

North West Farm Hub

Working with farmers to increase understanding and capacity around catchment nutrient management

Presented by: Vincent Riozzi

Date: 20/04/2023

What We Do:



Engaged with
15,697
volunteers



Worked on
318
natural flood risk
management
schemes



Planted
277,520
trees



Inspired
18,136
school children



Eased, passed
or removed
108
fish barriers



Opened up
786
km of river for fish
passage



Delivered
606
river clean ups



Created or
restored
25
wetlands



Worked with
2,064
farms



Completed
18
SUDs or rain
garden projects

What is the NW Farm Hub?

- The **NW Farm Hub** is an agricultural network covering the NW of England
- The network is made up of **Catchment Partnerships** and the **Farm Clusters** they manage
- Farm Clusters are **groups of farmers** within a single catchment that come together to **improve agricultural practices** and **share resources**
- **The Rivers Trust** are involved in Farm Clusters so that they can provide **expert advice** for:
 - Common challenges
 - Changing regulations
 - Environmental Markets



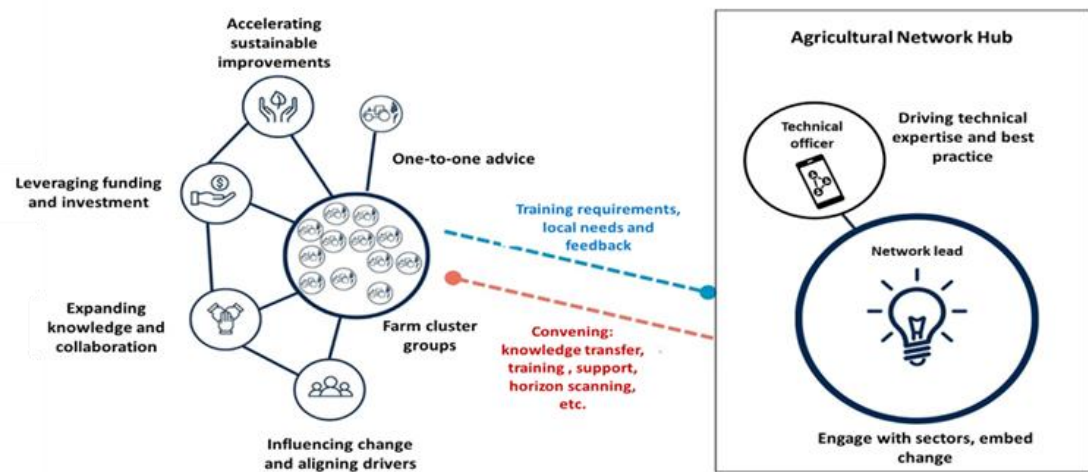
Funded by United Utilities

- **United Utilities** are 1 of 11 **privately owned** water companies that operate across England and Wales
- Their operation area covers the **NW of England**
- United Utilities have priorities across the NW to **reduce nutrient input** to rivers
- They have recognised the value that **Farm Clusters** bring to **Catchment Nutrient Balancing**

What Exactly are United Utilities Funding?

Over £500k over a 3-year period

- **14 Farm Clusters**, hosted by **7 Catchment Partnerships**
- 3 new roles that will sit within The Rivers Trust. A **Network Leader** for the NW Farm Hub and **2 Technical Officers**
- Each Farm Cluster will be provided with **agricultural advice** from **The Rivers Trust movement**
- River Trust farm advisers will be able to work with farmers individually to **develop farm plans** and **identify interventions**
- Catchment-level plans for **nutrient mitigation** can then be developed, **aligning goals** of all stakeholders



Criteria for Success

Can the NW Farm Hub be replicated across the UK?

Within 3 Years:

- Farm cluster groups will be established, regularly hosting meetings and providing knowledge exchange
- Opportunities to deliver interventions will be identified and presented to landowners
- Funding opportunities will have been identified to continue the running of farm cluster groups and the NW Farm Hub

Beyond That:

- Ensuring that NW Farm Hub is used to enhance any already existing projects
- Expand the network to allow more farm cluster groups in the NW to access opportunities
- Encourage landowners to collaborate with partner organisations (e.g. RSPB and CSF) to increase the potential for training/knowledge exchange.



Tänname väga!

Thank you!