

CAMPAIGN FOR THE FARMED ENVIRONMENT.



Yorkshire farmers and land managers have a key role to play in ensuring that the Campaign for the Farmed Environment is a success. There are a range of voluntary management practices or ELS options that you can adopt on your farm to benefit the environment whilst at the same time being agronomically practical.



Soil and water

Farming can play a vital role in protecting Yorkshire's soil and water. Farmers can help by choosing campaign and ELS options that:

- Tackle the source of run-off – e.g. cover crops in areas vulnerable to flooding or erosion.
- Slow down the pathways of erosion and run-off – e.g. grass strips across slopes.
- Protect watercourses – e.g. grass buffer strips or conservation headlands along rivers, streams and ditches.



Employing good management practices and putting the right option in the right location can prevent loss of soil and pollution of water. Improving the condition of our rivers, lakes and estuaries will help meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and will also benefit wildlife.



Farmland Birds:

Campaign and ELS options can provide the 3 things that farmland birds need to thrive:

- Insect food for chicks – the majority of farmland birds feed their chicks on insects and 1 ha of insect-rich habitats, such as flower-rich margins, per 100 ha will provide a good supply.
- Seed food for adults – overwinter stubbles are a valuable source of seed for birds and just 2ha seed-rich cover crops can provide enough food for overwintering birds across 100ha.
- Nesting habitat – birds such as skylark and lapwing need in-field nest sites. 20 skylark plots or a 1 ha fallow plot per 100 ha can provide these. Other species depend on grassy areas provided by uncultivated margins and field corners for suitable nest sites.



Farm wildlife:

Wildlife requires balanced and varied farmland management that provides a variety of habitats. For example:

- You can benefit bees, butterflies and a wealth of other insects by establishing a network of flower-rich habitats across the farm.
 - If you have light free-draining soils, you can benefit rare arable plants by creating cultivated margins or leaving conservation headlands.
 - By buffering and protecting any water on your farm, you will help protect and provide habitats for bats, newts, water voles and other small mammals to flourish.
- Unimproved or flower-rich grassland is of value. Retaining and managing these areas can benefit a range of farm wildlife.

