



## *Waterwise tips for farms*

*Small steps  
to big savings*

# Don't let your money drain away

As a farmer, we understand that you lead a busy life and probably have little time to consider cost effective use of water.

However, it is worth remembering that you are paying for all the water that passes through your meter so it makes good financial sense to ensure you are not letting any of it go to waste.

If you are new to water efficiency and have never implemented any water-saving measures, you may be able to make some substantial savings which will help to reduce your water bill.

And if you are heating your water prior to it being wasted, any reduction in water consumption will also have a positive effect on your energy bills too.

Saving water is also good for the environment. Before water reaches your farm we have to use large amounts of energy and resources to collect, clean and supply it to you, so any reduction in water usage has a positive effect on the environment. And any wildlife dependent on wetland habitats will also benefit from reduced demands on water resources.



## **FACT:**

We use 70% more water than we did 30 years ago

# Small steps to making big savings

There are a number of water efficiency measures that you can put in place regardless of your farm type. Most can be implemented for little cost and will bring big reductions to your water consumption.

## *Turn off taps and hosepipes*

This probably sounds like we're stating the obvious but it pays to switch off your outside taps and hosepipes. A tap or hosepipe will cost you at least £5,800 a year in wasted water if left running. If possible fit self-closing taps and trigger nozzles to hosepipes to better direct the water to where it is needed and to eliminate wastage when it is left unattended. Sensors can also be fitted to taps which will then turn on and off automatically when being used.



## **FACT:**

**An overflowing trough will waste at least £5,000 in water every year.**

## *Check water troughs*

Water troughs are a source for potential water saving. Check ball-valves on a regular basis to ensure they are not overflowing and change them when they are faulty.

## *Insulate outside pipework*

Prevent frost damage in winter by ensuring all outside pipework is lagged. A burst pipe not only wastes huge amounts of water but can also have a serious effect on your day-to-day operations.

## *Washing and cleaning*

Try to remove as much solid waste as possible from yards and pens with squeegees and brushes to reduce the amount of water required for cleaning. And removing solids prior to the wastewater entering your drains will help reduce the incidence of blockages, which can prove expensive to repair and cause major disruption to your farm.



## Check for leaks

Many farms have very large water networks, much of which is hidden underground. Unless you suddenly discover pools of water on patches of ground above where your pipework is located, leaks can remain undiscovered for many years. There are two options that can help you discover if you have a leak:

### 1: Monitor your water consumption

It may seem like a lot of work, but monitoring your water consumption on a regular basis will help to easily identify if you have a leak. The best way to do this is to choose a period of the day when your farm's water use is minimal (ideally during the night when you may not be using any water at all). Find your water meter and record the reading at the start and end of the period. If you discover that water is passing through the meter when your farm is not using any, this is a good indication of a leak.

## FACT

A pipe left to leak water could cost your farm up to £480 in wasted water every month.



### 2: Undertake a leakage detection survey

There are numerous organisations that can undertake a leakage detection survey on your underground network to locate those hard-to-find leaks and repair them. You can find a list of independently approved plumbers and contractors by contacting the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme on 01495 248454 or via their website [www.wras.co.uk](http://www.wras.co.uk). Alternatively, United Utilities offers this service (fees are payable) – to find out more contact our Total Pipework Solutions Team on 0845 050 2213.

## Recycle

Consider reusing rainwater for activities such as washing down yards and for watering purposes. The best way to collect rainwater is from roofs of farm buildings and store it in water tanks.

If you are a dairy farm, you can make savings on your annual water bill by re-using plate cooling water to water stock or other washing purposes.

Farms that are required to wash vegetables should also look at ways to recycle this water instead of letting it go down the drain.

# For further information

## *Locating and repairing leaks*

If you are concerned that you may have a leak, or would be interested in a leakage detection audit being undertaken at your farm, please contact our **Total Pipework Solutions** team on **0845 050 2213** (fees are payable). A leakage detection audit usually takes up to four hours (depending upon the size of your farm's network) and does not involve any disruptive work such as digging.

## *Water efficiency advice*

There is a section on our website which contains some simple hints and tips on being water efficient in the home and garden. You can access this information at **[www.unitedutilities.com/waterwise](http://www.unitedutilities.com/waterwise)**

## *Environment Agency*

The Environment Agency website has a wealth of water efficiency information including a booklet entitled 'Waterwise on the Farm'. The booklet contains a useful guide on how to carry out your own water audit and can be downloaded from the Environment Agency website **[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)**

## *Envirowise*

Envirowise is a UK-wide programme that offers businesses free, independent, confidential advice and support on practical ways to increase profits, minimise waste and reduce environmental impact. A specific section of the Envirowise web site is dedicated to water use minimisation that contains a wealth of information and case studies on saving water. You can find this at **[www.envirowise.gov.uk/water](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/water)**



# Contacting United Utilities

If you need to phone us, please have your account details to hand (you can find these on your water bill). If possible please try to avoid our busiest times which are Mondays and Saturdays. If you have access to the internet you can also log on to our website **www.unitedutilities.com** to:

- Pay your bill
- Submit a meter reading
- Set up a direct debit

## ***Bill enquiries***

If you have a problem with your water bill, contact:

**0845 746 2255**

*Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 8am-5pm*

## ***Water supply***

If you have a problem with your water supply contact:

**0845 746 2200**

For sewer enquiries contact:

**0845 602 0406**

*Mon-Fri 8am-8pm, Sat 8am-6pm, Sun 8am-12noon*

Alternatively you can write to us at:

United Utilities, PO Box 453, Warrington WA55 1SE





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