

**CAMPAIGN
FOR THE FARMED
ENVIRONMENT**



YORKSHIRE
Fact Sheet 1

SUPPORTING CFE VIA ENTRY LEVEL STEWARDSHIP (ELS)

If you are in ELS you are supporting the Campaign simply by being in the Scheme. In addition to this, the Campaign also needs you to choose “key target options”, these are set out in the table below.

ELS Code	ELS key target option that contributes to the CFE targets
EE9	6m buffer strip on cultivated land next to a watercourse
EE10	6m buffer strip on intensive grassland next to a watercourse
EF1	Field corner management
EF2	Wild bird seed mixture
EF4	Nectar flower mixture
EF7	Beetle banks
EF8	Skylark plots
EF9	Unfertilised cereal headlands within arable fields
EF10	Unharvested cereal headlands within arable fields
EF11	Uncropped, cultivated margins for rare plants on arable land
EF13	Uncropped cultivated areas for ground-nesting birds on arable land
EF15	Reduced herbicide, cereal crop management preceding over wintered stubble
EF22	Extended over-wintered stubbles
EG4	Cereals for whole crop silage followed by over-wintered stubbles
EJ5	In-field grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off
EJ9	12m buffer strips for watercourses on cultivated land
EJ13	Winter cover crops

Some useful rules of thumb are:

- *Try to get 1/3 of your ELS points from the options above – this is a useful benchmark, if all arable farms do this CFE will meet its target of doubling the area of these options.*
- *Think about what your environmental aims are, buffering watercourses to avoid LEARAPS, supporting farmland birds by providing the correct habitat or helping a particular species on your farm. Think right option in the right location.*
- *Use ELS to make your farm management simpler, locate options on those awkward bits of land and consider the best fitting option from the list above.*

By participating in ELS, and choosing the options above, your support for the Campaign is automatically recorded by Natural England and the figures are provided to CFE on a county basis each month.



CASE STUDY: RICHARD TESSEYMAN

Richard is a CFE beacon farmer nr Boroughbridge. The farm is a 300 acre tenanted arable unit. Richard also runs a contracting business that includes MOT testing crop sprayers, combining over 1500 acres a year and applying liquid fertiliser to over 10,000 acres annually.

The farm renewed its ELS agreement in November 2010 and has 50% of its points from CFE key target options including field corner management, buffer strips along watercourses and wild bird mix. The basis of the agreement is to take out of production any awkward or unproductive areas of land. Due to the scale of the contracting business timeliness is key, therefore short rows or any areas where corn stays green have been put into ELS options.

EXAMPLE ELS AGREEMENT: A FARMLAND BIRD FOCUSED ELS AGREEMENT

Farmland birds need what are referred to as “the big 3”: in-field nesting habitat, winter seed food and summer insect-rich foraging areas. Research has found that by providing “the big 3”, the needs of farmland birds can be met from a relatively small area of well-managed land.

To meet the needs of farmland birds through your ELS agreement, you could use the following combination of options over each 100ha of arable land you farm:

- *2ha of wild bird seed mix (EF2) – This will have added value if you have a farm shoot: pheasants and partridge are not excluded (although feeders are!). Your local CFE co-ordinator has a limited number of DVDs, available on request, which give advice on growing wild bird seed and nectar flower mix.*
- *20 skylark plots (EF8) - Yes we know they're not everyone's cup of tea, but they work and the payment is equivalent to £3125 per ha. And 20 skylark plots equate to 10ha of land towards the CFE target!*
- *1ha of nectar flower mix (EF4) – Why not use this instead of basic 6m grass margins and as a buffer against watercourses? It gives an extra 50 points per ha and it can be made a bit wider than 6m if needed to get your tram lines to match up.*

The above example would be 1450 points, which is nearly a half of your points target for 100ha but would take up only 3.03% of the arable area, probably your poorest and most awkward arable land. It would also contribute 13 ha towards the CFE targets.

If you could get the remainder of your points from boundary and building options that don't involve taking any land out of production this is a return of almost £1000 hectare on that 3% of land.

Anyone delivering the above package would be making a huge contribution to the CFE in Yorkshire and help us avoid future regulation.



Image: Skylark plot



Image: Wild bird seed mix - now a rotational option in ELS