



15th March 2021

Dear Charles Watson,

Thank you for raising this issue with Noble Foods. Protecting the environment is extremely important to us and we believe that organisations, such as River Action, have a pivotal role to play in guiding and supporting the agricultural industry.

Protection of the environment is an agricultural imperative and isn't just limited to poultry farms. This is why we're working in close partnership with the Wye & Usk Foundation (WUF) to provide support and education for all farmers in the Upper Wye catchment in Wales.

As you know this project is part of the Courtauld Commitment 2025, which involves all the major retailers and food producers such as ourselves, who are working to support delivery of "collective action" to protect water throughout their supply chains.

Projects in isolation simply will not drive actionable change - we believe that working as a united front will be key to long term success. We are working closely with the WUF to identify farming challenges and then working as a collective to create solutions that can be used by the entire farming community, not just our poultry producers. The WUF works positively with farmers, highlighting good practice in addition to helping them to understand any risks there may be to water quality.

Our work has already begun and includes the following:

- Site visits gaining a greater insight and understanding of the issues faced on farms dealing with, soil health, nutrient, and water management.
- Assessing contract producer farms in the catchment to get an understanding of current operations.
- Once the evaluations are complete, we will be working with the Rivers Foundation to develop mitigation techniques and controls that can be shared across both our farming base and the wider farming community.
- Investigating specific areas to improve nutrient management such as, tree planting/Agri forestry, reed beds and catchment areas, manure handling, range, and water management.

We recognise that it is going to be vitally important to have working partnerships with organisations and businesses operating in the area to share knowledge and assist in finding solutions to what is a wide and complex issue. We are just about to commence work with one of the UK's leading retailers to set up a specific indicator farm just south of Ross on Wye. This is part of a wider joint project working with the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group that will be looking at sustainable agriculture as a whole.

This farm is also within the Wye catchment so the learnings from this will be incredibly useful to the overall agricultural strategy that is developed for areas across the country that could be classed as higher risk.

We believe that sustainable success will only come if we work collaboratively towards our goal of protecting the environment. We welcome information on any projects that River Action will be undertaking, and we commit to sharing information that will help the farming community around the River Wye deliver sustainable solutions.

Duncan Everett
Group CEO
Noble Foods