



THE COUNTRYSIDE  
RESTORATION TRUST

CREATING A LIVING AND WORKING COUNTRYSIDE

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Changes in EU pesticide legislation provides opportunities

The proposed European wide changes to pesticides are aimed at the removal of products with potential human health problems, especially to farm sprayer operators. These changes are likely to cause a great deal of inconvenience to farmers, agronomists and the agrochemical industry. Loss of yields and crop quality are also predicted as well as higher food prices. The products under threat are used on most crops and the horticultural industry appears to face the greatest inconvenience.

However, the banning of some of these pesticides will provide an opportunity for farmers to review their cropping systems. The Countryside Restoration Trust (CRT) believes that techniques of integrated farm management could provide ways of living with the proposed legislation.

One farmer who has adopted these approaches over the last 15 years is Tim Scott, who farms arable land for the CRT at Barton, near Cambridge. In his quest for wildlife-friendly farming, Tim uses a wide rotation of crops, including winter and spring barley, winter and spring wheat, linseed and rye, all on fairly heavy soil. He explains, **“We aim to farm for the benefit of wildlife as well as profit and we believe it does not have to be one or the other. Spring cropping needs fewer inputs so our costs are a lot lower and our drilling is spread over seven months.”**

Tim chooses varieties of crops that are more resistant to fungus attack and beetle banks have allowed him to avoid summer aphicides, although he does use autumn insecticides to control pests carrying virus diseases. These approaches have helped to reduce pesticide, fertiliser and energy inputs, so benefiting wildlife as well as maintaining profitability.

Tim continues, **“We have looked at the pesticides likely to be banned and we feel that our integrated approach with our arable rotation, should help us steer through most of the difficulties.”**

John Terry, Conservation and Education Adviser for the CRT, believes that DEFRA could help farmers at this time by developing more 'in field options' for Entry Level Schemes to encourage greater integrated approaches. The CRT have also looked at the proposed pesticide changes and believe that the banning of these pesticides need not adversely affect farming profits. They may even benefit wildlife if integrated management, as practised by the CRT, is more widely adopted.

**Ends**

**Notes for Editors:**

**For further information**, please contact The Countryside Restoration Trust office on 01223 262999 or email [info@livingcountryside.org.uk](mailto:info@livingcountryside.org.uk).

The Countryside Restoration Trust is a farming and conservation charity which aims to protect and restore Britain's countryside with wildlife-friendly and commercially-viable agriculture. The Trust is committed to promoting the importance of a living and working countryside through education, demonstration and community involvement.

The Trust is establishing a network of demonstration farms across Britain which, using sensitive farming methods, will show how to protect wildlife, produce quality, seasonal food and preserve our countryside for future generations.

The Trust is also using living, working farms as educational centres of expertise to inspire farmers, land managers, the general public and politicians.

**AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW**

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