

# Biodiversity



**Biodiversity** is variety of all life forms including insects, birds, fish, and plants. Biodiversity also includes habitats that feed all living organisms.

Many habitats are found on farms that contain biodiversity, including:

- Hedgerows
- Stonewalls
- Earth Banks
- Drains



Why is Biodiversity important to Agriculture?

- Pest Control- Natural pest control helps to reduce pesticide pollution.
- Soils Fertility- Earthworms aerate the soil, plants & insects improve fertility.
- Increase Yield- Nutrient recycling



Threats to Biodiversity

Many species are in decline such as farm birds, yellow hammer, corncrake.

How can I make my farm more bio-diverse?

- Install bird, bee and bat boxes.
- Maintain stone walls.
- Plant catch crop. These will assist in soil conservation.
- Rotating your crop will help to build up organic material.
- Maintain buffer strips along hedgerows and streams to prevent fertiliser & pesticides reaching hedgerows & streams.
- Prevent livestock access to water courses

