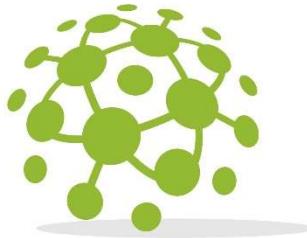


NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2019



Assured Agronomy

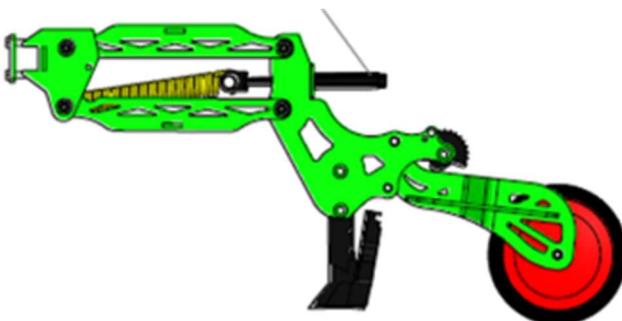
OSR Establishment

The summer has been tricky for establishing OSR. High levels of flea beetle activity and lack of rainfall in September have caused real issues in places. Having the mindset of planning for the worst and hoping for the best feels fitting and is an ethos we are going to have to live by and work towards for next autumn. As we are all aware the complete solution will not be found in agrochemicals and we must get all other factors working with us.

1. Minimal soil disturbance to conserve moisture.
2. Increased stubble height retained from the previous crop.
3. Early establishment is much lower risk and although this will likely give more larvae in the plant at least there is a plant in the first place that will hopefully be stronger.
4. Accurate seed placement to ensure even rapid growth.
5. Placed fertiliser at planting. We have found clear reductions in damage where DAP is applied showing less flea beetle shot holes. This looks to be over and above the use of straight nitrogen, this may be to do with palatability rather than outright growth.
6. Look at press wheels on drill systems. This requires no or significantly less pressing/rolling afterwards and maintains the previous crops stubble in an upright position.

Watch our video of one of our grower's systems which works extremely well.

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



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.

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.



Seed

RAGT seeds announcement regarding Wolverine wheat with BYDV resistance is a great development. The plant breeder has done a phenomenal job to bring this trait in so quickly. We understand they will sell this using the Breeders Intellectual Property system which will see growers buying the seed as normal but then pay circa £33 per ha in addition. This looks very expensive, but the industry does need to ensure the plant breeders are rewarded for their innovation. They are ever more important as agrochemicals become increasingly restricted.

Rafaela, Limagrain's new six row BYDV tolerant variety, may also be one to consider for future years.

Another good development is in Beans as Tiffany and Victus joins the recommended list. These are both LVC (low vicine low convicine) and very high yielding. Vicine and convicine are linked with human allergic like responses (favism) and reduced performance in animal feed.

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INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING



Graham Chester



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FARBENCH

In 2019 we were appointed as facilitators for the AHDB Benchmarking system “FARBENCH”. We ran two groups during the year and will continue this for this year’s harvest results. The “FARBENCH” software is evolving and now has a national database.

We are hosting new meetings in December. Should anyone wish to look at benchmarking their business then speak to Tom Clark (contact information opposite).

Slugs – Lessons to Learn

 It still looks likely that Metaldehyde will be revoked in 2020, manufacturers and distributors haven’t manufactured much more stock for the UK. Most farms will use up existing products and then transition to ferric phosphate.

The ferric phosphate products are quite different in how we need to approach them. Metaldehyde pellets would be ruined by heavy rain with the active ingredient leaching away. Previously We had evolved a system of avoiding heavy rain where possible and applying several smaller doses.

 Ferric phosphate is different in that it doesn’t leach, and the pellets need to break down to become more palatable to the slugs. Death is much slower, and more product needs to be ingested before the slug dies.

We have regularly seen fields this autumn where literally all the pellets have been eaten very quickly after application. As the slugs go underground to die, we do not see the slimed-out effects we expect from metaldehyde. With Ferric each slug needs to consume more of the product than with metaldehyde, therefore we must apply relatively higher doses of product to ensure all slugs are controlled. We must also be prepared to apply more when previous applications are gone. Ensuring we use products that give a high number of baiting points is critical to help achieve good control.

 The other issue we have noted is that in very dry conditions the ferric pellets (particularly those that are lentil-based) are much less palatable and slugs will eat OSR in preference. These pellets need rain to break them down and, in many cases, a cheaper ferric pellet which crumbles more easily may achieve a better control.

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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