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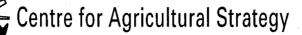
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Water services and agriculture: key issues and strategic options

B J Marshall & F A Miller

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Water services and agriculture: key issues and strategic options

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ACP Advisory Committee on Pesticides

ADAS Agricultural Development and Advisory Service

ADI Acceptable Daily Intake
BOD Biological Oxygen Demand
CAP Common Agricultural Policy
CAS Centre for Agricultural Strategy

CH, Methane

CLÁ Country Landowners' Association
CSC Customer Services Committee

DG Director General

DOE Department of the Environment
DWI Drinking Water Inspectorate
EC European Community

ECPA European Crop Protection Association

ECU European Currency Unit

EEC European Economic Community
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
FCGS Farm and Conservation Grants Scheme
GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

HAL Health Advisory Level

ICM Integrated Crop Management
IDB Internal Drainage Board
IPM Integrated Pests Management
MAC Maximum Allowable Concentration
MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries an

MAFF Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food MCL Maximum Contamination Level

MCLG Maximum Contamination Level Goals

MCLG Maximum Contamination Level Goals

NFU National Farmers' Union

 $\begin{array}{lll} {\rm NH_3} & {\rm Ammonia} \\ {\rm NO} & {\rm Nitric~Oxide} \\ {\rm N_2O} & {\rm Nitrous~Oxide} \end{array}$

NOAEL No Observed Adverse Effects Level

NRA National Rivers Authority
NSA Nitrate Sensitive Area
OFWAT Office of Water Services

PSBR Public Sector Borrowing Requirement RASE Royal Agricultural Society of England

UK United Kingdom

USA United States of America
WHO World Health Organisation

Preface

Water affects all our lives every day and so does the production and processing of our food. The Water Act 1989 introduced significant changes in the structure of the water industry in England and Wales and in the ways in which the entire water environment is managed and financed; and under the same legislation the agricultural industry is required to have regard to a statutory code of good agricultural practices which minimise the risk of polluting water whilst allowing economic production to continue.

The highest possible level of understanding between the water and agricultural industries is essential in order to maintain and improve standards to meet the reasonable but ever-increasing demands of their respective consumers. The objective of this Conference was therefore to identify the key issues of concern to both industries, to provide opportunities for multi-disciplinary and joint debate of their nature, timing, scale, and economic impact, and to examine the options and strategies that are part of the decision-taking process.

The Introduction, the Opening Address, the six papers and the subsequent discussions consider firstly the challenges facing the water industry. These include future water resource and pollution control prospects and problems; the issues faced by the private sector water companies in meeting the special needs of the food production and processing industries; and the economic, charging, and regulatory implications of developing water, agricultural and environmental policies. Secondly, they address the specific needs of agriculture. They deal both with the long-term adequacy of water supplies and with the European Community and UK control standards that apply to the use of agrochemicals and fertilisers.

We believe that this Conference and these Proceedings will contribute to a better understanding and more effective working relationship between the water and the agricultural industries.

J S Marsh Director Centre for Agricultural Strategy