

The Voluntary Initiative (VI) and Biobeds/Biofilters

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The Voluntary Initiative

- **UK wide Industry-led initiative**
 - **An alternative to a pesticide tax 2001-2006**
 - Minimising the environmental impact of pesticides
 - **Since 2006**
 - Promoting responsible pesticide use
 - **Industry = Farmers, Contractors, Advisers, Distributors, Manufacturers, Machinery Manufacturers**
 - **Stakeholders and Regulators**

Main Schemes and Campaigns

- **National Register of Sprayer Operators**
 - CPD
 - Annual Roadshow
- **National Sprayer Testing Scheme**
 - Annual independent test
- **Integrated Pest Management Plan**
 - Annual management review
- **H2OK? Think Water**
 - Filling and Handling- Biobeds
 - Field Practice
 - Soil Management
- **BeeConnected**

History

- **Concept “floated” 1998-99**
- **Pesticide Tax 1998 ► 2001 The Voluntary Initiative ► Now**
- **Cherwell Study 1998-2000**
- **Regulation**
 - Groundwater
 - Waste
 - National variations
 - Definitions - Are incidental splashes waste?
- **Research –**
 - Lined
 - Water management
 - Materials and performance
 - Biofilters

Adoption

- **Start... Stop... Start**
- **Industry – Research - Regulation**
- **Farmer Inertia**
- **Regulatory Clarity ... 2007**
- **Incentives/Grants**
- **Variations**
 - **Biofilters**
 - **Phytobac et al**



2008



2015

VI Support

- Regulatory Forum
- Advice and Training
- Information and Promotion
 - Pesticide Handling Area and Biobed Manual (includes Biofilters) Feb 2015
 - http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk/media/635211/Design_manual_updated_922015.pdf
 - Leaflets
 - www.biobeds.info