Farming Ammonia Reduction
Grant Scheme

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Background

- Ammonia emissions impact on health and environment
- Agriculture – 81% of total UK ammonia emissions (2015)
- Emissions have declined but at slower rate than other pollutants
The scheme

• Available to dairy and beef farmers in England
• December 2016 – September 2017
• Offers:
  • One-to-one on-farm advice on ways to reduce emissions
  • 100% grants for slurry store covers
• Funding: EU Exceptional Adjustment Aid

Wider benefits of covers:
• Minimises odours
• Protection from rainwater: separates clean and dirty water, reduces storage and application costs
• Increases quality of slurry as a fertiliser
Objectives

• Reduce ammonia emissions
• Raise awareness of the impact of ammonia emissions and spread best practice techniques
• Support farmers to buy a slurry store cover for tanks and lagoons.
• Provide a test case
Design and implementation

• Limited time to develop and deliver
• Simple and attractive:
  • One measure (2 options)
  • 100% grant - fixed rate (no quotes)
  • Advice
  • Easy to apply
  • Wider benefits (e.g. minimising odour emissions)
• Sought feedback from industry stakeholders
• Promotion - direct to farmers and via industry stakeholders
• Administered by Natural England and the Rural Paying Agency; advice delivered by external contractor
Progress to date

• Popular and oversubscribed
• 345 farmers have received one-to-one advice
• Work is underway to install covers - uptake currently unknown
• Scheme is due to complete at the end of September
Challenges and lessons learned

• Short timescales
• Supply and demand
• Prices may have increased
• Planning permission
• Practical barriers – e.g. stores need to be empty
• Finance is a barrier to uptake
• Keep it simple
• Full evaluation in the Autumn