



**A clear solution  
for farmers**  
CATCHMENT SENSITIVE FARMING



**10 October 2011**

## **UPDATED ADVICE HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF WATER PROTECTION**

An updated publication from the Crop Protection Association's H2OK? Campaign provides farmers and sprayer operators with the latest knowledge of how pesticides can reach water along with the options available to protect water.

*Every drop counts - Advice on pesticides and water protection for farmers and sprayer operators* has been updated by CPA and The Voluntary Initiative (VI) to encompass a wealth of expertise developed over the past decade.

"Water protection remains a vital issue for the farming industry," explains VI Manager Patrick Goldsworthy. "This updated publication is a must read for anyone involved in making or advising on pesticide applications. Despite the great strides made over the past decade, challenges remain. Pesticides continue to be detected in rivers and reservoirs and the threat of further restriction still hangs over some products that are vital to profitable crop production."

Step by step, the publication explains why protecting water courses from pesticides is so important; the out critical factors in farm yard and field that pose risks to water; along with how weather and soil conditions affect movement of pesticides into and from soils is explained.

"Every season of the year brings different challenges," says Mr Goldsworthy. "Timing spray application to avoid heavy rainfall is critical for some pesticides: in autumn, residual herbicides are at risk of being washed from soils either in run-off, or drainage; while spring-applied herbicides can be leached by heavy rain; in summer drift poses the risk."

Having explained the risks, the 16 page booklet then focuses on best practice. Addressing key risks, readers are guided in how to minimise losses across the farm and the season.

"Small changes in farm practice have the potential to make big differences in protecting water from pesticides," says Mr Goldsworthy. "We believe this booklet is essential reading for farmers and sprayer operators, which is why more than 10,000 copies will be given to attendees at the 2011/12 Roadshows organised by the National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) which are called 'Water, Widgets & Wotnots'.

Copies of *Every drop counts - Advice on pesticides and water protection for farmers and sprayer operators* can be downloaded from the VI website – [www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk) .

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### **Notes for editors**

1. The booklet can be seen here:  
[www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/Attachments/Resources/1463\\_S4.pdf](http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/Attachments/Resources/1463_S4.pdf)

