

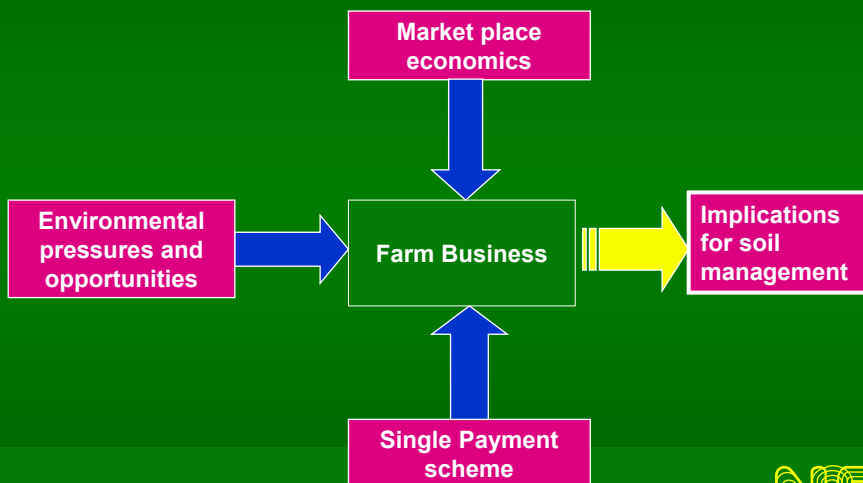
Agricultural Production and Soil

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Modelling Farm/Soil Impacts



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Market place: CAP Reform

- **Single Payment Scheme: radically different support structure**
- **Payments decoupled from production**
- **Economically rational use of land : stronger market signals**
- **Cross - compliance with Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition to receive payment**
- **‘Second pillar’: Environmental Stewardship Scheme**



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Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition - Council Framework

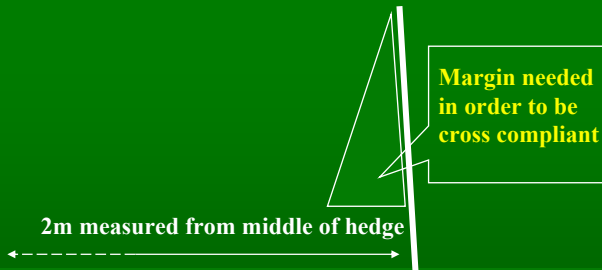
Issue	Standard
Soil erosion: Protect soil through appropriate measures	Minimum soil cover Manage land to reflect site-specific constraints Retain soil terraces
Soil organic matter: Maintain soil organic matter levels through appropriate practices	Standards for crop rotations Arable stubble management
Soil structure: Maintain soil structure through appropriate machinery use	Appropriate machinery use
Minimum level of maintenance: Ensure a minimum level of maintenance and avoid the deterioration of habitats	Minimum / maximum stocking density Protection of permanent pastures Retain landscape features Avoid scrub encroachment



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Hedgerow 2m protection margin

From JULY 15
2005

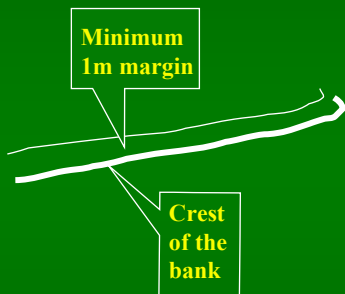


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Water course protection margin

From July 15 2005....



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GAEC Soil Management

- **Three national soil protection measures:**
 - Comply with Crop Residue (Burning) Regulations
 - Not undertake any “mechanical operations” when soil is saturated or water is standing on surface
 - Following a combinable crop, land must either be in green stubble, primary cultivation only or sown crop.
- **In addition:**
 - 2005 - Farmers following guidance on soil management
 - 2006 – Farmers to draw up a Soil Protection Review
 - 2007 – SPR to be reviewed annually and implement actions



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'The Environmental Challenge?'

- **Identifying environmental risks**
- **Managing to environmental capacity**
- **Water Framework Directive**
 - Soil management
 - Pesticides stewardship
 - Biodiversity conservation
- **Demonstrating compliance**



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EU Water Framework Directive

- Critical environmental legislation
- Sets target for good ecological status for surface- and ground- waters
- Chemical, physical and ecological aspects
- Each catchment/River basin to have action plan by 2009 tailored to local issues
- Options for derogations from 2015 target for excessive social/economic costs
- Unites land management and water quality



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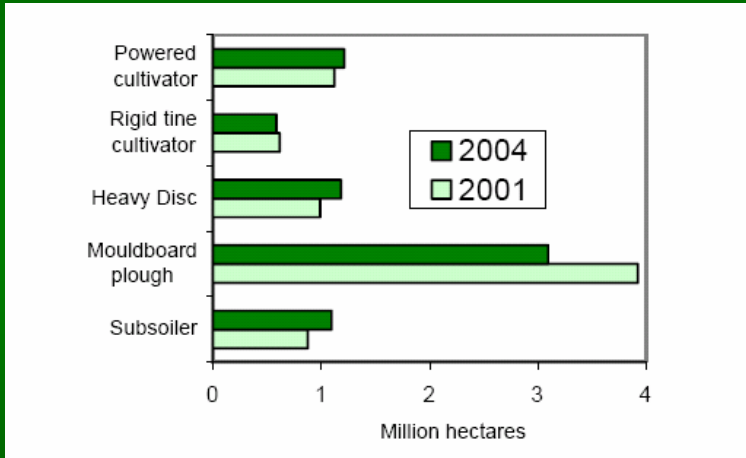
NFU WFD policy

- Early action to identify issues
- Set pragmatic targets for good status
- Supportive approach (Catchment advisors, grant aid, demonstration, good practice) should be the priority
- Exploit joint approaches – soils, nutrients, pesticides
- Learn lessons of Voluntary Initiative – local application
- Targeted regulation



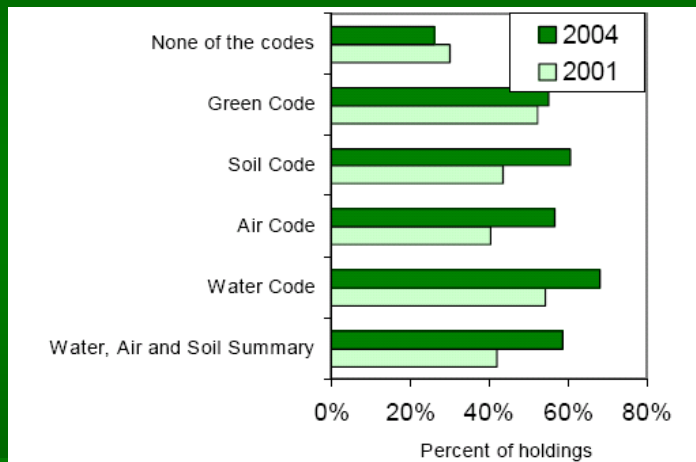
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Primary Cultivation techniques



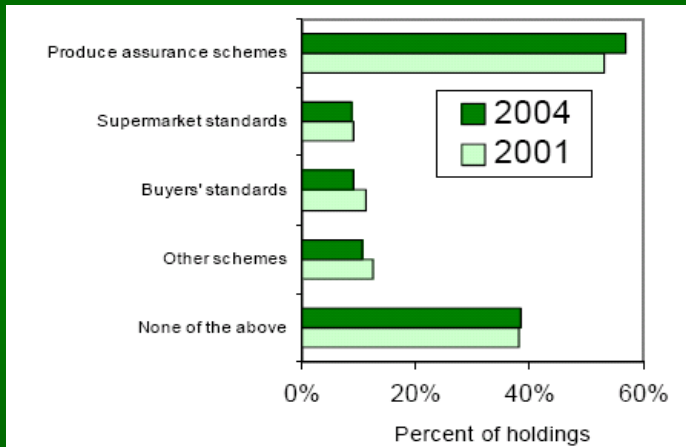
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Ownership of CoGAPs



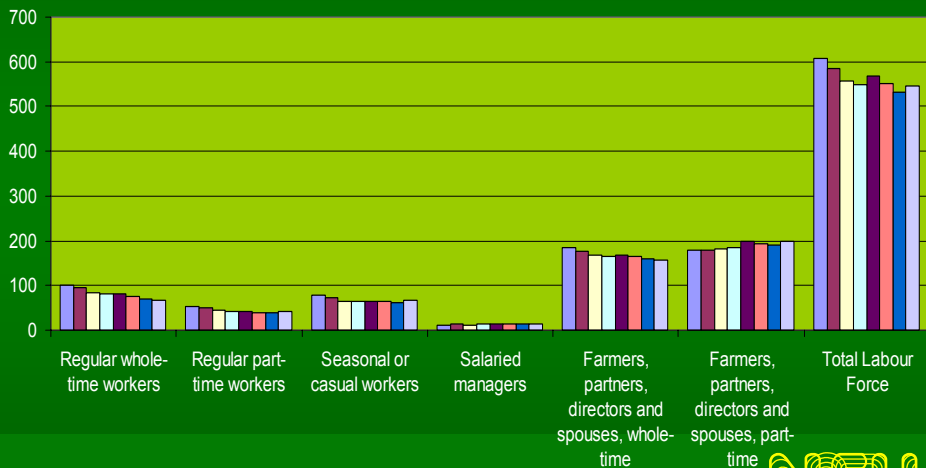
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Assurance standards



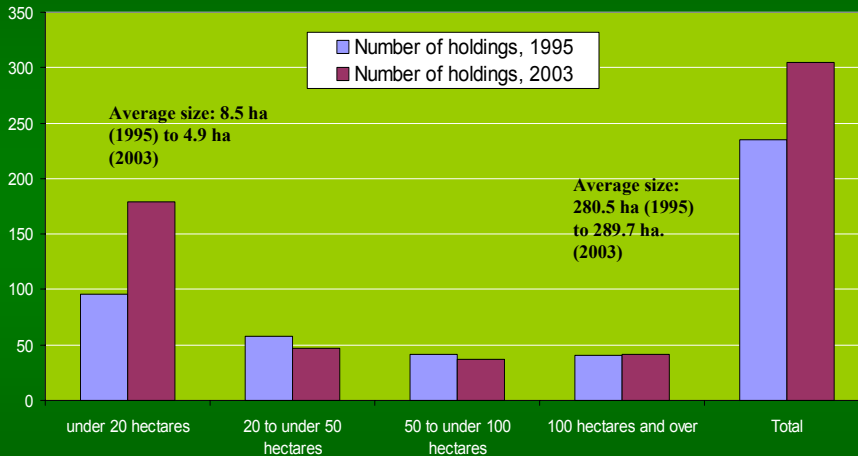
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Agricultural Labour Force 1998 – 2004



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Structural Change 1995 -2003



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NFU's preferred soil management approach

- Soil management is a unique integrating theme
- Need an integrated approach:
 - Advice and demonstration – learn from neighbours
 - GAEC - simple whole farm soil protection review
 - Environmental Stewardship
 - ELS record 'high risk' fields (farmer completed, compulsory)
 - ELS soil management plan (farmer/adviser field-by-field, optional)
 - Diffuse pollution
 - HTS - adviser completed detailed assessment

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Summary

- **Time of significant change and uncertainty**
 - Market place increasingly tough
 - Cost cutting and restructuring accelerating
 - Loss of skilled labour
- **Risk management is critical to all farming systems**
 - Research and monitoring network vital
- **Farming practices can improve across all sectors**
- **Regulatory 'threats' are a potent driver of change**
- **Need to celebrate achievements as well as focus on challenges**

