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Centre for Agricultural Strategy

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Water services and agriculture: key issues and strategic options

Edited by 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 ₄	Methane
CLA	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 and Food
MCL	Maximum Contamination Level
MCLG	Maximum Contamination Level Goals
NFU	National Farmers' Union
NH ₃	Ammonia
NO	Nitric Oxide
N ₂ O	Nitrous Oxide
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