

# Biodiversity c/o British Farming



In 2002 the government published the England Biodiversity Strategy.

What does this mean?



The government has set out a series of actions to make biodiversity a fundamental consideration across all sectors.

[www.ukbap.org.uk/ebg/england\\_biodiversity\\_strategy.asp](http://www.ukbap.org.uk/ebg/england_biodiversity_strategy.asp)



Farming and Countryside Education (FACE) is helping young people to learn more about biodiversity on farms.

[www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)

Farmers have a key role to play. Today's countryside has been shaped by farming and continues to be affected by farming practices.

The government wants farming to be economically viable - so that farmers can make a living and contribute to the economy - but wildlife also needs a sustainable future.

## ***What sorts of things have happened in the past***

More intensive agriculture has led to poorer quality habitats. Many farmland features have been lost, such as ponds, hedges and ancient trees.

Now, farmers are intent on caring for the environment: farmers are land managers as much as food producers.

## ***So who helps and advises farmers***

**Defra** aims to protect and improve the environment. Look up some of the schemes it operates with farmers to help them manage their land efficiently with the environment in mind. [www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/default.htm#land](http://www.defra.gov.uk/erdp/schemes/default.htm#land)

**Linking Environment & Farming (LEAF)** is another organisation that promotes environmentally responsible farming. It advocates Integrated Farm Management. See what this is at: [www.leafuk.org/leaf/organisation/ifm.asp](http://www.leafuk.org/leaf/organisation/ifm.asp)

**English Nature** is the government agency responsible for nature conservation in England. English Nature is in charge of designating SSSIs and NNRs. What do these letters mean?

[www.english-nature.org.uk/Special/sssi/](http://www.english-nature.org.uk/Special/sssi/)

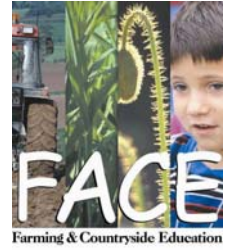
[www.naturenet.net/status/nnr.html](http://www.naturenet.net/status/nnr.html)

There are many organisations working to improve biodiversity.  
Try to find out what some of them are doing at: [www.naturenet.net](http://www.naturenet.net)

[www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)



# Habitats on the farm 1



Britain's farmers are working to improve biodiversity in the countryside by changing the ways they manage their land to create and protect a variety of habitats for different birds, mammals and insects.

## ***Field Margins***

Why are grassy strips at the edges of fields useful? [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com)  
(see conservation - solutions)

Which creatures can benefit from strips left at either side of a field hedge? [www.fwag.org.uk](http://www.fwag.org.uk)  
(Environmentally Responsible Farming)

How does the creation of field margins help to control crop pests?  
[www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/margins/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/margins/index.asp)

Where is wild bird cover especially useful?  
[www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/cover/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/cover/index.asp)

## ***Conservation headlands***

What are conservation headlands? [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com) (see conservation - solutions)

How can they benefit wildlife? [www.fwag.org.uk](http://www.fwag.org.uk) (Environmentally Responsible Farming)

## ***Beetle banks***

What do beetle banks provide? [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com) (see conservation - solutions)

Which predators can overwinter in beetlebanks?  
[www.northmoortrust.co.uk/home/countryside/sustainable\\_farming/habitat\\_creation](http://www.northmoortrust.co.uk/home/countryside/sustainable_farming/habitat_creation)

How big does a field need to be to have a beetle bank?  
[www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/beetle/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/beetle/index.asp)  
(A football pitch is approximately .75 of a hectare)

## ***Hedgerows***

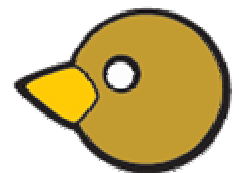
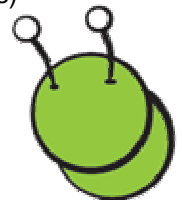
Which hedges are best for wildlife?  
[www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/hedge/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/farming/advice/farmhabitats/hedge/index.asp)

Which farmland birds depend on hedgerows?  
[www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/habitats/farmland/ancienthedgerows.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/countryside/habitats/farmland/ancienthedgerows.asp)

Find out how to plant a hedge. [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com) (see conservation - solutions)

What do old hedges provide? [www.fwag.org.uk](http://www.fwag.org.uk) (Environmentally Responsible Farming)

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of hedges for the farmer and for wildlife.  
<http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/content/chapter/66>





# Habitats on the farm 2



**Farmers have to make a profit from their business to make a living but they balance this with caring for the environment.**

**Here are further areas to explore to find out how farmers look after wildlife habitats.**

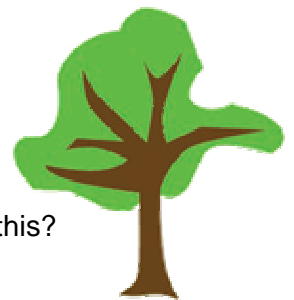
## ***Trees***

Should a farmer remove or preserve old trees? Why? [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com)  
(see conservation – solutions - practical biodiversity)

There are instances when cutting down trees can be a good idea! Find out about coppicing and its wildlife benefits at [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com) (see conservation – solutions)

What can damage young trees planted by the farmer?

[www.face-online.org.uk/resources/factsheets/discovering/woodland.htm](http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/factsheets/discovering/woodland.htm)



## ***Ponds***

In the twentieth century more than a million ponds were lost. What contributed to this?  
[www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/features/346feature1](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/features/346feature1)

Why are ponds important for wildlife? [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com) (see conservation – solutions)

Find out some of the creatures that benefit from ponds on the farm [www.fwag.org.uk](http://www.fwag.org.uk)  
(Environmentally Responsible Farming)

Which pond animals are endangered?

[www.yptenc.org.uk/docs/factsheets/env\\_facts/ponds.html](http://www.yptenc.org.uk/docs/factsheets/env_facts/ponds.html)

What are some of the problems of managing a pond on farmland?

[www.dragonflysoc.org.uk/frameset.htm?mhd4&home](http://www.dragonflysoc.org.uk/frameset.htm?mhd4&home)

## ***Ditches***

Why has mechanisation affected wildlife in ditches? See leats, ditches and canals at  
<http://handbooks.btcv.org.uk/handbooks/content/chapter/389>

Why do ditches need to be managed for wildlife?

[www.rspb.org.uk/action/managingreserves/habitats/ditch\\_creation/index.asp](http://www.rspb.org.uk/action/managingreserves/habitats/ditch_creation/index.asp)

## ***Farm buildings***

How can farm buildings be habitats for wildlife? [www.ukagriculture.com](http://www.ukagriculture.com)  
(see conservation – solutions - practical biodiversity)

Which parts of farm buildings do wildlife use most?

[www.angus.gov.uk/biodiversity/pdf/Section%202/Farmland/F2.pdf](http://www.angus.gov.uk/biodiversity/pdf/Section%202/Farmland/F2.pdf)

Learn more about the habitat barn owls need [www.owls.org/Species/tyto/barn\\_habitat.htm](http://www.owls.org/Species/tyto/barn_habitat.htm)

