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# keeping a lid on it

Case study

Reducing the impact of run-off pollution

# Roofing a muck store can lower costs and reduce pollution

Run off from farmyard manure can pollute local watercourses and release excess nutrients into the natural environment – contributing to the problems of eutrophication.



## Less slurry is better slurry

The rising costs of fertiliser have focussed farmers' minds on the nutrient value of farm slurry. By improving the way you store slurry, you can begin to use sound nutrient management principles and see its importance for crop need.

“By separating clean and dirty water, dairy farmers can reduce the volume of slurry they produce – but increase its quality.”

Clean water from roofs and clean yard areas can fill a slurry store very quickly, especially in areas where annual rainfall is more than 1m. The water can safely be directed away from the slurry store by maintaining gutters and down pipes. Separating clean and dirty yard areas using ‘sleeping policemen’, will also help.

Less slurry means farmers can store it for longer without having to extend their storage facilities. And better storage means you can avoid spreading slurry when conditions are unsuitable – for example during heavy rain or when poor weather is forecast.

## The benefits

By placing a roof over a muck store you can:

- eliminate the risk of farm effluent run off into streams, rivers and groundwater;
- reduce the volume of dirty water you spread – lowering costs and reducing the risks associated with spreading in bad weather
- reduce the nutrients being leached – making for more effective fertiliser when spread.



## Case Study

Dingstopple Farm  
Llawhaden, Pembrokeshire

The Welsh Assembly Government has been running a Catchment Sensitive Farming Pilot study in the Deepford Brook, a tributary of the Eastern Cleddau in Pembrokeshire, West Wales. The pilot study is aimed at helping farmers reduce their impact on water quality from diffuse pollution, in particular assisting them to meet Water Framework Directive requirements.

By taking part in the pilot, Paul Clark of Dingstopple Farm has been able to cover his muck store.

**“It’s been a great opportunity to do a job I’ve long wanted to do, but might never have got round to otherwise. It’s a welcome improvement for our busy family farm.”**

Paul Clark



### Reducing fuel pollution

To reduce the risks of fuel run-off at Dingstopple, the farmer has also installed a new oil tank.

“We now use the ‘fuel station’ to store diesel for all our commercial operations on the farm. The old metal tank needed to be replaced anyway. Many farmers are now opting for a fully bunded fuel station where even the delivery hose is contained within the integral bund.”

The new tanks comply with Environment Agency requirements detailed in the Silage, Slurry and Fuel Oil Regulations 1991. They also offer an added advantage over conventionally bunded tanks as the bund does not fill up with rain water if located outside, removing the need to dispose of potentially oily water.



### Free soil analysis brings additional savings

Farmers in the Deepford Brook area have also saved thousands of pounds in fertiliser bills by taking up free soil analysis offered by the project. Soil nutrient analysis is a relatively cheap way of gauging the status of the soil and how much slurry and fertiliser is needed to grow a healthy crop - in this case grass. Excess nutrients applied to the land are not only a loss to the environment, they’re a drain on the farmer’s pocket too. With some fertilisers costing in excess of £400 a tonne, the issue is simply too expensive to be ignored.

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