



Farm Capital Grant Scheme

Handbook

We're offering capital grants of up to £10,000 per holding per year for infrastructure improvements to help reduce the risk of water pollution from agriculture.

Southern Water is working with farmers and land managers to help reduce losses of pesticides, nutrients, soils and animal wastes to our surface and ground waters.

These pollutants can harm wildlife, cause human health issues and create risks for our drinking water supplies. In addition, nutrients, pesticides and soil are a valuable resource for farmers so reducing losses may represent an increase in efficiency and profitability.

Southern Water is offering capital grants of up to £10,000 per holding per year for infrastructure improvements to help reduce the risk of water pollution from agriculture.

Farmers and land managers in Southern Water's drinking water catchments may also qualify for:

- **FREE** 1:1 advice and training on a range of topics
- **FREE** slug pellet applicator and pesticide sprayer calibrations
- **A contribution of £1000 per tonne** toward the cost of ferric phosphate slug pellets to replace metaldehyde pellets

For more information and to check eligibility, please email:
catchmentschemes@southernwater.co.uk



This booklet details the capital grants available to help reduce agricultural pollution entering our drinking water sources. Grants are for up to £10,000 per holding per year. The grants are competitive and applications will be reviewed by a panel of Southern Water staff, with grants being awarded to those projects likely to achieve the biggest improvement in water quality and those that represent the best value for money.

Farms must join the metaldehyde mitigation scheme where applicable in order to qualify for the grants – speak to a Southern Water Catchment Officer for details.

Section 1: Available grant items

Item code	Description	Payment rate	Page no
SW1	Sprayer or applicator filling and washdown area	£1,875 each	3
SW2	Biobed	£3,375 each	4
SW3	Biofilter	£1,485 each	5
SW4	Roofing	Up to 50% of costs – as agreed	6
SW5	Other items – farmers and land managers can suggest alternative methods for reducing pollution risk	As agreed	7

Section 2:

Guidance and prescriptions

SW1 – Sprayer or applicator filling and washdown area

Payment rate:

£1,875 each

Overview:

This item will provide a bunded concrete pad in the farm yard which is a dedicated area for filling and washing down pesticide application machinery. The holding tank should be linked to a biobed or biofilter for treatment, or to an appropriately sized tank for removal from site by a licenced waste contractor.

Prescriptions:

Install a concrete bunded loading area, holding tanks, and fixed pumps and pipes to remove washings from the tank, as follows:

- remove topsoil and excavate an area for the washdown area and tank
- remove or divert any field drains that cross the site
- cover the site with 140mm to 160mm of well compacted hardcore and at least 25mm of sand blinding
- lay a damp-proof membrane weighing at least 1200g
- lay a reinforced concrete slab at least 150mm thick to falls of at least 1:100
- construct a concrete bund around the perimeter of the slab, making sure that all concrete joints are sealed with a proprietary sealant
- make sure the bund is at least 100mm high, so that it can contain liquids

- make sure the concrete bunded area is as wide as the sprayer plus 2m, and as long as the sprayer plus 1.5m. It would be useful to consider any planned investment in larger kit when sizing the area.
- make sure the bunded concrete slab contains a slotted-cover type drain connected to a silt trap with a removable cover that has a nominal capacity of 250mm below the inlet
- alternatively, lay the concrete so it is sloping 4 ways to a drain in the centre of the slab – the drain should have a silt trap within it
- direct the drain containing the silt trap to a tank or chamber (no larger than 1500 litres) from which pesticide washings can be pumped and disposed of
- make sure the holding tank is made from seamless polyethylene, glass-reinforced plastic (GRP) or pre-cast concrete
- make sure the holding tank is sized according to local rainfall and the area of concrete (if there is no roof or cover)
- make sure the whole structure is impermeable

Claim requirements:

Agreement holders will be required to submit before and after photographs with their claim

Section 2:

Guidance and prescriptions

SW2 – Biobeds

Payment rate:

£3,375 each

Overview:

A biobed is a lined depression filled with 'biomix' that is able to biologically treat dilute pesticides and greatly reduce their concentration. Biobeds can be either drive-over, or offset (to be used alongside a dedicated concrete pad).

The Environment Agency should be consulted before constructing a biobed and permits may be required for both the treatment of washings and the spreading of the resultant liquid.

Prescriptions:

To construct a below-ground biobed:

- excavate an area for the biobed
- remove and block off any field drains
- compact the sides of the earth bank to a slope of 30 to 35 degrees (about 1 in 1.5) towards the base
- lay an impermeable synthetic liner at least 1.2mm thick (pesticide grade) on top of a geotextile membrane underlay (190g per square m) and 25mm of sand blinding

To construct an above-ground biobed:

- use pre-cast or reinforced concrete and a 1.2mm thick liner, or an impermeable pesticide grade container
- follow the liner manufacturer's installation instructions

Any necessary holding tanks, pumps and pipes must then be installed for the below or above-ground biobed.

How to prepare the biomix

- mix one part peat-free compost, one part topsoil and 2 parts straw (wheat or barley) by volume
- allow the biomix to compost for 30 to 90 days before using it to fill the biobed to an effective depth of 1m, topping it up if there is any settlement
- use at least 1 cubic metre of biomix for every 1000 litres of liquid treated in any 12 month period
- turf over the biomix (except for evaporation systems)
- lay perforated pipes to distribute pesticide washings across the surface

The biobed does not need a cover or roof, unless it is an evaporation system.

Do not treat more than 15,000 litres of pesticide washings (excluding rainfall) in any 12 month period.

Claim requirements:

Agreement holders will be required to submit before and after photographs with their claim

SW3 – Biofilters

Payment rate:

£1,485

Overview:

A biofilter is a series of stacked containers filled with 'biomix' that is used to biologically treat dilute pesticides and greatly reduce their concentration in water. Dilute washings are trickle irrigated through the biofilter and the resultant liquid is spread to land. This option should be used alongside a dedicated concrete pad for sprayer filling and washing down.

The Environment Agency should be consulted before constructing a biofilter and permits may be required for both the treatment of washings and the spreading of the resultant liquid.

Prescriptions:

To construct a biofilter applicants must:

- use three new, chemical-resistant impermeable containers - these will typically be 1000 litre intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) stacked vertically. This could be in kit form from an approved supplier
- store pesticide washings in additional containers next to the IBCs, either before or after treatment
- alternatively, pump the washings directly from an underground storage tank that collects washings from a pesticide handling area
- cut the tops off the IBCs, leaving the corners intact
- insert wire mesh lining in the base of each one
- cover the lining with a permeable membrane
- install a layer (at least 10cm) of pea gravel over the membrane so that the drainage outlet to the container below is not blocked
- make a biomix by mixing one part peat-free compost, 1 part topsoil and 2 parts straw (wheat or barley) by volume
- allow the biomix to compost for 30 to 90 days before filling the IBCs
- fill the IBCs with biomix, leaving a 10cm gap at the top for piping
- allow the biomix to settle, then top up to a volume of at least 0.5 cubic metres of biomix in each one
- stack the three IBCs vertically into a tower on a flat concrete base
- if the biofilter is not covered, replace the top of the uppermost container to prevent rainfall from getting in
- install pumps, pipes and a hose to pump washings from the initial storage tank to the top biofilter container and on to the biomix through a piped ring distribution system
- allow the washings to flow by gravity through the pipes to the containers below
- pump discharge from the bottom container to a storage tank, or for direct irrigation through a perforated hose on to a vegetated area
- build a concrete bund at least 100mm high around the biofilter
- meet the requirements of the T32 waste exemption
- meet relevant British Standards – examine copies of the most up-to-date standards for guidance

Section 2:

Guidance and prescriptions

How to maintain the biofilter

Fresh, pre-composted biomix should be added to the biofilter to maintain its depth. The biomix should remain moist, using irrigation if necessary. Care must be taken not to allow the container to overflow. The biomix should be replaced every 5 years. A U10 or U11 exemption for spreading waste will be required to spread the biomix. The biofilter should not be used to treat hazardous waste.

Do not treat more than 15,000 litres of pesticide washings (excluding rainfall) in any 12 month period.

Claim requirements:

Agreement holders will be required to submit before and after photographs with their claim

SW4 – Roofing

Payment rate:

Up to 50% of costs – as agreed

Overview:

Roofing of sprayer filling and washdown areas will exclude rainfall, increasing the relative capacity of the linked biobed, biofilter or temporary storage tank. In addition, extra roofing can provide a dry, secure area for storing sprayers, empty pesticide containers, etc, whilst improving operator comfort for any maintenance work.

Prescriptions:

- build a roof structure impermeable to rainwater
- install guttering and drains to direct roof water to a clean water drain or storage tank
- make sure that drainage works meet any building and local authority requirements
- meet relevant British Standards – examine copies of the most up-to-date standards for guidance
- ensure at least 1m overhang on all sides over the concrete pad

Claim requirements:

Agreement holders will be required to submit before and after photographs with their claim. Copies of invoices for the work being claimed for will also be required.

Section 3:

How to claim

SW5 – Other items

Payment rate:

As agreed

Overview:

This item allows for farmers and land managers to suggest alternative methods for reducing the risk of pesticides reaching surface or ground waters.

All applicants must agree these projects in advance with the relevant Southern Water Catchment Officer.

Prescriptions:

As agreed

Claim requirements:

Agreement holders may be required to submit supporting documents with their claim – this must be agreed in advance with the Southern Water Catchment Officer.

A completed claim form and supporting documents must be received by **28 February 2020** to guarantee payment. Hard copies of the claim documents should be sent to:

Southern Water
Catchment Schemes
Southern House
Yeoman Road
Worthing
BN13 3NX

Or electronic copies can be sent via email to **catchmentschemes@southernwater.co.uk**

For more information about our Farm Capital Grant Scheme

Please contact us at:

Email catchmentschemes@southernwater.co.uk

Telephone 01903 272247

Write to Southern Water
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