

# Farming Newsletter



## WELCOME!



Welcome to the September 2025 edition of the Mersey Rivers Trust farming newsletter!

Read on to find out more about farming news and what's on offer this month, you can also keep up to date with our [Farming Hub](#) online.

## COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP HIGHER TIER

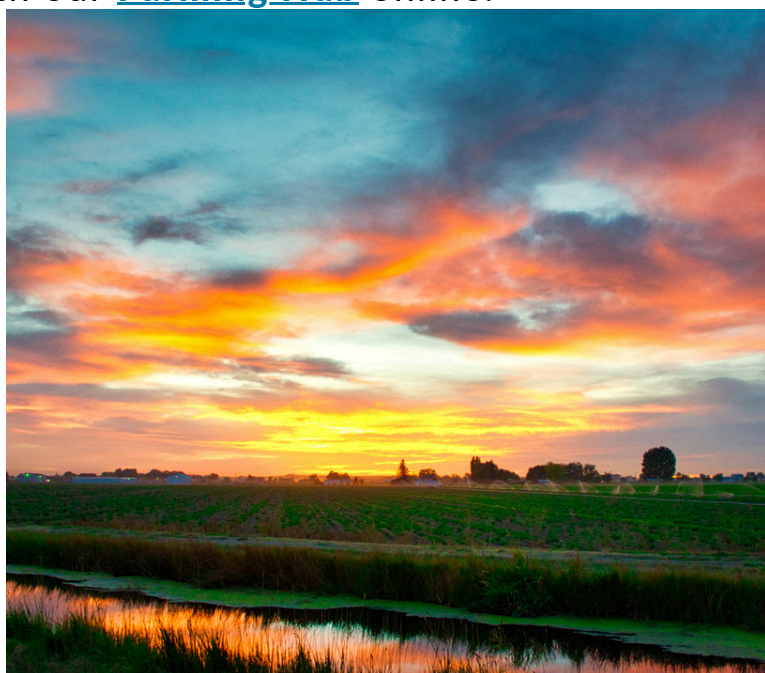
Countryside stewardship higher tier is now open. Eligible farmers, foresters and land managers who've received pre-application advice and completed any necessary preparatory works will be invited, on a rolling basis, to apply for Countryside Stewardship Higher Tier (CSHT).

This new CSHT offer includes:

- 132 actions and supplements to protect and enhance the environment including new options for watercourse management
- 142 capital items to support delivery of CSHT actions.
- Rolling applications.
- Monthly agreement start dates, rather than a single, annual dates.
- Quarterly payments for CSHT actions and supplements to help cash flow.
- A simpler online application process via the Rural Payments service.

For more information click [here](#).

Defra regularly updates their [Farming Blog](#). To subscribe to the blog and ensure that you receive their latest farming updates click [here](#).





## SLURRY STORAGE: SORT IT IN THE SUMMER, BE WINTER READY

As Autumn is now upon us it is important to make sure you have slurry storage that's fit for purpose for when the winter weather comes:

- Calculate your storage requirements using the AHDB slurry wizard: <https://ahdb.org.uk/slurry-wizard>.
- Making sure all your drains and guttering are fully functional and keeping clean rainwater separate from dirty water can make a significant difference to overall volumes of slurry on your farm.
- Contingency planning – even the best laid plans can go awry when the weather is in play; making sure you know what you'll do if you have storage issues or run out of capacity.
- Think longer term – do you need to look at covering existing storage? Is your capacity sufficient to cater for expansion or unforeseen circumstances?

To see you through winter, the Silage, Slurry, and Fuel Oil Regulations (SSAFO) require a minimum of 4 months storage capacity, which goes up to 5 months for cattle and sheep, and 6 months for pigs and poultry.

If you are in a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ). The environment agency strongly recommends having six months storage to be sure you can make it through with contingency to spare. For more information click [here](#).

## IMPROVED TB MAPPING TOOL ibTB

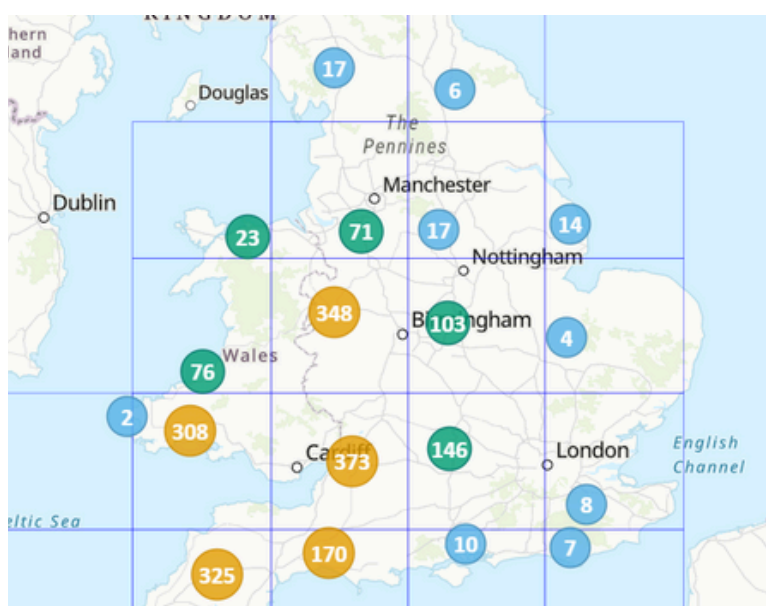
This new mapping tool is designed to give farmers more certainty about disease risks when purchasing cattle.

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025, an enhancement was made to additionally display animal-level TB risk data for animals in herds in England.

Users can enter an eartag number into the existing search box and this will zoom to the location of the herd in which the animal currently is and details are displayed using a new display box.

In addition to details about the animal, users can also view details of the current herd and previous herd.

Making this information available on ibTB will better support farmers in making informed purchasing decisions. For more information and to access the ibTB mapper click [here](#).



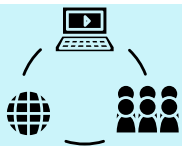
## MERSEY RIVERS TRUST SMALL GRANTS SCHEME 25/26

For farmers in the River Bollin Catchment we have small grants of up to £5,500 available to help with capital works on farms to reduce water pollution. We can fund capital works including concrete, guttering, fencing, and sward lifting. We can also signpost you to further advice and funding.

To register interest and discuss your chances of securing funding for capital grant items in 2025/2026.

Email us at [justine@merseyrivers.org](mailto:justine@merseyrivers.org) or call Justine on 07952 056286.





## EVENTS



## SOIL & WATER HEALTH DEMO DAY

CAS and Hutchinsons, in collaboration with the Ribble and Mersey Rivers Trusts, invite you to a FREE Healthy Soil and Water Event focused on exploring the management of soil health for profitable, sustainable food production and environmental protection.

 **HOME FARM, BACK LANE, STANDISH, WIGAN, WN6 8RR**

 NRoSO and BASIS points available.

For more information and to book a place you can register on Eventbrite by clicking [here](#).

Or call: Jade Prince - 07811 697900

email: [jade.prince@farmacy.plc.uk](mailto:jade.prince@farmacy.plc.uk)

THURSDAY 30TH OCTOBER

10AM - 12PM

HOME FARM, WN6 8RR



## IDEAS TO GROW YOUR FARM AND YOUR FUTURE WEBINAR SERIES

Farming for Nature is hosting four FREE webinars to discuss some agricultural issues.

- 20<sup>th</sup> Oct - 8PM - The pain and the gain - transitioning from high input to low input farming
- 21st Oct - 8PM - Quality Over Quantity - Doing dairy differently
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Oct - 8PM - Should the cow replace the sheep in uplands?
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct - Growing with the flow: innovative solutions for farm water management

For further information and to register for these free webinars click [here](#).

