

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2019



Assured Agronomy

This has been one of the easiest autumns on record for getting work done and only latterly have we had significant rain to replenish soils. Crops look very well with good yield potential although the drier conditions have had their impact on agrochemical performance and blackgrass control is slightly reduced this year.

Of great concern is the news that chlorothalonil is being looked at very carefully by the regulatory bodies. Restrictions are very likely. This is a serious concern for disease and particularly Septoria control. All farmers need to ensure they are growing more Septoria resistant varieties in the future to help in disease control. SDHI chemistry will break in time and we need to use all tools available.

All metaldehyde products are to be phased out. Sale of product shall be illegal in the next 6 months with use of the product allowed for a further 12 months.

DEFRA is intending to run the Small Productivity Grant scheme again in 2019. This is a very simple scheme to apply for but has a short window in which to buy items afterwards. We would advise anyone looking at this to start their research on machinery straight away, so they are prepared. GPS, variable rate technology and direct drills look likely to be included again.

Mid-Tier stewardship is being simplified further to make it more attractive. It is administratively appalling, but any alternative scheme could be several years away and so may be worth looking at. The capital grant aspect has increased to £10,000. Please contact us if you require any assistance.

Farming in 5 Years' Time. **Date 19th February**

We are planning a technical meeting in later February to look at potential future direction for our industry. This will be held at the Riseholme Campus at Lincoln University.

Subject to be discussed are:

Regenerative Agriculture, Soil Management, Machinery Power Systems, Government Support.

We will visit the pesticide handling and water management systems being trialled at the University.

Register: <http://www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/events/>

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2018 and 31/05/2019 reference NO466066f. To claim these points please email NRoSOPD@cityandguilds.com

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.**

- You must spread no more than
 - 30 m³/ha Slurry
 - 8 Tonnes/ha Poultry Manure

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

- Farm Limit and field limit still apply
 - Farm limit 170kg/ha
 - Field limit 250kg/ha

1 Mar: Don't cut hedges from today

- Tree coppicing and hedge laying okay until 30 April



Basic Payment Scheme

Payment mistakes can be made so please check your payment is correct. We have put a BPS calculator on our website which is free to use. If you would like to discuss your payment further, please contact Graham Chester.

www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/bpc-calculator



We have been successful in gaining funding from AHDB facilitate benchmarking for our clients and other farms. This is a very worthwhile exercise with potentially more difficult times ahead. Helping farms to make their businesses as competitive as possible. Please contact us if you wish to learn more

WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Kathryn Vaughan



Tom Clark



Ben Vaughan

Buffer Zones

There are several types of buffer zone that we must adhere too, designed to protect aquatic organisms and arthropods.

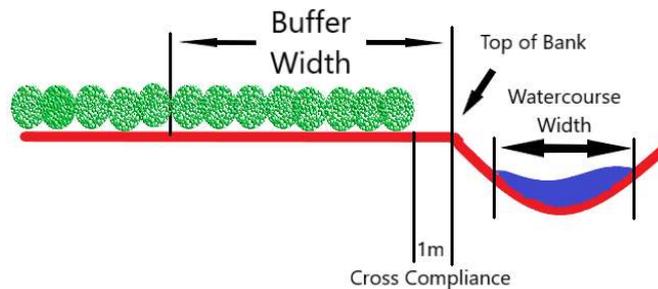
Aquatic buffer zones are an area of land adjacent to watercourses that cannot be sprayed (including ditches and dry ditches). Many but not all products have an aquatic buffer zone. If an aquatic buffer zone is required, then the product label will use one of the following 3 schemes.

LERAP scheme: The oldest of the 3 schemes and possibly the simplest to use. Products categorised 'A' OR 'B'.

LERAP rating		A	B										
Nozzle type		ANY	standard				1 star			2 star			3 star
Dose rate		ANY	100%	75%	50%	<25%	100%	75%	<50%	100%	75%	<50%	<100%
Watercourse width	<3m	5	5	4	2	1	4	2	1	2	2	1	1
	3-6m	5	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
	>6m	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Dry	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

Interim scheme: More flexible than the LERAP scheme by setting crop-specific buffer zones for individual products. Buffer zones <5m can be reduced following the old LERAP 'B' method (above). Buffers >5m cannot be reduced.

Drift Reducing Technology (DRT): Most stringent scheme but possibly gives access to products that would otherwise struggle to gain approval under the older LERAP scheme. All products have a 30m buffer zone, that can be reduced by using 3 star nozzles to a compulsory no-spray zone typically 6, 12 or 18m depending on crop.



Arthropod Buffer zones: designed to protect arthropods and non-target insects. The buffer applies to all field boundaries and they are label specific and non-reducible. They can also vary depending on crop type. If they are statutory they will have the key words 'respect' and/or 'DO NOT'. If they are advisory they will have the key words 'avoid' and/or 'precautions'. They may also be worded edge of the field boundary (taking into account margins) or edge of the non-cropped land.

Other buffers:

Metaldehyde products don't carry a buffer zone on their label, however crop assurance schemes require a 10m buffer zone.

Some **Clomazone** products carry the wording 'To protect non-target plants respect an untreated buffer zone of 'xx' metres to non-crop land'.

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