

# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2024



## Assured Agronomy

### Grants Available

**The Farming Equipment and Technology Fund** provides grants for equipment and technology that support improvements in:

- Productivity
- Slurry management
- Animal health and welfare.

The application window has not opened yet, but items available on the grant can be found on the link below. New items have been added from previous years and conditions altered so please familiarise yourselves with the new items.

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-2024](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/farming-equipment-and-technology-fund-2024)

### Sustainable Farming Incentive

New options for **SFI** payments will be introduced in the summer, including incorporating more pre-existing Countryside stewardship options into SFI. Additionally, payments for practises such as precision farming will also be available.

### Impacts of high rainfall in Winter 23/24

Where pre-emergent herbicides have been applied performance has been better than typically expected, this is mostly due to prolonged levels of soil moisture following application.

With a reduction in area of winter crops established in 2023/24, certified seed supply this Autumn may be limited. Seed houses are considering over-yearing seed from autumn 2023 to cover 2024 demand.

A challenging autumn-winter along with low grain/oilseed prices has also seen larger SFI agreements being submitted than where previously planned.

### Urease Inhibitors

Urea fertiliser applied after March 31<sup>st</sup> is required to be treated with an inhibitor, to reduce ammonia losses to the atmosphere. Factors that increase the risk of ammonia losses; Warm temperatures, dry soils, less than 10mm of rainfall within 48 hours of application, alkaline soils.

For applications post 31<sup>st</sup> march solid fertiliser containing urea must be purchased with the inhibitor already applied. Please check the health hazards of using treated solid urea and wear appropriate PPE. Check the shelf live of treated products!

In the case of liquid fertiliser, the inhibitor must be added to the fertiliser at the time of application, Avoid leaving mixed fertiliser in the tank as the inhibitor breaks down quickly.

Currently the consequence of not applying urea with an inhibitor is an online FACTS course about reducing emissions from fertiliser.



[WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK)

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### Ag-chem Update

Availability of Ag-chem products is good coming into the Spring. This is mostly due to the reduction in established winter crop area. As a result, prices should be competitive and therefore the requirement to purchase ag-chem products early should be minimal. With products being ordered as needed this will add pressure, deliveries may not be next day, due to van weight limits.

### Key Dates

- No more hedge or ditch bank cutting after 1<sup>st</sup> March.
- Nectar flower mix (AB1) – Grazing livestock must be removed by 15<sup>th</sup> of March and cut down before the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.
- Nesting plots for lapwing and stone curlew (AB5) – plots must be cultivated by 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- If grasses are threatening to outcompete flower-rich margins and plots (AB8) you can cut before the end of March.
- Supplementary winter feeding for farmland birds (AB12) must continue until the 30<sup>th</sup> of April.



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Ben Vaughan



Tom Clark



Harriet Beeby



Kathryn Vaughan

Two BASIS points (1CP/1PN) have been allocated between  
01/06/2023 and 31/05/2024  
Reference: CT/129031/2324/g.

Two NRoSO points per newsletter have been allocated  
between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023  
reference: NO500971f.

Previous NRoSO Numbers for 2023     NO500968f  
  NO500969f  
  NO500970f



Tom Maplethorpe

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