Protected Areas for Sustainable Agriculture:

Sharing experiences from across Europe that support agriculture in Protected Areas.

10th-13th March 2017
Building partnerships for conservation on farmland

Helping give nature a home
LIFE08/INF/UK/214

“Promoting the importance of the EU Birds Directive in conservation management on farmland (2010-2013)”
Abundance of European farmland birds

Absolute loss: 297 million birds

EBCC/RSPB/BirdLife International/Statistics Netherlands
Actions:
1. Volunteer & Farmer Alliance
2. Farm Conservation Advice
3. Nature of Farming Award
4. Demonstration farms
5. Information boards
6. Technical Events
7. Conferences
8. Media
Local birdwatchers are trained up to carry out farm bird surveys

Partners:
Local Birdwatchers
Survey results presented in report with tailored land management advice

Partners:
Conservation/ GIS students to help analyse survey results
Over 2150 farms surveyed by 2149 volunteers

Direct advice given to over 5,000 farmers
RSPB Demonstration farm: ‘Hope Farm’
Nature of Farming Award

Partners:
National Newspaper: The Telegraph
Nature friendly farmers become advocates and provide more demonstration farms

Partners:
Farmers, Statutory Agencies, Other Advisory organisations
Spreading the word through media

Food and Farming Awards

Partners:
Farmers to case study, media contacts

RSPB Nature of Farming Award for Henry Edmunds

RSPB calls for wildlife farming to bring back birds
The RSPB has called for “intensive wildlife farming” in the British countryside to bring back once common species like the tree sparrow, grey partridge and corn bunting.
Knowledge sharing through events

Partners:
Seed suppliers, Agronomists and other farm advisers

EUROPARC
FEDERATION
Working for Nature
Online forums and advice for nature friendly farmers

Welcome to this group for all farmers and anyone with an interest in farming. Read our blog to see how we're working with farmers and to find out where you can meet us at events.

Browse Blogs in Farming

Farming
Find out more about how we're working with farmers and others to provide space for farmland nature in the landscape. Join in the discussion on farming issues and share tips for wildlife-friendly farming.

Sort by: Most Recent  Most Views  Most Comments

Farming
Celebrating stone-curlew heroes: Dominic Ash, Defence Estates Ecologist

Popular
A secure future?
over 3 years ago by Heather G
Nature of Farming Award - A fine crop of highly commended farms for the Northern England Region
over 3 years ago by Heather G
Nature of Farming Award - Northern England Regional Winner, Richard Bramley - giving farm wildlife a home
EU LIFE+ Wildlife Friendly Farming Conference
Brussels 28th November 2012
Audience: policy decision makers
Overall, the project conveyed a positive impression of the EU Birds Directive to:
- 120,000+ farmers
- 3,000,000+ public

But, it was expensive and it was not intensive enough to recover farmland bird populations at a national scale....

So after the project we decided to target our work to demonstrate that nature friendly farming can be effective at a landscape scale.
16 Farm Advice Focus Areas

Case studies:

1. Migneint Farm Advice Focus Area

2. Strathspey Wetlands and Waders Initiative (SWWI)
1. Migneint Farm Advice Focus Area (Mid Wales)

**Farm Advice Focus Area**

Encouraging positive management for
- curlew
- golden plover
- ring ouzel

**Migneint Arenig Dduallt Natura 2000 site**

**Special Protection Area (SPA)**
- merlin
- hen harrier
- peregrine

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**
- blanket bog
- wet heath
- dry heath
- woodland
1. Migneint Farm Advice Focus Area (Mid Wales)

Project Partner:
• The National Trust

Contributors:
• Centre for Ecology & Hydrology
• Natural Resources Wales
• Snowdonia National Park Authority
• Fferm Ifan (A group of 11 National Trust Tenant farmers)
1. Migneint Farm Advice Focus Area (Mid Wales)

Extensive upland beef and sheep livestock system - maintaining this industry and creating habitat for golden plover and curlew.

In conjunction with the National Trust we are currently carrying out assessments of each of the tenanted farms involved for priority habitats and species.
2. Strathspey wetland and waders initiative

2. Strathspey wetland and waders initiative

Highest density of breeding waders in mainland Britain.

Work with farmers to maintain high quality wader habitat.

Monitoring undertaken by volunteers.
LIFE11/INF/UK/418

“Securing the future of the Stone-curlew throughout its range in the UK”
Recovery Action for stone-curlews

- Population monitoring
- Research
- Sites Conservation
- Reserves wardening & management (inc. land management agreements)
- Interventions
- Advisory on arable farms
- Advisory on semi-natural habitat
- Training Volunteers & Farmers
- Community Engagement
- Advocacy to decision makers e.g. Councillors & MPs
- Influencing Agricultural Policy inc. NELMS