

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2018



## Assured Agronomy

This summer and early autumn has seen very unusual with drought conditions and then few but heavy rainfall events. Global warming perhaps starting to really make its mark. Harvest was very mixed depending on rainfall and moisture holding ability of soils. On the coast yields have been excellent but conditions were much drier there during September hindering OSR establishment.

This autumn has seen some of the lowest seed disease levels we have ever seen with seed fusarium at zero on all seed lots.

OSR establishment has been difficult with flea beetle increasing year on year since the Neo-Nic ban. We have seen some successful techniques evolving to combat the pest. (see over for article and link to a video we have made showing this in action)

Wheat seedbeds have been excellent. The weather allowing some very effective but costly cultivations. Wheat drilling is going well with rains helpful to activate and keep the pre-emergence chemistry working well.

Recent blackgrass emergence has been good and later sowing should have reduced pressure from stale seedbeds.

Early Sugar Beet yields are understandably poor with drought effects still showing.



**14 Oct:** End of period during which EFA catch crop must remain in place.

**15 Oct:** Closed period, organic manure with high available N to grassland on soils which are not shallow or sandy.

**19 Dec:** Last date for drilling seed treated with Deter.

**1 Jan:** Open period, organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen to grassland/tillage land on shallow/sandy soils, **quantity restrictions apply.**

**15 Jan:** EFA cover crops can be removed.

**16 Jan:** Can apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to grassland/tillage land.

**1 Feb:** Open period, organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen to grassland/tillage land on all soil types, **quantity restrictions apply.**

**28 Feb:** End of the quantity restrictions for organic manures with a high readily available nitrogen content.



**BPS** exchange rate has been settled at £0.89281 virtually the same as last year and so subject to minor RPA adjustments in November should be around £227 per ha for this coming winter payment.

### **Benchmarking.**

We have been successful in gaining funding from AHDB to benchmarking for our clients and other farms. This can be a very worthwhile exercise and with potentially more difficult times ahead help farms look to make their businesses as competitive as possible.

Please contact us if you wish to learn more.



### **Precision Services**

- Nutrient sampling
- Variable rate applications
- PCN sampling
- Yield mapping

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

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Kathryn Vaughan



Tom Clark



Ben Vaughan

### Maximising Value and Protecting Chemistry

The 'perfect' spray day is rare, considering optimum wind speeds for spraying are 1-2m/s maximising quality and efficiency on the days you can spray is critical. Therefore, consider the following:

- ✓ Boom height is the biggest factor to reducing drift. Maintaining boom height at 50cm above the target ensures good coverage, doubling boom height to one metre increases drift by ten times.
- ✓ Ensure stability and maintain forward speed. Increasing speed from 8kph to 12kph doubles the risk of drift.
- ✓ Use the correct nozzles this autumn. Defy 3D and 90% drift reduction nozzles at optimum pressure help maintain spray quality.
- ✓ Consider increasing water volumes for pre/ peri-em sprays but not at the detriment of practicality or efficiency.

Over winter, think about improvements which can be made to speed up filling and mixing time, including water storage and ease of access to chemicals.

### OSR Establishment 2019 and Beyond

This year OSR establishment has been a challenge due to a dry September and extreme pressure from flea beetle, leaving many pondering whether they should be reconsidering how and when OSR is put into the ground. Here are several points to consider for next season:

- ✓ Subsoiling will have reduced costs, helped to retain moisture and created a channel for roots. This season has highlighted that where seed is being directly dropped behind a leg, good seed to soil contact has not always been achieved. The next step that may be worth considering is a one pass system, such as the SUMO DTS, or toolbars with legs which sit in front of the drill. These allow for an opening to be created as well as seed to be accurately placed, ensuring good seed to soil contact.
- ✓ Placing fertiliser as part of the drilling process is an option, especially where fertiliser can be placed close to the seed. Remember that 30kg/N/ha can be applied to an OSR crop up to 30<sup>th</sup> October.
- ✓ Finally, bringing the drilling date forward to the middle of August should be considered, this will enable OSR to get established earlier and grow away from pest pressures.

Video update: <http://www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/media/>

### Farming Outside the EU

The Lincolnshire branch of IAgRM has arranged for a panel of industry experts to share with you their vision of the post Brexit landscape.

1<sup>st</sup> November 6:30pm – 9pm

Riseholme College, Riseholme Campus, Lincoln, LN2 2LG

Register for event: [iagrmlincs@gmail.com](mailto:iagrmlincs@gmail.com)



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