

RPL1 Improved Application Equipment

Why is this good for water quality?

The aim-

The accurate placement of both plant protection products and nutrients is hugely important to water quality. When products are applied precisely they are absorbed by the target they are aimed to treat or improve, this limits the possibility that the product is lost to the wider environment. This option aims to improve the accuracy of application and therefore minimise the losses through which they could have a negative effect on water quality.

Why is this good for my farm?

Applying Pesticides in the right places using GPS offers significant advantages to all farms including consistent coverage leading to better pest control.

Precision application can also save farms time and money by optimising the amount of inputs used, reducing the risk of overspraying, reducing fuel consumption and improving overall efficiency.

RPL1 Improved Application Equipment

Payment Rate: 50% of cost, up to £2500*

Specification

- Must be discussed with agricultural advisor before applying
- Apparatus applied for must directly benefit water quality i.e. by reducing inputs or increasing accuracy and reducing off target impacts
- GPS software upgrades may be considered
- The farm should demonstrate consideration or an understanding of integrated pest management (IPM) principals
- Have complete up-to-date soil analyses
- Applicants who have previously received precision application equipment through STEPS must make it clear how the equipment is an improvement in accuracy or reduced pesticide/nutrient usage. Please note that STEPS 025a agreements from 2020-2025 were for 10 years.
- The option must be used to improve accuracy and or reduce overlap, reduce the quantity or variety of inputs used, therefore directly benefiting water quality.
- The equipment must improve application beyond standard equipment.
- Applications above this figure will be judged on a cost/ha basis and value to the catchment they affect.

Evidence to apply

- A map of the land on which the equipment will be used, together with the total area and typical cropping. If contract spraying on another's land, this should also be included.
- Quotes
- Images to show machine the equipment is to be attached to
- Proof of PA certificate for pesticide equipment (Pesticide related)
- Proof of sprayer MOT for pesticide related equipment for machines of more than 3yrs old (Pesticide related)
- Applications using this for nutrient applications must also include evidence of a nutrient management plan (Fertiliser related)
- Record of spreader calibration process (Fertiliser-related)
- Completed IPM discussion record (Pesticides-related)
- Soil analysis details (Fertiliser-related)
- Intended reduction estimates for the related pesticide or nutrients

Evidence to claim

- After photos of installed equipment
- Invoices
- Achieved reduction records