

**CAMPAIGN
FOR THE FARMED
ENVIRONMENT**



YORKSHIRE
Fact Sheet 2

SUPPORTING CFE VIA VOLUNTARY MEASURES

This factsheet focuses on how you can support the Campaign outside or in addition to the formal agri-environment schemes. You can contribute to the Campaign by doing things for the environment and recording them as part of your day-to-day farm management.

In the 2009/10 cropping year farmers in England delivered CFE voluntary environmental management over 144,109 ha. The challenge for the CFE is to increase this to 204,030 ha by June 2012.

This may seem a big ask but when you look at the options below there are measures which, with minor tweaks in existing management, will fit with many farmer's existing cropping rotations to support the Campaign.

CFE Code	CFE voluntary measure
C1	Grass buffers alongside temporary and permanent watercourses
C2	Grass areas to prevent erosion and run-off
C3 a/b	Reverted arable areas/optional scrub management
C4	Skylark plots
C5	Fallow plots / Uncropped, cultivated areas for ground-nesting birds on arable land
C6	Overwinter stubble followed by spring/summer fallow
C7a	Overwintered stubbles
C7b	Overwintered stubbles – optional for vulnerable soils
C8	Uncropped, cultivated margins
C9	Wild bird seed mixture (arable/grassland areas)
C10	Game strips
C11	GWCT Un-harvested cereal headlands
C12	Pollen & nectar mixtures (arable/grassland areas)/option for horticultural crops
C13	Sown wildflower headlands
C14	Selective use of spring herbicides
C15	Enhanced management of SRC (willow or poplar only)

Image: CFE farm walk looking how to make the CFE work on a commercial arable farm



Image: Area of poor land ideally suited for CFE option



HOW DOES THE CAMPAIGN KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING?

Campaign voluntary management is formally recorded by a DEFRA survey in February each year to a random sample of 5500 arable. This year's survey will report in May so we can assess how the CFE is progressing against our targets.

A common comment we receive is "I am doing loads but did not get surveyed". In response the CFE website will have a page available from May for you to record your voluntary management. In addition, if you still have permanent set-aside, you are contributing towards the Campaign, providing you are recording it as OT2 on your SPS form. GAEC12 rules for management of uncropped land have changed to allow for cultivations and cutting regimes where uncropped land is being managed as a voluntary measure under the CFE.

EXAMPLES OF HOW YOU COULD SUPPORT THE CFE VIA VOLUNTARY MEASURES

As you are not getting paid for delivering this management, there are no penalties for getting it wrong. All arable farmers were sent a guide to the voluntary measures in Feb 2010 which set out the general management guidelines to "qualify" as a CFE measure. Spare copies are available from your CFE co-ordinator if you need them.

The following are a few of the options you could try out and that may fit well with your farm business:

- C1** *Grass buffers along watercourses – the big incentive is to avoid LERAPS. A CFE voluntary buffer can be 5m plus the cross compliance zone.*
- C10** *Game strips - These count providing they are not maize or giant sorghum and you keep them until mid Feb. A simple way to increase the area for CFE is converting some of the maize strips to a more varied game mix. If you swapped 50% and rotated it with maize this could work really well, giving some diversity to mixes and providing a break between crops.*
- C7** *Overwintered stubbles – Yorkshire farmers will deliver a huge quantity of this option but if you ploughed or sprayed it before valentine's day it did not contribute to CFE. This is where a minor tweak in management can really support the Campaign.*
- C4** *Skylark plots – if you want to get radical try a few out, if nothing else it will be a conversation grabber down the pub. If they work you could then take a leap of faith and include them in ELS when you renew. 32m² of land in 2 plots will add a hectare to the CFE targets.*

AM I DOING ENOUGH FOR CFE?

If you want to assess your contribution towards the Campaign targets work out the area of land you have in ELS key target options (list on fact sheet 1) and in CFE voluntary measures and then add them together. Remember 2 skylark plots equal 1 hectare.

Once you have the area of options divide it between your total arable area. This will give you your percentage of arable land contributing towards the CFE Targets. As a benchmark, if farmers across England deliver on average 3-4% the Campaign will meet its targets.

Please note this is a guide and will vary from farm to farm depending on the farm system. Please note if in HLS options are recorded separately.

Image: C1 watercourse buffer

Image: C12 nectar flower mix