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Creating resilient catchments: The role of a water company

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Affinity Water



- Supply 3.6 million people
- 60% from groundwater chalk aquifers
- 40% abstracted direct from the River Thames

Some of the challenges we face



Catchment Management

Why?

- Financial
- Technical
- Sustainable
- Regulation
- Environmental
- Moral

Catchment Management: *Investigating the problem and finding solutions*

Find out how the land is used in the catchment



Find out where the problem is coming from



Identify and engage with key stakeholders in the catchment



Catchment intervention schemes

A 'typical' Affinity Water catchment



Working with farmers to help us protect and enhance raw water

- **Pesticides** – e.g. metaldehyde, propyzamide and carbetamide lost to water
 - **Nitrate leaching** – mainly in groundwater but also some rivers
 - **Turbidity** – soil lost to water
- ...and
- **Water Resources** – Impact of land management on water resources e.g. soil health



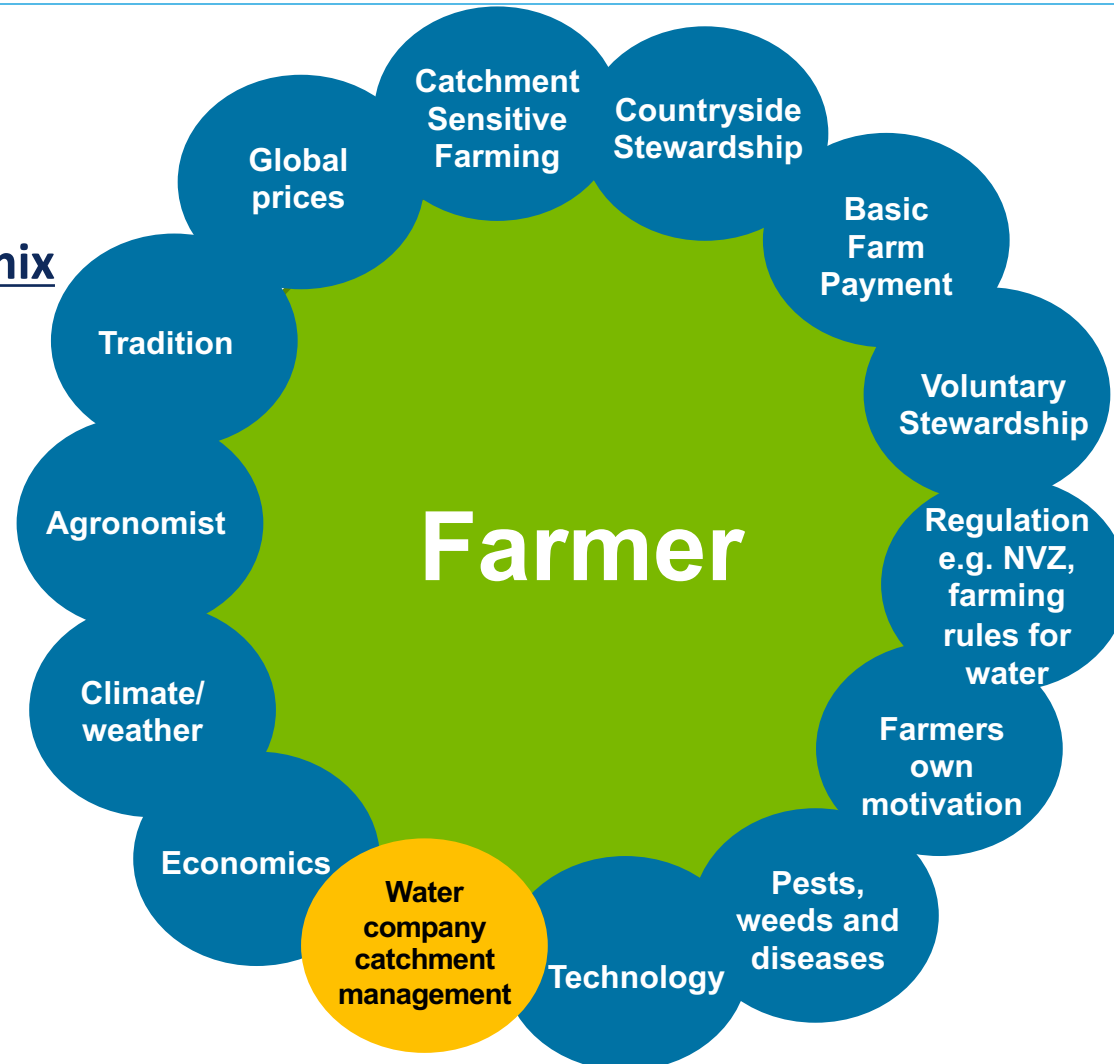
(some of) The factors that influence the decisions a farmer makes that may affect the wider environment



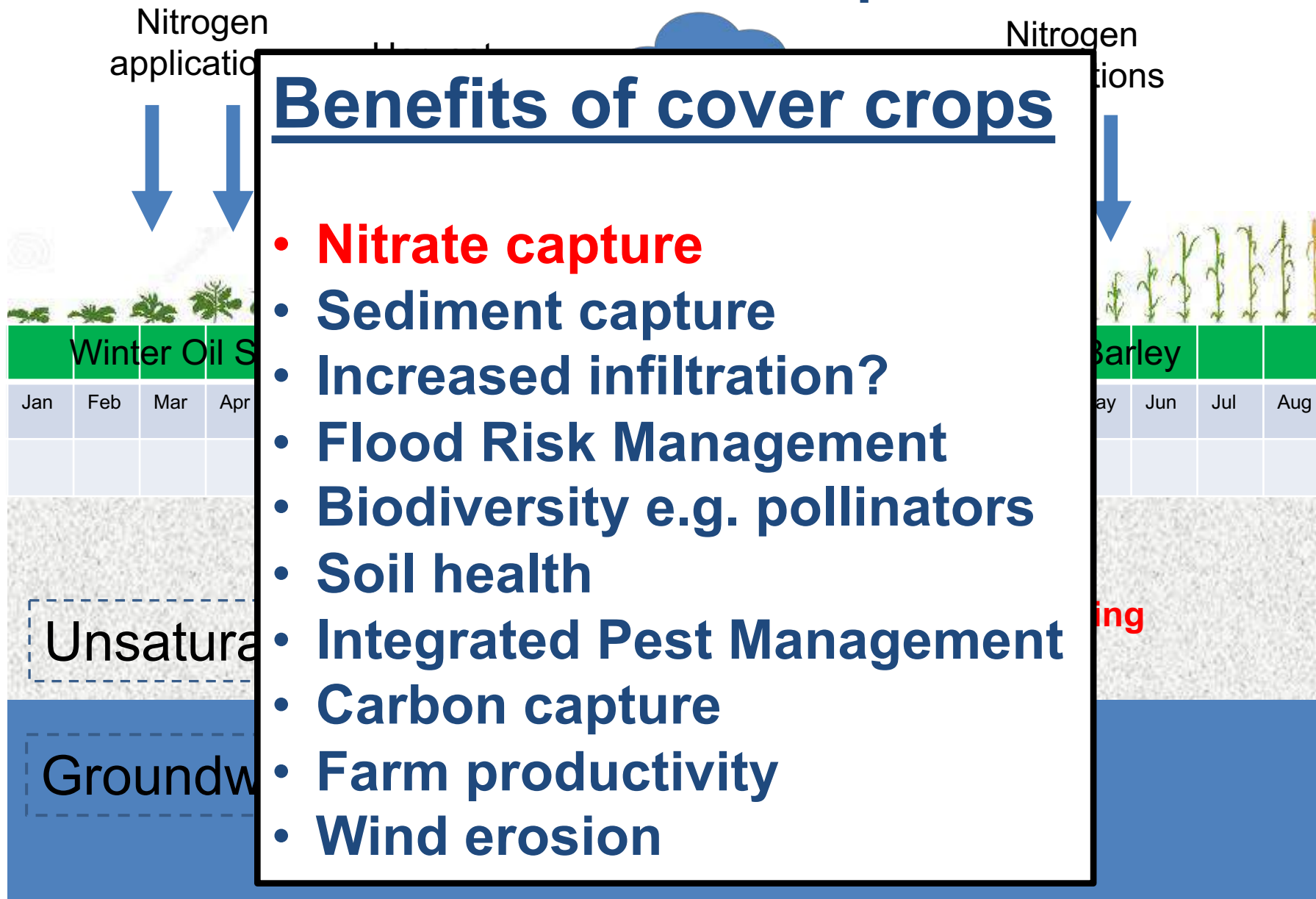
What Affinity Water add to the mix

Aiming for above best practice

- BASIS/FACTS qualified advisors
- Running events/workshops
- Pesticide reduction schemes
- Pesticide amnesty
- Training e.g PA certification
- Payments for cover cropping
- Funding for pesticide handling improvements
- Spreader/sprayer calibrations
- Innovation
- Precision farming



Cover Crops



AMP7 Plans and beyond: Schemes focussed around soil health for holistic catchment management



**Thanks
for
Listening**

