

Managing risks on farm and in your catchment



Wales water's provide social, environmental and economic benefits to our communities, and culture. The farmer led approach aims to provide a structure to recognising agricultures efforts in protecting this valuable commodity for our environment, drinking water, food production and our tourism industry. Within the 'Water Framework Directive assessments of our waterways, diffuse pollution has been identified as one of the key impacts to our water environment.

Diffuse Pollution – Reducing the Risk

Agricultural pollution can take two forms:

- Point source pollution – from a single identifiable discharging source, such as a pipe or ditch.
- Diffuse pollution - caused by a variety of land management activities that have no specific point of discharge. Sources of diffuse pollution are often individually minor, but collectively can result in significant environmental impacts.



Point source pollutions

Model ref R.3. / R.4.

Point sources of pollution don't just occur on the farm yard, they can be out in the catchment too.

The location of your ring feeder or water trough can have a direct impact on water quality and nutrient levels within your rivers. A clean, reliable source of water is vital to all farms, environment and industries abstracting from our water bodies.

Clean and dirty water separation

Model ref R.1.

The amount of rainfall entering the slurry/dirty water system has a direct impact on your storage capacity and nutrient management costs. By managing your clean and dirty water systems you can deliver multiple benefits to your business.



Cropping

Model ref R.2.

Seasonal cropping can have a direct impact on water quality by the leaching of nutrients and soil runoff in wet weather.



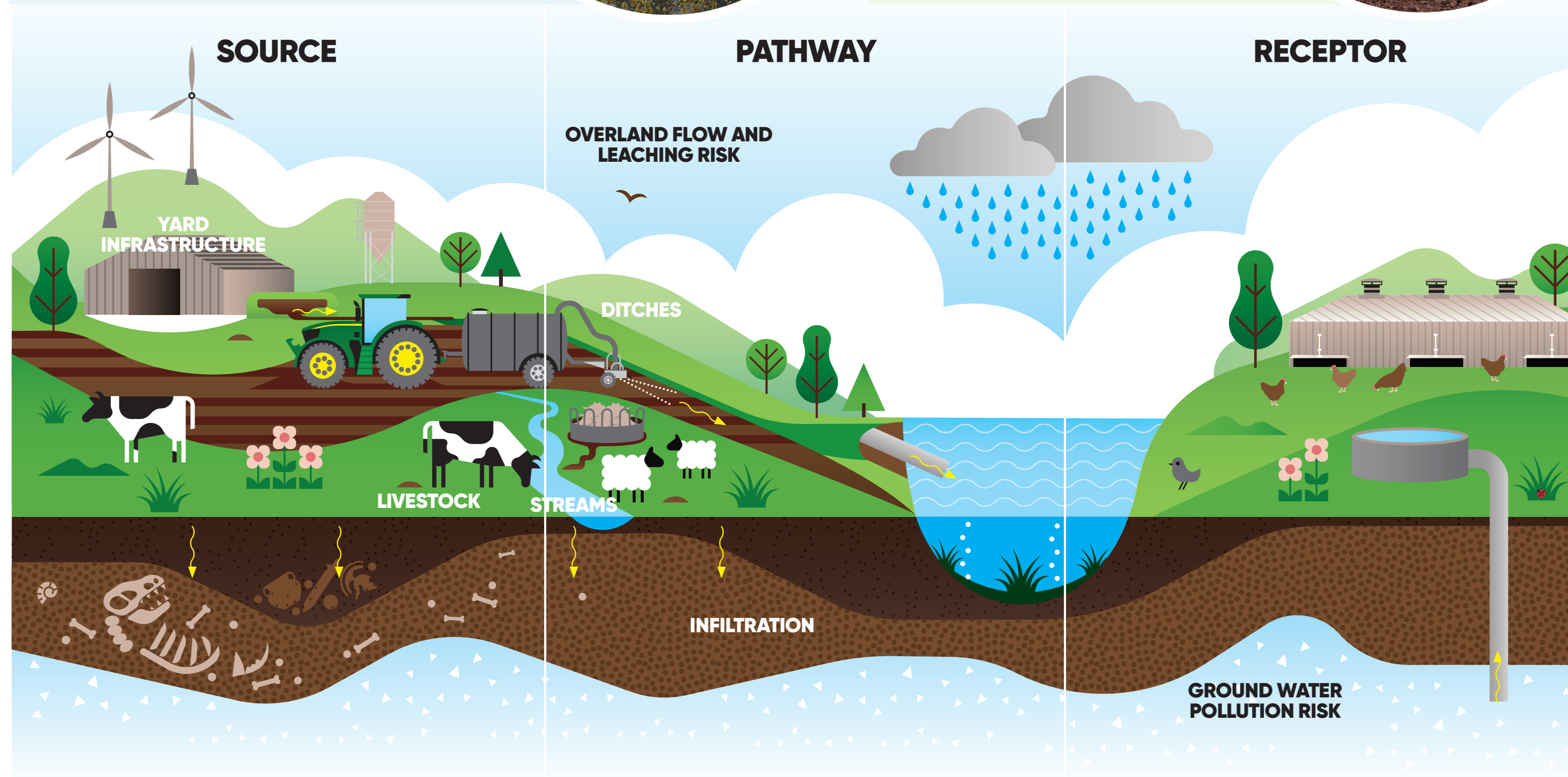
Soils – Erosion, runoff and leaching of nutrients

Model ref R.5. / R.6. / R.8. / R.9.

The effects of small sources of erosion and/or poaching is cumulative in a catchment. What appears to be small amounts of runoff from one field, when added to all the other sources that also feed into that stream or river can have a big overall effect on water quality within a catchment.

QUICK WINS

Identify erosion risks within your farm, removing these risks can deliver 'quick wins' to reduce pollution risks and improve water quality on farm and within the surrounding rivers.



Nutrient management

Slurry is highly polluting if it ends up in the wrong place like watercourses. Excessive nutrients to land or a leaking slurry store can cause serious pollution.

These nutrient losses into water courses have an environmental and economic impact to your farm business.



FACT

Across the UK it is estimated that 2.9 million tonnes of soil is eroded each year.

FACT

It can take up to 500 years to replace 1 inch of topsoil.

