

## New rainwater roof gutters and downpipes on farm buildings in yards

Funding is offered towards the installation of new rainwater roof gutters and downpipes on farm buildings in yards to improve clean and dirty water separation. New rainwater roof gutters and downpipes will prevent clean water from discharging on foul yards, reducing the volume of dirty water. This will reduce the risk of runoff from the farm yard entering nearby watercourses.

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### Length of agreement available

- 10 years from the date of completion of the work. This is the minimum period of time that the new rainwater roof gutters and downpipes should be kept and maintained in good working order to improve clean and dirty water separation.

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### Where to use this measure

- On existing farm buildings in yards
- Where no roof gutters or downpipes are present, or where they are badly broken or damaged
- Only where the proposed rainwater roof gutters and downpipes will be connected up to a clean water drain

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### Where this measure cannot be used

- On proposed new farm buildings
- For rainwater roof gutters and downpipes that will be funded by any other funding scheme (such as Countryside Stewardship)
- To direct clean water into the farm's dirty water or slurry system

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### Requirements

- Final construction designs and product specifications must be approved in writing by a member of the project team
- Install new rainwater roof gutters and downpipes on existing farm buildings in the yard according to final approved designs and product specifications in order to collect and direct rainwater from farm buildings to a clean water drain
- Remove all old and broken rainwater roof gutters and downpipes before putting up new rainwater roof gutters and downpipes
- Use an appropriately sized roof gutter and downpipe that will be able to cope with discharge off the roof of the farm building during heavy rainfall
- Direct clean water from the rainwater roof gutters and downpipes into clean water drain

- Maintain the rainwater roof gutters and downpipes in good working order for at least 10 years from the completion of the work

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## Consents and permits

This item could be detrimental if used on a historic or listed building. The nature and historic value of the existing surfaces should be taken into consideration. Seek advice on whether listed building consent is needed.

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## Record keeping and payment terms

Agreement holders will need to keep the following records and supply them with the payment claim. Payment will only be made upon satisfactory receipt of all of the following records:

- Photographs of before and after completion of the work
- Copies of any consents or permissions connected with the work
- Copies of any quotes connected with the work
- Farm information needed to run a phosphorus loss tool for the farm and calculate the reduction in phosphorus loss to water arising from this work. This may include farm data relating to livestock numbers, cropping areas and fertiliser / manure inputs.
- Self-declaration that the terms of the project agreement have been adhered to (key terms are listed above).
- Successful applicants are required to sign a declaration confirming that:

o reasonable precautions are taken to prevent nutrients and soil from the relevant field entering watercourses or from being leached to groundwater - to an extent that could cause pollution.

o the relevant fields have not been (i) the source of a recorded pollution incident which could have been prevented by the farmer taking reasonable precautions to prevent that pollution and/or (ii) the subject of a warning, fine, prosecution or BPS deduction issued to the farmer by the Environment Agency or RPA for a breach of NVZ rules or Farming Rules for Water in the past 5 years.

- It is expected that to support and inform the above declaration, successful applicants will complete the Environment Agency's Agricultural Compliance Tool (ACT) by 31st December in each year of the agreement and submit it when completed to Wessex Water (who will hold it in confidence) and address any actions identified by the ACT. For agreements involving annual payments of more than 5 years duration and/or with a value in excess of £5,000 of annual payments, this is a requirement.
- Agreement holders are required to complete a Wessex Water supplier application form in order to receive their first payment. A copy of this is available on the scheme website.



Broken guttering and downpipes that can be replaced. *Photo credit: Tom Hicks*



New guttering and downpipe on an existing cattle shed where the previous guttering was broken. *Photo courtesy of Brinkworth Brook catchment advisor.*

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## Additional information

New rainwater roof gutters and downpipes on farm buildings can improve clean and dirty water separation in farm yards and reduce the volume of clean water entering the farm's slurry store. This can improve the farm's effective storage capacity of slurry in the store. The regulations governing the storage of slurry are contained in the [SSAFO](#) (Storing of silage, slurry and agricultural fuel oil) regulations and the [Nitrate Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015](#).

Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) operates in parts of the country where there are water quality issues linked to farming. The scheme provides farmers with free advice and training. See guidance for further information on [CSF](#).