

FARMING & WATER SCOTLAND



Constructed farm wetlands

Constructed farm wetlands (CFW) can give both financial savings and improvements to the water environment, whilst helping you comply with regulations.

It is important that you seek expert advice when considering installing a CFW and you **must** contact SEPA at least 30 days prior to any work commencing.

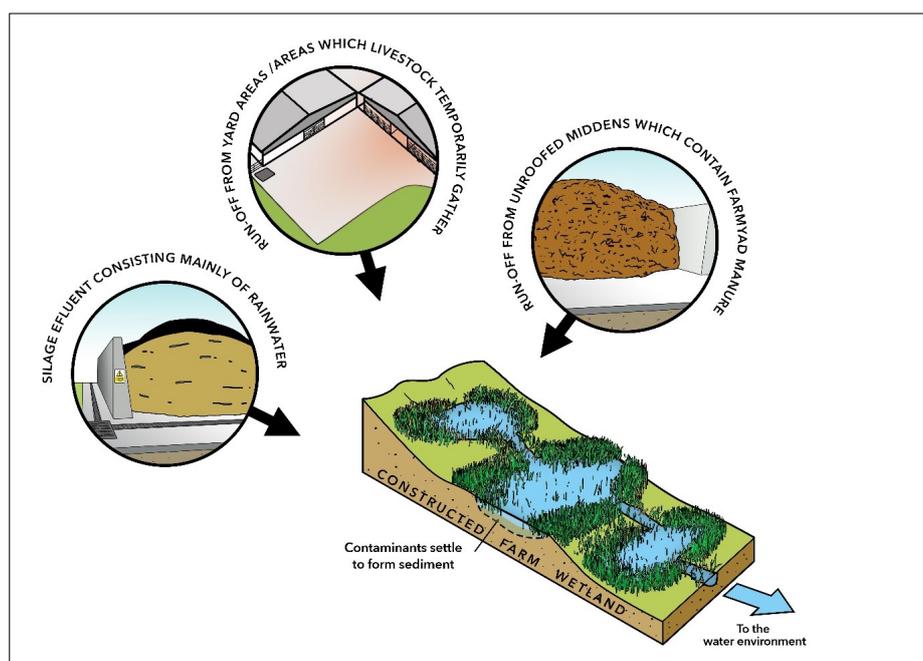


Figure 5.1. Run-off suitable for treatment by a constructed farm wetland

Run-off from the following locations and activities must not be directed to a CFW:

- areas of the steading where livestock are housed or fed
- areas where livestock are being moved to or held before, during or after milking
- run-off from silage pits when the pit is closed, having material added or contains any other material such as draff, anaerobic digestate material or inorganic fertilisers
- run-off containing pesticides and/or from pesticide handling areas
- any run-off containing sheep dip liquid or from areas where sheep have been held after the treatment via a dipper or been treated with “spot-on” or “pour-on” treatments.

The following can be put into a CFW (Figure 5.1):

- lightly contaminated run-off produced from:
 - unroofed areas where livestock are gathered no more than once a week
 - uncovered steading yard areas used for the movement and temporary handling of livestock such as loading/unloading, or tracks and paths used only for occasional movement from one steading area to another
 - unroofed middens on steadings which contain farmyard manure
- silage effluent which consists mainly of rainwater when the silo is open for use and no crop is added to the silo; the effluent **must** drain to the CFW via a dedicated channel/pipe in situated on the floor of the silo.

At all times, all reasonable steps **must** be taken to ensure that a constructed farm wetland does not cause pollution of the water environment.

Definitions:

Constructed farm wetland – A series of ponds for the treatment of slurry or silage effluent consisting mainly of rainwater, which have been constructed in such a manner that any discharge from the ponds does not pollute the water environment.

Crop – any plant grown for a commercial purpose and includes cereals, root crops, grass and trees.

Draff – The residue of grain after fermentation of the grain in a brewing or distilling process.

Groundwater – water below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.

Livestock – any animal kept for use or profit as part of a commercial enterprise.

Silage effluent – effluent produced from any forage crop which is being made or has been made into silage or a mixture consisting wholly of or containing such effluent, rainwater or groundwater, emanating from a silo, silage effluent collection system or drain.

Water Environment – all surface water, ground water and wetlands.

