

CROSS COMPLIANCE , GREENING & AGRI-ENVIRONMENT SCHEMES



20TH MARCH 2017

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Cross Compliance



- Mandatory for anyone receiving support payments
- Two elements to Cross Compliance
 1. Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs)
 2. Good Agricultural & Environmental Conditions (GAECs)
- Guidance updated in 2015

SMR 1 - NVZs



- Local NVZ area
 - Moray, Aberdeenshire, Banff & Buchan
- Some areas removed from NVZ area in 2016
- Often missing or not fully complete at farm inspections

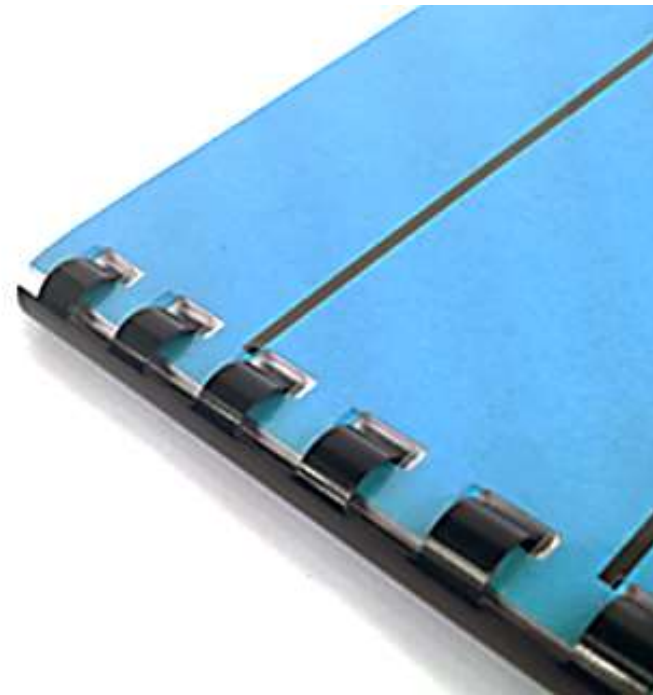
Who keeps the NVZ records?



- Occupier who uses the land for more than 2 years
- Person letting out the land if grazing let or short term let
- Only for land within the NVZ boundary
 - Can be part of a farm if on the boundary

NVZ Plan

- A Fertiliser & Manure Management Plan
 - To be completed annually
 - To be in place by 1st March
 - Kept for at least 3 years

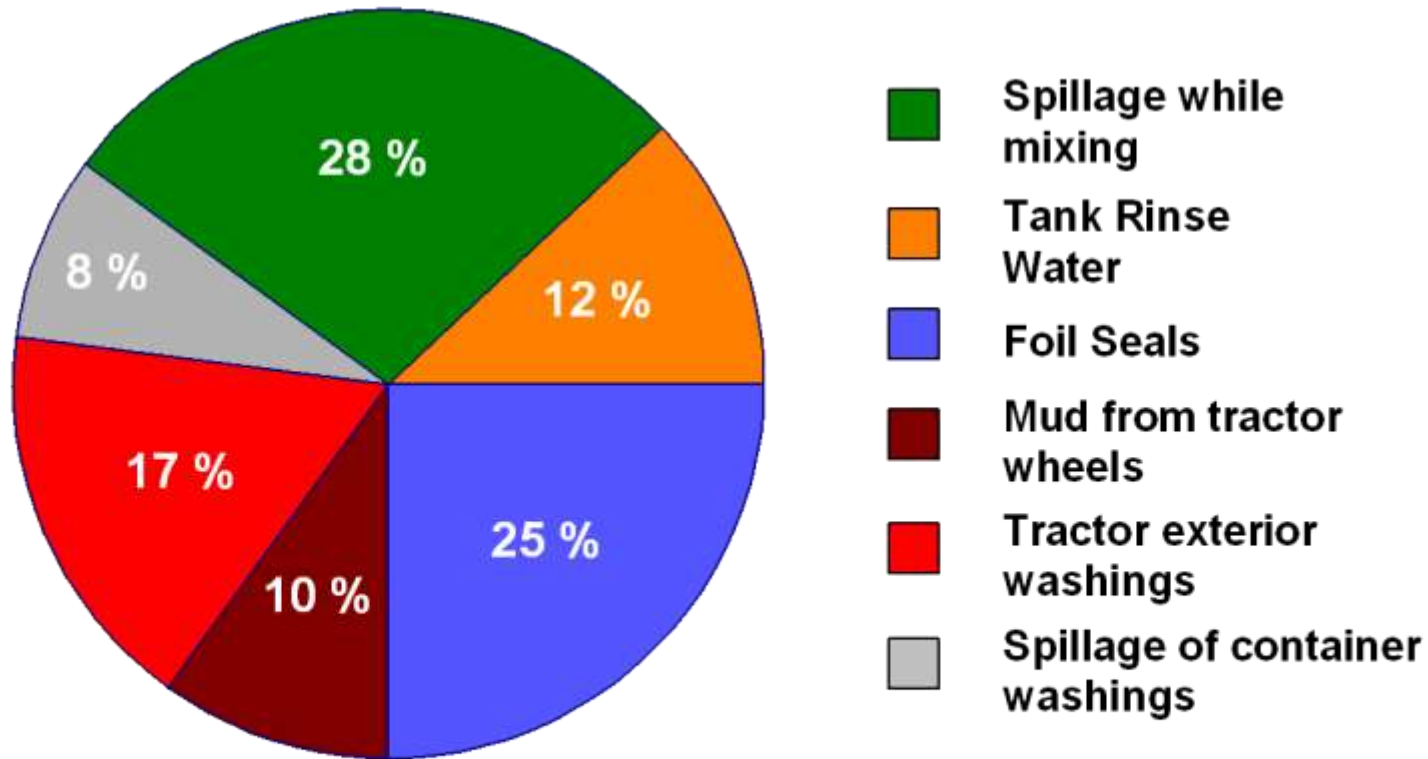


SMR 10 – Plant Protection



- Authorised use of plant protection products
- Safe storage
- Disposal
- Operator safety
- Minimise spray drift

Sources of Farm Pesticide Pollution



*Results from Year 1
Bayer CropScience Cherwell Study*

GAECs

- GAEC 1 – Buffer strips
- GAEC 2 – Water abstraction
- GAEC 3 – Protection of groundwater
- GAEC 4 – Minimum soil cover
- GAEC 5 – Limit erosion
- GAEC 6 – Soil organic matter
- GAEC 7 – Retention of landscape features

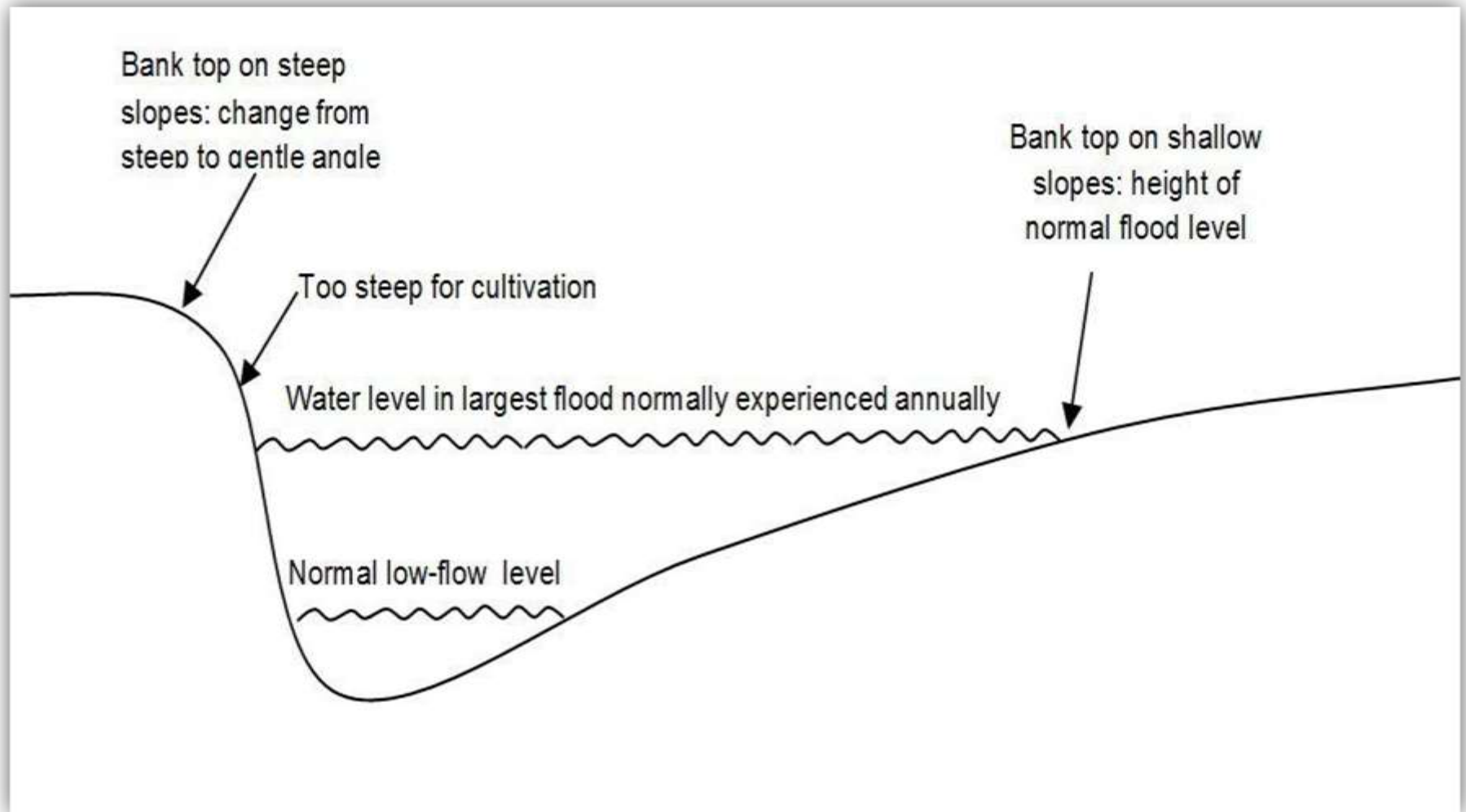
GAEC 1 – Buffer Strips

- Minimise risk of nutrients/chemicals entering surface water
- Organic manure **MUST** be applied and stored at least:
 - 10m away from any surface water
 - 50m away from a water supply / borehole

GAEC 1 – Buffer Strips

- 2m from the top of the bank
- 2m from centreline of a hedge
 - ✘ No application of chemicals
(spot treatment of injurious weeds allowed)
 - ✘ No application of fertiliser
 - ✘ No cultivation of land


Top of the bank?



Top of the Bank? Shallow Slope



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A photograph of a river with a shallow, wide channel. The banks are covered in green and brown vegetation. Two red lines are drawn across the image, one on each bank, indicating the top of the bank. A white text box is overlaid on the image, containing the text: "Bank top on shallow slopes: height of normal flood level shown here by flattened vegetation".

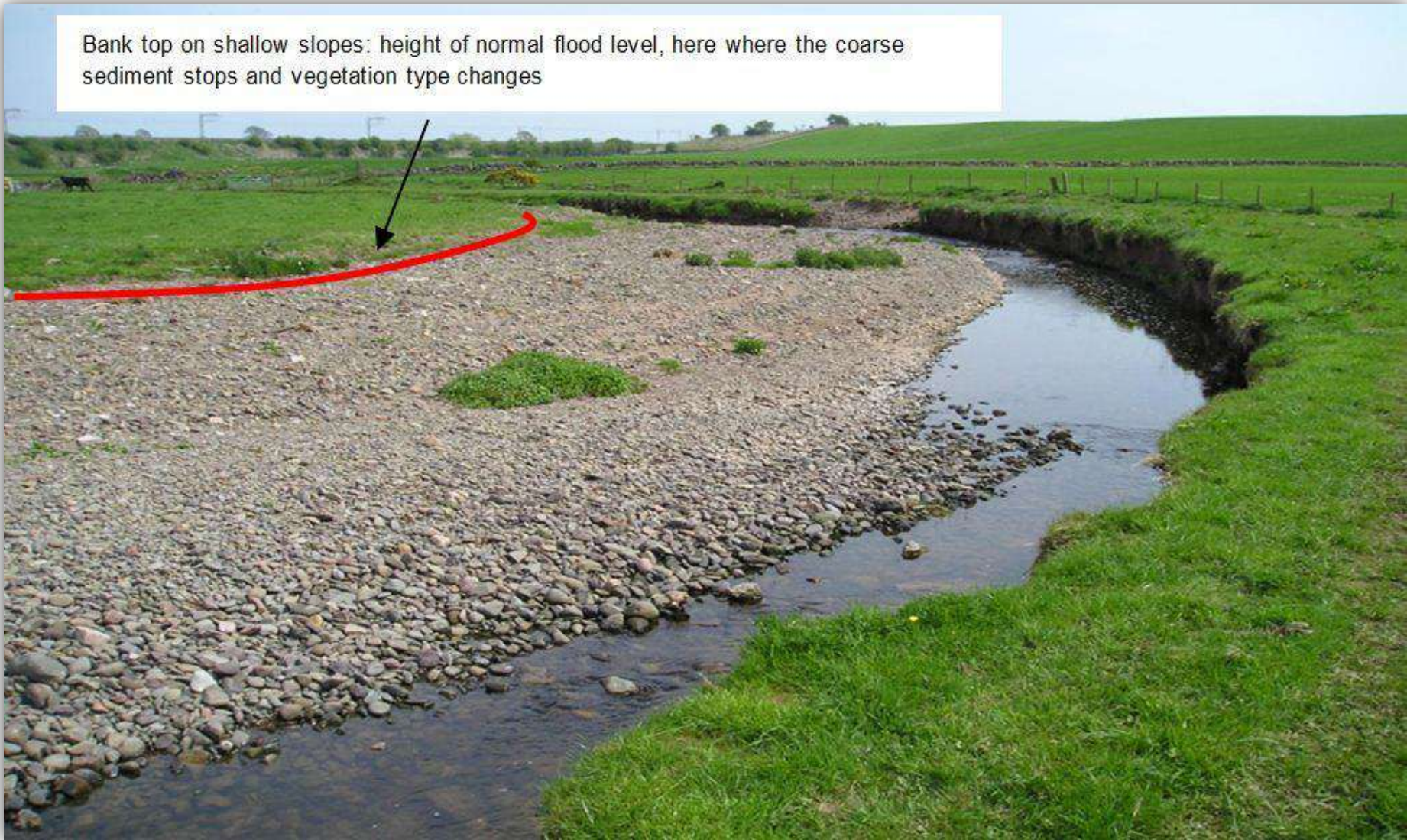
Bank top on shallow slopes: height of normal flood level shown here by flattened vegetation

Top of the Bank? Shallow Slope



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Bank top on shallow slopes: height of normal flood level, here where the coarse sediment stops and vegetation type changes



Top of the Bank? Steep Slope





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GAEC 3 - Groundwater Protection



- You must not cause or permit an activity which is likely to cause pollution to groundwater by allowing discharge of dangerous substances (indirect or directly) into ground water
 - Examples:
 - Overflowing sheep dipper
 - Leaking diesel tank
 - Inappropriate disposal of pesticide washings / waste tractor oil

GAEC 3 - Groundwater Protection



- Disposal of wastes/substances to land
 - Examples: distillery waste, sheep dip, compost etc.
 - MUST obtain license from SEPA
 - MUST comply with conditions of granted license
 - Identified disposal sites
 - Maximum disposal volume
 - Number of disposals per site per year (sheep dip = 1 per year)
 - Dilution rates
 - Keeping disposal records

Minimise Soil Erosion



- GAEC 4 – Minimum soil cover
 - Winter soil cover until end February unless preparing for next crop
 - Secondary cultivations left close to sowing



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The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas

GAEC 5 - Limit Erosion



- Protect against soil erosion in certain situations:
 - Bank erosion from:
 - Watering points
 - Feeding areas
 - Overgrazing
 - Livestock trampling
 - Use sediment traps / barriers if fields are unsown and conditions give rise to potential soil erosion

GAEC 7 – Landscape Features



- Drystone/flagstone dykes
- Hedges
- Trees (isolated, in a line/group)
- Ponds/watercourses
- Walls
- Turf/stone-faces banks
- **MUST not be removed/destroyed without prior written consent from Scot Gov**

GAEC 7 – Landscape Features



- Hedge trimming
 - To only be carried out between 1st September until end February.
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - Must not be altered, damaged or destroyed without prior consent of Scot Gov

Greening - EFA

- Fallow (1ha = 1ha EFA)
 - No production 15th Jan to 15th July
- Buffer Strips (1ha = 1.5ha EFA)
 - No grazing
 - If mown, the cuttings must be removed
- Field Margins (1ha = 1.5ha EFA)
 - No Grazing
 - May be topped after 31st Aug (not silage/hay)

Greening - EFA



- Catch Crops (1ha = 0.3ha EFA)
 - Main crop undersown with grass mix
 - Retained until 31st Dec
- Green Cover (1ha = 0.3 EFA)
 - Establish between 1st March & 1st October
 - Maintain cover until 31st December
 - No grazing/harvest

Greening - EFA



- N-Fixing Crops (1ha = 0.7ha EFA)
 - 2 N crops surrounded by EFA Field Margin
 - No harvest before 1st August
 - Can be grazed after 1st August
 - But not the field margin

Agri-Environment Scheme



- Arable options:
 - Wild Bird Seed for farmland birds
 - Forage Brassicas for farmland birds
 - Unharvested conservation headlands
 - Beetlebanks / Grass Strips in Arable fields
 - Retention of winter stubbles
 - Stubbles followed by green manure
 - Water margins in arable fields

Thank You

