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Curtailing muddy floods in England

Outline talk:

What size rainfall event?

New regulations -
Single Payment Scheme

Stewardship Schemes

Catchment Sensitive Farming

What size rainfall event?

Rare event - 1 in 100 year.

Frequent event - almost every year.



Runoff onto road from field of outdoor pigs.



Runoff from field of harvested potatoes into a winter cereal field and on to a road.



Erosion and deposition in harvested potatoes.





Runoff from harvested potato field flooded a minor road and deposited eroded soil on it.

New Regulations

Single Payment Scheme - started 1 January 2006 - Voluntary

Cross compliance

With regard to soil:

Keep land in Good Agricultural and
Environmental Condition.

Have and read Guidance for Soil Management.

Soil Protection Review- by 1 September 2006, updated thereafter

Leave land in winter rough cultivated, under stubble or
a cover crop if a crop is not being grown.

Don't work land when waterlogged.

Don't burn crop residues.

NB Not cultivate land within 2m hedgerow or water course. Set-aside can be used for 6-10m
buffer strips.

Penalties

Environmental Stewardship Schemes

Entry Level Scheme - Whole farm scheme to deliver simple but effective management.
Open to all.

Organic Entry Level Scheme

ELS/OELS cover 25 % (2.7M ha) farmland.

Higher Level Scheme - To deliver significant environmental benefit.
Competitive Scheme.

To: Conserve wildlife.
Maintain and enhance landscape.
Protect historic, environmental and natural resources.
Promote public access to understanding of countryside.
Natural resource protection.

A secondary aim is **flood management.**

Entry Level Scheme

First Aim - to improve water quality and reduce soil erosion.

Key requirement is a **Soil Management Plan**.

Prepare assessment of risk of runoff and erosion for whole farm on field/part field basis. Record on a field-by-field basis steps to take to minimise runoff and erosion, including how soil will be managed to ensure good structure and maintain the infiltration of rainfall.

Updated yearly.

Have to produce A **Farm Environment Record**. Identify where soil erosion and runoff occurs now and in future: rills or gullies in field and tramlines, muddy water into ditch or water course or sediment on road or property.

Runs for 5 years. Get paid £30/ha. Need 30 points /ha.

Entry Level Scheme

Points Scheme:

	Points/ha
Farm Environment Record	3
Soil Management Plan	3
Management of maize	18
Management of high erosion risk land	18
Buffer strips - 2m	300
4 + 6m	400
Farm corner management	400
Beetle banks	580

Must maintain Standards of Good Farming Practice. Must retain Codes of Good Agricultural Practice. Cannot remove field boundaries > 30 years old.

Penalties

Catchment Sensitive Farming

To reduce pollution of water courses by improving farm practices.

Forty catchments

Two year scheme costing £25 Million.

Dedicated advisers

one to one

workshops

farm demonstrations

Will these schemes work?

We'll have to wait and see.

Thanks for listening and watching.