



The Voluntary Initiative

VI Overview 2007

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VI Manager

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What and Why



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Contents

- Origins of the VI
- Structure
- Achievements

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What and Why

Why the VI ?

- Agreed with Government as the alternative to a possible £125m pa tax on pesticides
- A better more targeted way to deliver the environmental improvements

What and Why



UK Environmental Impacts

- Water
 - 7-9% surface water samples >0.1ppb
 - Phenoxy, Triazines, Substituted ureas
 - Groundwater... concerns
 - Treatment costs
- Biodiversity
 - Farmland Birds
 - 80% decline in populations since 1970s
 - Grey Partridge, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer

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NATIONAL
FARMERS'
UNION OF
SCOTLAND



A.E.A.
EST 1875



Management



Implementation is overseen by the VI Steering Group

- Chair Prof. Barry Dent
 - Signatories
 - Stakeholders
 - Observers
-
- Oversee and guide VI
 - Report to Ministers



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The VI comprises:

Research

Training

Communication &
Stewardship



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Research

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RSPB

LINK COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Crop Protection Association

LEAF

THE NATIONAL TRUST

BRITISH POTATO COUNCIL

syngenta

Sainsbury's

HGCA

M MORRISONS

SAFFIE: Sustainable Arable Farming For an Improved Environment

Skylark Plots

ELS = 10pts per ha

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Training

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Training



National Register of Sprayer Operators



- Identifies Active Operators
- Encourages & supports operator training
 - Continuous Professional Development CPD
- Open to all
- 30 CPD points over 3 years
 - Approx. one day training pa

www.nroso.org.uk

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Training



- Roadshows



- Agronomists



- IFM Training Manual



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Communication & Stewardship

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Stewardship

NSTS - Sprayer Testing

- Based on AEA scheme
- AEA administered
- Boom sprayers and granule applicators
- Special sprayer tester training
- 57% sprayers tested need prior work to pass test
 - nozzles
 - leaking joints



www.nsts.org.uk



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Stewardship



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- Crop Protection & Environment
- Annual self-audit
 - Crop Protection, Water, Biodiversity
 - Profile -Poor (D), Basic (C), Good (B) and Best (A)
 - Prioritise and 'Action Plan'
- Modest but meaningful
- Available as a download from VI website or farming unions



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Achievements

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76% of the UK Sprayed Area covered by NSTS



2.4m ha (>50%) of the arable area expected to be covered by CPMPs



80% of UK Arable Area covered by NRoSO



Up to 98% improvement in water quality in VI
Pilot Catchments





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To find out more...

www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

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