

# RESPONSIBLE WASTE MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

## Woodhead Farm a case study



Located in East Lothian, Woodhead is a 217 hectare arable farm, North of the Lammermuir Hills. The family run business is operated by Hugh Broad, providing contract farming services to seven local farms in the East Lothian area. The farm's core function is to produce a range of high quality combinable crops that are utilised in food and drink manufacture.

Over the years Hugh has integrated his core farming business with increasing levels of biodiversity output managing old and creating new habitats. He has also become a LEAF demonstration farm which shows the beneficial practices of Integrated Farm Management (IFM) to a broad audience through organised visits.

Focusing on fertilisers, chemicals, farm plastics and organic residue, Hugh takes the farm's environmental responsibility seriously. He has installed a series of practical on farm measures to de-risk his business from potential pollution issues, to handle waste appropriately and minimise his use of resources.

### KEY LESSON

Try to get ahead of the curve on regulations and ensure you are delivering best practice

#### Fertiliser Storage

In 2014 the farm moved to using liquid nitrogen fertiliser to ensure more accurate placement and crop utilisation. This removed the need for the plastics associated with bagged fertiliser. The liquid fertiliser is stored in three fifty cubic metre tanks. In the unlikely event of a failure of one there could be a direct pollution incident. Hugh ensures careful maintenance of these tanks, and in case of failure has placed them in a sealed bunded area with a 110% capacity of one of the tanks.

#### Bunded Sprayer Filling and Storage Building

Woodhead is a conventional arable farm and Hugh makes targeted use of chemicals when necessary. Assessing that filling the sprayer was the biggest potential risk for point source pollution, Hugh has installed a bunded concrete apron within a shed to ensure there is no risk of spillages during sprayer maintenance, cleaning or filling.



#### Recycling

To reduce the potential impact from using farm plastics, Hugh has set up a dedicated recycling point housed within the farm buildings. Plastics are graded, sorted and bagged ready for collection from recycling providers.

#### Machinery Wash Area

With a large contracting area and a need to ensure regular washdowns of farm machinery, Hugh was concerned about the potential for diffuse pollution into nearby water courses. An external wash down area with a double silt trap has been installed to collect soils and dirty water. This then feeds into the farm reed bed system to clean any dirty water.

