



Life R4EVER KENT

LIFE R4ever Kent

Event summary

Title: Weatherproof Farming

Delivered on two dates: 09 & 10/11/23

Speaker: Neils Corfield.

09/11/23

Time: 7:30pm – 9:30pm

Location: Ings Parish Hall, Ings, Cumbria

Hosted by Ambleside & District Farmer's Discussion Group.

Programme:

7:30pm to 9:30pm – Presentation by Niels Corfield

9:30pm to 10:00pm – Tea and sandwiches

10/11/23

Time: 10:30am – 3:30pm

Location: Skelsmergh Community Hall, Skelsmergh, Cumbria

Programme:

10:30am to 10:45am – Brief introduction to R4Ever Kent Project by Joe Rigby (Catchment Management Advisor)

10:45am to 13:00pm – Presentation by Niels Corfield

1:00pm to 1:30pm – Pie and peas lunch

1:30pm to 3:30pm – Visit to neighbouring field to dig soil inspection pits



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Purpose: To promote the benefits of improving soil health by altering grazing management practices. One of the 10 water pollution workshops. Better soil health leading to improved water infiltration and retention leading to reduced runoff rates for the benefit of the river.

Promotion:

Event was promoted in the mailshot that was posted to 300 landowners listed on the RLR database.

It was promoted again around 200 follow-up emails (email addresses from RLR database).

Contacts at The Farmer Network and the NFU were made aware of the event, though it's not known what onward promotion they undertook.

Bookings were taken through Eventbrite, though several attendees requested a place by contacting the project team directly.

Attendees:

- 35 farmers/land managers
- 4 LIFE R4ever Kent project staff (FBA, SCRT, NE)
- 3 Natural England non-project staff (CSF Team)
- 2 Non-farmers/land managers with a professional interest in natural flood management

Feedback:

A feedback questionnaire was circulated round the farmer/land manager attendees at the end of the event. Responses were provided by 12.

The feedback questionnaire asked eight questions, with three possible answers for each. The responses are summarised in the table below:

Question:	Answer		
	Yes	Not sure	No
Did the workshop meet your expectations?	11	1	-



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Did you find the workshop useful?	12	-	-
Would you recommend this workshop to other farmers?	11	1	-
Do you think you would alter your farm management after today's workshop?	8.5	3.5	-
Would you like to have more detailed workshops about the topics covered today?	6	5	1
Would you be interested in attending other workshops covering different topics?	11	1	-
	Good	Not sure	Bad
How was the food at today's workshop?	10	2	-
How was the location of today's workshop location?	10	2	-

One respondent circled across 'yes' and 'not sure' for one question, suggesting that they would have liked a greater choice of possible answers.

10 of the feedback forms were from the 9th, with only 2 being completed on the 10th. This was due to the field visit in the afternoon of the 10th, after which most of the attendees didn't come back in to the hall.

Summary notes and impressions:

Generally appeared to be a thought-provoking workshop that most of the attendees found very interesting. Utilising the existing discussion group (on the 9th) was more successful in reaching out to a greater number of catchment farmers than the standalone event on the 10th.

Enabled relationship-building with several catchment farmers and landowners. Only one attendee requested a farm visit on the feedback form, although another two verbally expressed an interest in a site visit to learn more about the project.

The venue was suitable, with no issues identified.

The attendee feedback showed an appetite for more workshops, covering other topics.



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