

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019



Assured Agronomy

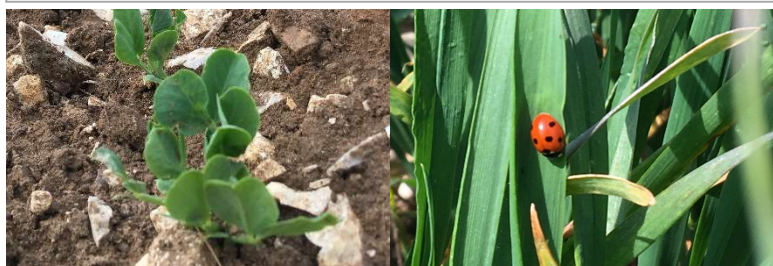
Winter crops came out of winter in good condition, helped by good autumn establishment and a moderate mild and dry winter. This has enabled crops to root well as they scavenge for moisture and nutrients and should aid them through what has so far been a very dry spring. Crops that were looking very forward in February and early March have developed slowly and are now where we would expect them to normally be.

Most Winter wheat crops have very low levels of disease. *Septoria tritici* levels are currently very low and can only really be found on leaves 4 and 5, aided by what has been a very dry spring and most varieties being grown having a disease rating of 6+. Keeping high disease ratings in farm will be vital going forward with the loss of chlorothalonil.

Oilseed rape crops have been the most challenging this spring due to poor establishment in dry conditions, pigeon, flea beetle attacks from both beetles and larvae and a cool start to the spring which has held the development of many crops back. All these things combined have reduced the vigour of many crops. Many crops have reached full flower and are starting to look as though they may claw back some of their potential.

Spring cereals have established very well. Soil conditions have been some of the best we have seen in recent times. Many soils have surprised with the amount of moisture found beneath the surface and care has been taken to preserve this. However as with other crops more moisture may be needed for crops to reach their full potential.

Sugar beet is mostly emerged although emergence and establishment has been variable with many seeds sitting in arid soils. As of the end of April, start of May many of these crops have received some much-needed precipitation which has managed to reach seed. Care must be taken within the next month to monitor aphid numbers within crops. This can be supported by the 'BBRO Advisory Bulletin: aphid watch'.



15 May: Entitlement and land transfers must be undertaken for BPS 2019

15 May: BPS application due – to avoid penalties

31 May: Deadline to make changes to your BPS application

31 May: Countryside Stewardship higher tier, mid-tier application pack request deadline

31 Jul: Closing date for countryside stewardship applications, including all supporting evidence

1 Aug: RPA derogations begin for cutting or trimming hedges throughout August, to sow oilseed rape or temporary grassland

1 Aug: Closed period, organic manure with high available N to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils except where crops will be sown on or before 15 September



Chemical withdrawals

Chlorothalonil failed to get re-approved. It is unclear what the end dates for sale and use will be although it is suspected that sales will cease in the autumn 2019 and on farm use will cease in spring 2020. It may be prudent to look now at your possible requirement for spring 2020.

Austral plus failed to get re-approved. All stock must be sold and distributed by the 31st August 2019, stock on farm must be used by or disposed of 31st August 2020. May be worth looking at your requirement for high risk wheat bulb fly areas, stock may be very low with the deadline for sale being very close to harvest.

Metaldehyde the UK regulation body CRD have removed the approval for use in the UK. All stock must be sold by 30 June 2019 and stocks on farm must be disposed of or used by 30th June 2020.

WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Kathryn Vaughan



Tom Clark



Ben Vaughan



Assured Agronomy held their first AHDB benchmarking meeting on 28th February at Uncle Henry's. The meeting consisted of eight farm businesses sat down in the same room to primarily go through the benchmarking exercise but also to discuss other topics related to their farm business.

Prior to the meeting Tom had sat with each business to go through the benchmarking exercise, which included registering an account and inputting data into the online system. Once complete the data was checked and collated to compare businesses to one another anonymously. Feedback from the meeting was positive with participants commenting that they would like to take part in an annual meeting and others suggesting other crops that they would like to see benchmarked in the future.

The AHDB benchmarking platform is due to go live soon, at this point businesses who have entered their details will be able to compare themselves to others and a national and county level.

If you would like to take part in the next meeting on 25th June please speak to Tom (07890 861601) and he will be able to assist with setting up an account and entering your data.

Oilseed Rape - Erucic acid

Most oilseed rape varieties grown in the UK are classified as double low, these varieties have a low erucic acid content. Some varieties have been bred to have a higher level of erucic acid, known as HEAR (high erucic acid rape). Erucic acid is a naturally occurring fatty acid found in brassica species.

Historically the erucic acid level must not have exceeded 5% but in February it was announced that the new legal limit for erucic acid is to be reduced to 2%

What do you need to do?

For the 2018/19 crop there is very little that can be done now, check field history for past HEAR crop, make note of any areas with volunteers or brassica weed and isolate from the main crop if possible. Before planting the 2019/20 check field history for past HEAR crops and get all home saved seed tested for its current level of erucic acid to determine whether it should be grown-on. Testing takes approximately 7-10 days using a gas chromatography test. If you would like your seed testing after harvest, please contact one of our agronomy team.



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

No longer wish to receive our newsletter?

Please email us: office@assuredagronomy.co.uk or visit our website: www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/newsletter/newsletter-register/unsubscribe/