
<http://www.smithsgore.co.uk/>

The Campaign is the countryside bodies attempt to prevent stricter regulatory control; if it fails to deliver measured environmental benefits, Defra will force farmers to deliver these benefits using regulation.

There are 15 measures, which are similar to Entry Level Scheme management options, that are designed to reduce pollution, protect soil and increase natural habitats. To take part, farmers are asked to complete a one page form each year, which records what activities they are doing.

The measures are a step further than cross-compliance but they are not enforced or paid for in the same way as ELS or HLS. Not all of the measures will apply to every farm.

The 15 measures are detailed below and a full guide is available at <http://www.cfeonline.org.uk/>

Measure Code	Description
C1	Grass buffer alongside temporary and permanent watercourses
C2	Grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off
C3a	Reverted arable areas
C3b	Optional scrub management
C4	Skylark plots
C5	Fallow plots / un-cropped areas for ground nesting birds on arable land
C6	Over winter stubble followed by spring/summer fallow
C7a	Over winter stubble
C7b	Optional for vulnerable soils
C8	Un-cropped, cultivated margins
C9	Wild bird seed mixture
C10	Game strips
C11	Game Wildlife Conservancy Trust (GWCT) Un-harvested cereal headlands
C12a	Pollen and nectar mixes
C12b	Optional for use with horticultural crops
C13	Sown wildflower headlands
C14	Selective use of spring cereals
C15	Enhanced management of short rotation coppice

Alan Spedding, 24 February 2010

RuSource briefings provide concise information on current farming and rural issues for rural professionals. They are circulated weekly by email and produced by Alan Spedding in association with the Arthur Rank Centre, the national focus for the rural church. Previous briefings can be accessed on the Arthur Rank Centre website at http://www.arthurrankcentre.org.uk/projects/rusource_briefings/index.html

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