



Department
for Environment
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Date: 30 September 2015

Dear Consultee

Consultation on new basic rules for farmers in England to tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture

I am writing to invite views on the introduction of a small number of new basic rules for farmers in England which will help tackle diffuse water pollution from agriculture. These rules aim to improve the efficiency of farms, protect the water environment and to support competitive agriculture.

The consultation runs for 8 weeks, from 30 September 2015 to 24 November 2015.

Responses should be made by **Tuesday 24 November 2015**

Farming naturally has an impact on the water environment and many farmers already take action to reduce this impact. This might be as a result of advice or incentives such as through Countryside Stewardship or through industry-led or water company action.

The new rules are intended to provide a new baseline for industry practice which will increase overall competitiveness and efficiency and improve the environment by reducing pollution from agriculture.

They have been developed with advice from agricultural industry representatives, farmers and other interested parties. They are clear and simple, and would be supported by an advice led approach focussed on outcomes rather than paperwork. They would not be part of cross compliance.

The following documents are on Gov.uk: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/rules-for-diffuse-water-pollution-from-agriculture>

- Consultation document
- Water and Agriculture: Basic Measures Impact Assessment

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation. Please contact us by email at farmingandwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk



Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Summary of responses and confidentiality

Any responses you send us will be seen in full by Defra staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Defra staff to help them plan future consultations.

When this consultation ends, we will summarise all responses and place this summary online available through our website at www.gov.uk. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. If you require a hard copy of the summary, or have any other enquiries, please contact us by email at farmingandwater@defra.gsi.gov.uk

We will store a copy of the responses received for at least six months from the date the consultation responses document has been published. This is so that the public can see them and copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation.

Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR; or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation. We welcome your views and comments. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely

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