

# Water Sensitive Farming

## Broadland Rivers and Cam & Ely Ouse Catchments



### WSF Project Objectives

- Deliver confidential advice to reduce Diffuse Water Pollution from Agriculture (DWPA)
- Promote practical measures to improve the environment including:
  - *Silt traps (bunds, wetlands, ponds and ditches)*
  - *Cover crops* ○ *Soil enrichment*
  - *Compaction reduction through improved cultivation and tramline disruption*
  - *High risk gateway re-location*
  - *Buffer strips*
  - *Watercourse fencing*
- Host knowledge exchange events to enable farmers to share and develop best practice
- Develop ongoing relationships with farmers to assist implementation of soil and water quality improvements and produce case studies demonstrating the economic benefits
- Spread key messages, such as reduction in pesticide use through 'Slug it out', as well as promoting agri-environmental scheme opportunities

For further information or to book a free visit please contact:

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**Water Sensitive Farming** aims to keep water in field, in the soil, for crops to use.

- Get to know your soils.....not just the soil type, but the wide variety across your farm. Dig holes regularly to look at structure, wetness, stability, etc. Understand each fields soil risks and capability so you can make the most of its assets and protect its risks.
- Aim for high levels of **organic matter** to make soils more resilient giving better absorbency; better workability; better stability; better yields....
- **Avoid damage to soil structure** by keeping machinery and livestock off wet soils. Reduce use of the plough; cultivate and drill in good time and at correct depths.
- **Improve water infiltration** by removing compaction at the correct depth through subsoiling or surface layer cultivations. Cultivate headlands and tramlines, and inter-row hoe to reduce erosion from wheelings.
- **Protect watercourses** by fencing stock out to give a clear wide margin. Provide drinkers fed by pasture pumps, install stock tracks to protect soils.
- Use **cover crops** to protect soils from erosion, improve organic matter and increase crop yields in subsequent years.
- Where needed, move gateways or create silt-traps to prevent soil run-off leaving a field and eventually polluting a watercourse. *A small grant fund is available for contributing towards these type of works.*
- Free confidential and independent farm visits are available to farmers in the:
  - Bure, Wensum, and Yare catchments through Water Sensitive Farming adviser Alison Smyth who can be contacted on 07493 685906.
  - Wissey, Lark and Little Ouse, and Thet catchments through Water Sensitive Farming Adviser Ed Bramham-Jones who can be contacted on 07788 377617.



Ed Bramham-Jones and Alison Smyth

