

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019



Assured Agronomy

Spring 2019 review - Having received very little rain until the end of May, thoughts went back to the summers of 1975-6. Disease levels were generally low and lighter land crops were starting to look stressed. Those thoughts were washed away quite literally when over five inches fell in a very short period in mid-June. This has had a negative effect on some spring pulse crops which sat wet and has caused some secondary tillering on lighter land which could delay harvest.

Record temperatures at the end of July have finished a lot of wheat off and caused some stress for root crops. We are now on track for a normal cereal harvest time if weather allows.

Thoughts now move to OSR establishment. With the introduction of new herbicide chemistry, investment can be delayed until a crop exists. Flea beetle pressure could be high looking at what is coming out of harvested crops, so we must remain vigilant. Watch last autumn's video on OSR establishment. <http://www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/media/>

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

20th Aug: Ecological Focus Area (EFA) catch crops must be established by this date

1 Sep: Hedges can be cut

1 Sep: Closed period, manufactured N to tillage land

15 Sep: Closed period, manufactured N to grass land

16 Sep: Closed period, organic manure with high available N to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils that has been sown with crops on or before 15 September.



The 'B' word - The current round of political machinations has weakened the pound further. This is broadly good news for Agriculture with increased commodity prices and BPS payments compared to a stronger Pound.

The negative is any imported products will cost more to buy. (Machinery and fertiliser of note.) Who knows what the coming months will bring but we should all look to find the positives for our business and try to make the best decisions depending on what deals will be done. There is a danger of scaremongering and everyone should be careful to make the right decisions with the best information at the time.

'Out of the Blue' - At the end of July the ban on metaldehyde was overturned and the pellets will now return to the market. To ensure we do not risk losing this active again it is important to adhere to the following stewardship guidelines:

1. Metaldehyde slug pellets must only be used as part of an integrated pest management programme.
2. Take a field-by-field approach and assess the risk of metaldehyde reaching watercourses.
3. Do not allow pellets to fall within 10 metres of any field boundary or watercourse. Adhere to the 210g/ ha maximum application rate (also the total dose from 1st Aug – 31st Dec)
4. Think B.I.R.D

Buffer: 10 metre buffer zone

I'm legal: Do you hold the correct certificates and has the equipment been tested to the required standard?

Records: Are records up to date?

Dose: Is the right dose being applied to the label and MSG guidelines?

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Life after Deter - Autumn 2019 will be the first autumn without Deter seed dressing to protect against BYDV aphids (and slugs to a lesser extent). Cereal crops will now likely receive at least one pyrethroid spray if not more depending on pressure. In the past some herd immunity may have helped where enough growers have been using Deter to keep populations low.

Sheltered, less exposed fields, close to wooded areas, next to water and coastal areas where temperatures are milder are all more prone to infection.

Main symptoms: Initially scattered plants with bright yellow upper leaves. As infection spreads these areas become larger and patches of bright yellow severely stunted plants become apparent.

The main cultural controls include:

- Destroying any green bridges which may become a source of infection, consolidated seedbeds minimise the risk of direct transfer.
- Delaying drilling (Mid October drilled crops often miss any aphid colonisation)
- BYDV tolerant varieties are starting to appear e.g. Rafaela 6 row barley, this maybe something to consider for future years

Countryside Productivity Small Grant Scheme

Scheme - The second round of funding opened on 9th July. This follows on from the first round where £15 million was awarded to successful applicants. A range of items are available under the scheme with a strong focus on precision and new technology. Grants are for 40% of the standard costs for a minimum grant of £3,000, up to a maximum of £12,000.

Online applications must be submitted by mid-day 3rd September 2019.



Precision services

Nutrient sampling
Variable rate applications
PCN samping
Yield mapping



Oilseed Rape - Erucic acid Home saving seed?

Don't forget to test Erucic acid levels
Contact one of our team to have your seed tested

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/11/2018 and 31/10/2019 reference NO466066f.

Two BASIS points (1CP/1PN) in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2019 and 31/05/2020 reference cp/86640/1920/g.

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