REF.	ACTIONS	PARTNERS (lead partners in bold)
2.1	**Promote awareness of pesticide legislation and use of best management practices (BMPs) amongst farmers.**	AC / ACC / Land owners / Land managers / FWAG / Lantra / NFUS / **SAC** / **SEPA** / **SGRPID** / LEAF / SRPBA
2.1.1	Assess level of competence in industry and identify training needs.	Lantra / SAC
2.1.2	Train current and potential pesticide users.	Lantra / SAC
2.1.3	Seek opportunities to publicise Best Management Practices.	AC / ACC / Land owners / Land managers / FWAG / Lantra / NFUS / SAC / SEPA / SGRPID / LEAF
2.2	**Promote awareness of legislation relating to location and operation of sheep dips and use of BMPs within farming communities.**	**SAC / SEPA / Lantra**
2.2.1	Assess level of competence in industry and identify training needs.	SAC / SEPA / Lantra
2.2.2	Train current and potential sheep dip users.	SAC / Lantra
2.2.3	Seek opportunities to publicise Best Management Practice e.g. information could be issued by SEPA when licensing paperwork is sent out for Authorisations	SAC / SEPA
2.3	**Ensure that all those disposing of sheep dip are doing so only in registered sites.**	**SEPA / Land owners / Land managers** / Farmers / NFUS
2.3.1	Ensure that all sheep dip disposal areas are registered and registration maintained annually, with the relevant fees paid.	Farmers / NFUS
2.4	**Establish extent of threat from improper use/disposal of pesticides, sheep dip, spent dip and/or containers.**	**SEPA / SGRPID / SAC** / SW / AC / ACC / HSE
2.4.1	Quantify extent of threat from improper use and improper disposal of spent dip, pesticides and/or containers (examine recent history & incidences of breach).	SGRPID / SAC
2.4.2	Identify problem areas through continued groundwater testing (if contamination is suspected).	SEPA / SW / SGRPID
2.4.3	Pursue enforcement proceedings, as appropriate, against those who do not comply with disposal regulations.	SEPA / SGRPID / AC / ACC / HSE

Acronyms are listed in the centre of this Action Card

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agrochemicals 2

WATER QUALITY

OBJECTIVE 2. Ensure agricultural pesticides and sheep dip are stored, used and disposed of in accordance with regulations.

BACKGROUND

The use of agrochemicals, such as pesticides and sheep dip, is widespread on farms in the Dee catchment. These chemicals have considerable potential to harm the environment if inappropriately used. In particular, contamination of watercourses in the catchment by these chemicals could have serious consequences for aquatic life, such as salmon and freshwater pearl mussels which are especially sensitive to such pollutants. It is vital therefore that farmers and other land users adhere to best practice at all times, and comply with all relevant legislation.

ISSUES

- Pesticides and sheep dip are used on farms in the Dee catchment and they have considerable potential to harm the environment if inappropriately used.
- Agricultural land in the catchment often runs very close to water margins, therefore agricultural practices can have a significant impact on water quality.
- Concern about the levels of pesticides found in watercourses and groundwaters, many of which are sources of drinking water, is increasing.
- Contamination of watercourses in the catchment by these chemicals could have serious consequences for aquatic life, such as salmon and freshwater mussels which are particularly sensitive to such pollutants.
- Sheep dipping is a seasonal activity, which has consequences for water quality. The incorrect location and operation of sheep dips is a potential source of surface and groundwater pollution.
- Part of the pollution associated with sheep dips is due to inappropriate disposal of waste dip in unlicensed sites.
- Some farms within the Dee catchment have been identified as having poor dipping practices and several pollution incidents have been recorded in recent years.
- Responsible pesticide use is vital in order to minimise the risk of water pollution.

EXISTING / RECENT INITIATIVES

- In Scotland, training on safe, effective use of pesticides and sheep dip is available through the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC), leading to BASIS and FEPA qualifications where required.
- LEAF (Linking Environment and Farming) provides guidance to its members on environment-friendly farming methods.
- TIBRE (Targeted Inputs for a Better Rural Environment) encourages the integration of environmentally friendly farming practices into business objectives e.g. decision support systems which aim to minimise pesticide use (Scottish Natural Heritage/ Home-Grown Cereals Authority initiative).
- The UK Organic Farming Standards prohibit the use of synthetic pesticides and most sheep dips. Individual certification bodies and advisors provide advice on alternatives and their use.
- The Single Farm Payment Scheme (SFP) and cross compliance introduce Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) - these include the obligation to keep the land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC).
- Rural Development Contracts (RDCs) provide financial incentives for good environmental management.
- Sheep dip is usually disposed to land if a licence has been issued under the Controlled Activities Regulations, otherwise via a registered waste disposal contractor (spent dip must be disposed of to sites authorised by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency). Empty containers must only be disposed of through authorised waste disposal contractors (in some cases including a Local Authority Waste Collection Service). Authorisations to dispose of sheep dip are reviewed every four years. This involves assessment of the disposal site but not of the competence of the user.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

- Aberdeenshire Council
- Aberdeen City Council
- Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group
- Health and Safety Executive
- Landowners and land managers
- Lantra (sector skills council for the environmental and land-based sector)
- Linking Environment and Farming
- National Farmers' Union Scotland
- Scottish Agricultural College
- Scottish Scottish Environment Protection Agency
- Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate

Further copies can be downloaded at www.theriverdee.org. For further information contact the Dee Catchment Officer c/o The Macaulay Institute, Craigiebuckler, Aberdeen AB15 8QH Telephone: 01224 498200 email: info@theriverdee.org

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- Alternatives to sheep dip (use of injectable, pour-on and spray on formulations for ecto-parasite control) are available, although these may be less effective in some cases.
- The Voluntary Initiative - An industry-led programme of measures which aims to reduce the environmental effects of pesticide use and improve biodiversity.
- Local Environmental Risk Assessment for Pesticides (LERAP) procedures are detailed in a pamphlet entitled "Keeping Pesticides out of Water" (SEERAD, 2005). Provides advice on good practice for handling pesticides before, during and after spraying. Also illustrates the pollution potential of concentrates and thus the importance of operator awareness and care.
- Scottish Water (SW) and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) are establishing a network of groundwater sampling points which SEPA will sample as part of the groundwater characterisation.
- A groundwater monitoring programme is in place and is regularly reviewed. No 'at risk' sites are currently identified within the Dee catchment.

ACTIONS REQUIRED

- Ensure those working with pesticides or sheep dips are fully trained, are aware of, and comply with, relevant legislation and understand how to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) i.e. use pesticides with minimal risk to themselves, animals and the environment.
- All sheep dip disposal areas must be registered and the registration maintained annually, with the relevant fees paid.
- The extent of the threat from improper use of pesticides and improper disposal of spent dip and/or containers (recent history & incidences of breach) must be established and the extent of water-course contamination must be quantified following testing.
- Enforcement proceedings must be pursued as required against those who do not comply with regulations.

LEGISLATION

See Action Pack Annex for information sources

- Food & Environment Protection Act (1985) (FEPA) The act aims to ensure that pesticides are used without causing harm to animals, humans or the environment. Pesticides must be used by trained, qualified operators in compliance with the regulations introduced under FEPA, i.e. Control of Pesticides regulations (1986).
- Control of Pesticides regulations (1986) and Plant Protection Products (Scotland) Regulations (2003) outline the responsibilities which suppliers and retailers must take in order to store, transport, sell and provide advice on pesticides. Guidelines and restrictions for pesticide use by amateur users are included.
- Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations (1994). Designed to protect anyone coming into contact with potentially hazardous substances. The regulations require that assessments are made in the workplace to evaluate potential risks to health from these substances.
- Groundwater Regulations (1998) (GWR) Aim to prevent entry of List I substances into groundwater and to prevent groundwater pollution by list II substances. Use only SEPA authorised land for disposal of spent dip.
- In order to protect their single farm payments, farmers must now ensure protection of the environment, animal health and welfare and public health (known as cross compliance). The two elements of cross compliance are known as Statutory Management Requirements and Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition.



Sheep farming is an important land use in some areas of the Dee catchment (S. Cooksley)

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION

See Action Pack Annex for information sources

Guidance for those intending to use pesticides or sheep dip:

- Code of Practice for the Safe Use of Plant Protection Products in Scotland (Scottish Government) (*due to be published*)
- Prevention of Environmental Pollution from Agricultural Activity (PEPFAA). Code of Good Practice (Scottish Government)
- PEPFAA DOs & DON'Ts Guide (Scottish Government)
- Prevention of Pollution by Pesticides. PPG9 (SEPA/EA)
- Sheep Dipping Code of Practice for Scottish Farmers, Crofters and Contractors. Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 (SEPA, Version 1 May 2006)
- The Groundwater Regulations 1998, SEPA Guidance Note 1. Disposal of waste agrochemicals to land: guidance on compliance for farmers, crofters and growers
- The Groundwater Regulations 1998, SEPA Guidance Note 2. Assessment of land suitability for the disposal of waste agrochemicals.
- The Voluntary Initiative: www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk

Local provider of training on safe, effective use of pesticides and sheep dip, including BASIS (British Agrochemicals Safety Inspection Scheme) and FEPA (Food and Environment Protection Act) courses:

SAC, Ferguson Building, Craibstone Estate, Aberdeen, AB21 9YA. Tel: 01224 711092 or 711066

Reporting suspected pollution incidents:

SEPA (Aberdeen Office), Greyhope House, Greyhope Road, Torry, Aberdeen, AB11 9RD. Tel: 01224 248338, Fax: 01224 238591

BENEFITS TO PROTECTED SPECIES

The following specially protected species will benefit from the Actions:

- Grass wrack pond weed *Potamogeton compressus*
- Pillwort *Pilularia globulifera*
- Freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*
- Common frog *Rana temporaria*
- Palmate newt *Triturus helveticus*
- Northern blue damselfly *Coenagrion hastulatum*
- Stiletto-fly *Cliorisimia rustic*
- Stone fly *Brachyptera putata*
- Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*
- Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
- Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*
- Otter *Lutra lutra*
- Water vole *Arvicola terrestris*
- Goldeneye *Bucephala clangula*
- Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

RELATED ACTION CARDS

1. Diffuse agricultural pollution

26. Atlantic salmon

27. Freshwater pearl mussel