



Planting seeds to reduce
water pollution from agriculture

The Catchment Change Network
Calendar 2013

“Slurry is a good source of nutrients on our farm – installing the slurry separator has helped us make best use of the available nutrients, so we can apply them at the time of year when they are most beneficial.”

Robert Warburton – Dairy Farmer, Appleby, Cumbria



Top Tip

Spreading slurry onto snowy or frozen ground is a waste of valuable nutrients. When the ground thaws they'll be washed away. But what if you don't have enough slurry storage? Use a slurry separator. It's cheaper than extending your store...

Be mindful of *where* and *when* you empty your tank.

JANUARY 2013

Mon		7	14	21	28
Tue	1	8	15	22	29
Wed	2	9	16	23	30
Thur	3	10	17	24	31
Fri	4	11	18	25	
Sat	5	12	19	26	
Sun	6	13	20	27	

“Soil is the farm’s most important asset – managing manure and slurry responsibly helps keep the soil in good heart without harming the river.”

Stephen Carruthers – Pig, Beef and Arable Farmer, Newby, Cumbria



Top Tip

Wait for a dry day, or even better a dry spell of weather, and spread on high ground away from hollows, boggy ground and streams. Your nutrients won’t be washed away so it’s cost-effective. Spread your slurry on a dry day and...

Get the most out of your manure.

FEBRUARY 2013

Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	
Sat	2	9	16	23	
Sun	3	10	17	24	

“Field mapping for macro nutrients helps us match field availability with crop requirements. This maximises crop potential whilst reducing the opportunity for surplus to be leached.”

James Turner – Brackenburgh Estates, Penrith, Cumbria



Top Tip

Reduce fertiliser application rates by being choosy about where you spread. Precision placement of fertiliser is critical to reducing wastage and pollution and to saving money...

Remember saving nutrients saves money.

MARCH 2013

Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	31

“Moving to a tanker with a slurry injector has helped us to reduce our fertiliser input and reduce the risk of run off – helping both the farm business and the environment.”

James Gibson – Castlesteads Farms Ltd, Plumpton, Penrith, Cumbria



Top Tip

Fully account for the nutrients in manure when calculating how much additional inorganic fertiliser to apply. Fertiliser recommendation systems can help...

Optimize the nutrients in the soil for your crops and save money.

APRIL 2013

Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

“Checking silage clamps and slurry stores are up to standard is an important job – you need to have confidence they are fit for purpose. A yearly check will help identify issues before they can cause problems.”

Will Cleasby – Eden Rivers Trust, Cumbria



Top Tip

Check out slurry tanks, silage pits and gutters to make sure they are fit for purpose. On most livestock farms the cattle will now be out to grass, which means it's a quieter time and therefore a good time to inspect farm infrastructure. Make the most of the milder weather, longer days and the lull before silage and...

Catch up on those once a year jobs.

MAY 2013

Mon		6	13	20	27
Tue		7	14	21	28
Wed	1	8	15	22	29
Thur	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	3	10	17	24	31
Sat	4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26	

“We established buffer strips and a wetland to reduce the risk of pollution from our farm. It’s also been great to see wildlife thrive in the new habitat as well.”

David Allen – Dairy Farmer, Dufton, Cumbria



Top Tip

Break the pathway between the land and the waterway and let the grass grow. Create buffer strips, field margins or wetlands to reduce the transfer of nutrients into streams. If you have a boggy area why not put in a pond to store water, trap sediment and help wildlife. In other words, minimise the risk of contamination...

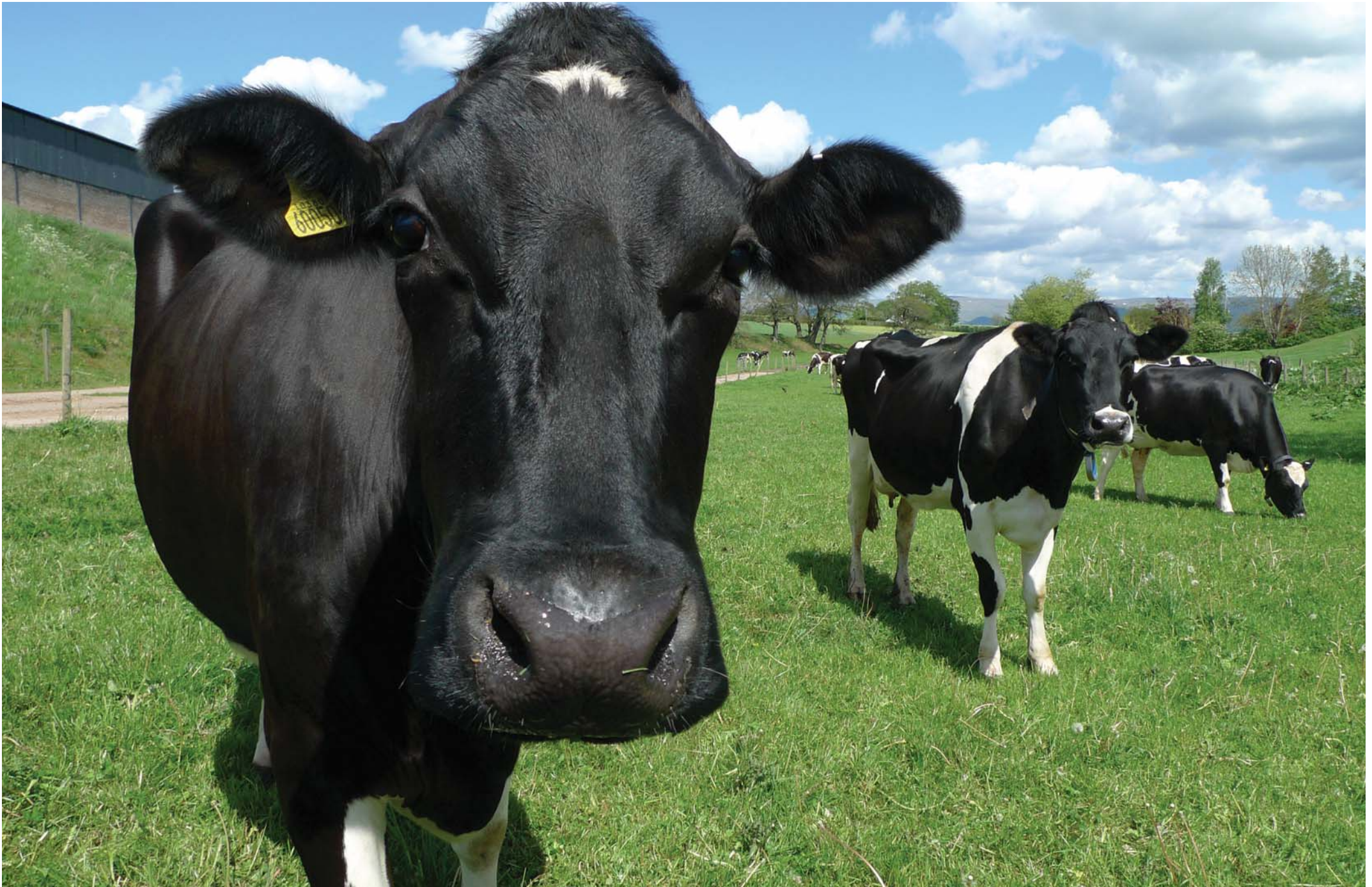
Slow the water down, create a natural filter and store the water on the land.

JUNE 2013

Mon		3	10	17	24	
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thur		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

“Fencing off streams has made our farm easier to manage on a day-to-day basis, whilst helping to improve the quality of the river.”

Tony Jackson – Dairy Farmer, Newby, Cumbria



Top Tip

Fence off rivers and streams from livestock.

This stops animals defecating in streams, erosion of river banks and potential harm to livestock...

Fences reduce injuries to livestock and veterinary bills.

JULY 2013

Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thur	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28	

“Precision farming for us is about matching crop needs with availability of nutrients both applied and in the soil. We achieve this with a combination of GPS field nutrient mapping, slurry injecting and min-tillage.”

James Turner – Brackenburgh Estates, Penrith, Cumbria



Top Tip

Re-establish tired grassland as part of your crop rotation by re-seeding into an existing field. There's no need to plough the whole field, reducing the risk of soil erosion so that...

Rejuvenating your pasture saves tractor time and fuel and benefits the soil.

AUGUST 2013

Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed		7	14	21	28
Thur	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	4	11	18	25	

“Keeping water troughs level with a solid base helps keep them tidy, as well as making sure cattle avoid injury – helping to reduce potential pollution and keeping our herd healthy.”

Bill Somerville – Dairy Farmer, Newby, Cumbria



Top Tip

Water troughs are busy communal places, which means that the soil is likely to be at risk from compaction. But soil compaction is bad news because it increases overland flow. It’s bad news for cattle too. So avoid your livestock trampling and sliding in the mud and protect them and the soil by...

Building a solid level base for water troughs.

SEPTEMBER 2013

Mon	2	9	16	23	30
Tue	3	10	17	24	
Wed	4	11	18	25	
Thur	5	12	19	26	
Fri	6	13	20	27	
Sat	7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29

“Turning off stop taps for field troughs during winter helps reduce the risk of costly bursts, hopefully saving valuable water and money.”

Chris West – Farming and Rivers Specialist, Eden Rivers Trust, Cumbria



Top Tip

Once your cattle are housed and inside remember to turn stop taps off at all water troughs. Avoid leaking pipes and broken taps before the frost arrives. It's also a good time to clean out troughs and check for leaks...

Think ahead and save time and money.

OCTOBER 2013

Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thur	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

“Making sure roof gutters and down spouts are clear and in good repair helps keep clean and dirty water separated and reduces the overall amount of slurry we produce.”

Alistair Shepherd – Dairy Farmer, Dalston, Cumbria



Top Tip

Animal feed is very expensive so make sure that you are in regular contact with a qualified nutritionist to give you the most cost-effective and environmentally sensitive way of feeding your livestock...

Regularly re-viewing animal diets can be beneficial for both the business and the environment.

NOVEMBER 2013

Mon		4	11	18	25
Tue		5	12	19	26
Wed		6	13	20	27
Thur		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24	

“Roofing over our collection yard has helped us reduce the volume of slurry we produce and consequently the amount we have to spread.”

Graham Westmorland – Dairy Farmer, Gaitsgill, Cumbria



Top Tip

Roof-over yard areas to reduce dirty water production. Minimising the volume of dirty water you produce reduces the volume to be stored and spread. You will be less likely to run out of storage space during winter and forced to spread dirty water or slurry at high risk times...

So keep the roof on and the rain out.

DECEMBER 2013

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thur		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

Acknowledgements

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