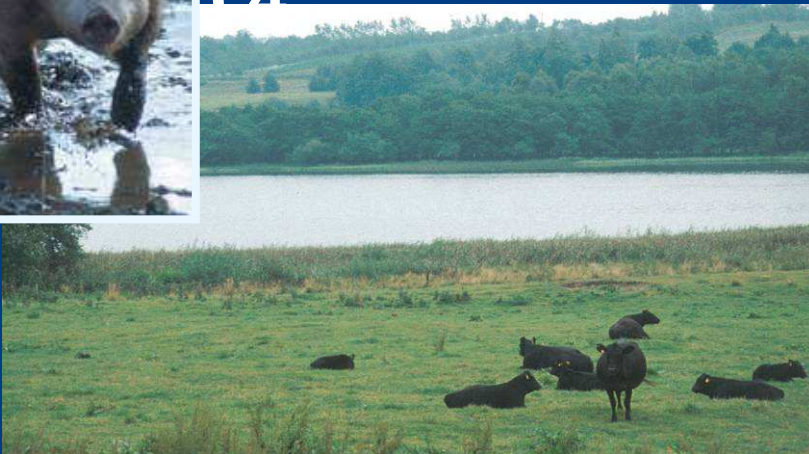




# Cost Action 869 WG4



04





## Objective:

- › Evaluation of projects in example areas across the EU.
- › ***The aim of WG4 is to exploit the existing European-wide knowledge from demonstration projects on combating nutrient pollution from diffuse sources in River Basins, by implementing general and targeted mitigation measures.***



# WG4 meeting last year

**Evaluation of projects in example areas: The Swiss  
Midland Lakes: June 24 - 26, 2009, Nottwil, Switzerland**

**Organised by among others:**

- › **Christian Stamm Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology (Eawag).**
- › **Josef Blum AgroEcoConsult, Sempach, formerly: Department for Agriculture and Forest Canton Lucerne.**

**The workshop was a successful event of scientific exchange. It was attended by participants from scientists from 20 countries.**



# Participants visiting a farm to hear about how mitigation options work in practice.





The goal of the workshop was to share experiences on mitigation success and failure stories across Europe.

**The workshop used the case study of Lake Sempach as a starting point.**

- › **On the first day (June 24), the participants were welcomed by the head of the Cantonal Parliament of Lucerne. Afterwards, two further introductory lectures were given. The first by E. Frossard put the workshop into the larger context of the entire COST Action 869 and the second one by C. Stamm was devoted to present the study case lake and mitigation measures adopted.**
- › **A bike tour (30 km) after dinner got the participants around the entire lake with two stops for explanations. J. Blum, the local organizer, explained the technical details of the lake aeration and activities along the lake shore for teaching school classes.**
- › **The second day was devoted to field and farm visits in the region. On three farms with fairly different philosophies and economic structure the participants were introduced into specific aspects of mitigation programmes in Switzerland and in the specific region to tackle problems of P losses from agriculture.**
- › **The third day was devoted to present and discuss the experiences from the different countries.**
- › **The workshop was a great success thanks to the organizers !**



## Proposal for a workshop on Buffer strips in Scotland, Apr/May 2010

*Organizer: Marc Stutter, Macaulay Institute,  
Aberdeen, Scotland.*

*Venue Craigendarroch hotel, Ballater  
(40 miles West of Aberdeen).*

*Meeting theme: Buffer strips as a multi-functional  
management tool in agricultural landscapes.*

*Meeting format: A workshop for ca. 50 participants  
lasting 3 days (Sunday night arrival, leave after late  
lunch Wed).*

*Monday - main sessions (talks, discussions). Tuesday  
am: main session, pm: field trip. Wednesday - am: smaller  
discussion groups, summary.*







# Meeting topics

- › *Buffer strip design and functioning* - in which situations/for what purposes are buffers suitable, how should they be used in combination with other nutrient source/transport control measures, how wide should they be?
- › *Management of buffer strips* - what mechanistic understanding do we have of internal buffer processes, how can we best manage buffer conditions (e.g. vegetation) to promote long-term nutrient retention, can we encourage nutrient recycling by buffer management?
- › *Other functions of buffer strips* - what are the benefits for terrestrial riparian habitat, what interactions occur with stream ecology?
- › *Buffer strips as a regulatory tool* - how are buffer strips used/legislated for in different EU countries, what are the barriers to uptake of buffer strips in agricultural land?
- › *Buffer strip modelling* - how can we best combine biophysical and socio-economic modelling to optimise buffer use?