



The Campaign for the Farmed Environment is encouraging farmers and land managers to voluntarily adopt land management practices that will retain and exceed the environmental benefits that used to be provided by set-aside. There is a range of voluntary management measures or ELS options that you can adopt on your farm to benefit the environment, whilst at the same time being agronomically practical.

Name: Richard Tesseyman

Region: North Yorkshire

Farm: Spellow Grange

Size: 127hectares

Background



Spellow Grange is a 315 acre tenanted arable farm run by myself, my brother and our mother. The farm is primarily arable down to a rotation of Wheat, Oilseed Rape and Spring/Winter Oats. The farm has 6 ha of temporary grass for haylage for the local equine market.

The farm has a whole range of soil types with major variations in individual fields. As part of a large estate a number of fields are bordered by woods with a resident rabbit population.

A key part of the business is agricultural contracting with 7000 acres of liquid fertiliser applications booked for 2010. Granular fertiliser spreading, as well as contract spraying, all using GPS technology. Other contracting includes combining over 1000 acres as well as recently branching out into paddock maintenance work such as topping of horse pastures.

What environmental management do you already undertake on your farm?

The whole farm has been in ELS since 2005 and is due for renewal in 2010. Options include;

- 6m & 4m grass margins
- Wild bird seed mix
- In field trees
- Field corner management
- Low input grassland
- Beetle bank
- Management plans (soil, crop protection)

In addition to the above the farm has retained approx 19 acres of former set-a-side land. This is on an area of peat which was always difficult to work and is more suited to environmental management than growing profitable arable crops.

How will you be/are you taking part in the Campaign?

We will be renewing our ELS in 2010, retaining our existing in field options and putting in additional in field options to make up for the loss of the management plans. We intend to environmentally improve the area of former set a side land by sowing more wild bird seed mix and then looking at other options we can use on this area of land.

Will you be using an adviser?

Yes the advisor who did the application in 2005 will be undertaking the application again.

What are the benefits of taking part in the Campaign?

Participating in ELS gives us a guaranteed income from the least productive parts of the farm and avoids regulation that may have resulted in us having to take productive areas of land out of production. Buffering all the watercourses on the farms avoids the need to do LERAPS.

How does undertaking voluntary management fit in with your farming business?

Participating in the campaign through ELS or by retaining areas formerly in set-a-side makes sound economic sense for the farm business. With input costs and cereal prices as they are it would be costing us money to crop these areas.

Buffering woodland has limited the damage caused by rabbits and makes harvest easier, we have less green corn to dry and avoids the hassle of leaving areas and then having to come back and harvest them later.

ELS options benefit the shoot on the farm although as tenants we don't realise the full value of this. It does however keep the shoot happy which is a bonus.

What is driving you to take part in the Campaign?

Doing my bit for the campaign is not difficult and I believe by implementing ELS options I actually improve the profitability of my farm business.

I also believe participating in the Campaign is the right thing to do for the environment on my farm.