

NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2020



Assured Agronomy

Defra is proposing a new scheme to help farmers prepare for the introduction of ELMS. The Sustainable Farming Incentive (SFI) will be a 'steppingstone' to ELMS, aimed at those not already involved in a scheme but will not exclude those that are.

It is currently in its early stages of scheme planning and no formal decision has been taken on whether to proceed with it or how it might operate. It is proposed that SFI may start in 2022 and run alongside existing schemes until the introduction of ELMS in 2024.

SFI will promote:

- Good soil management, that protects soil life
- Management that stops nutrients and soil entering water courses
- Management of hedgerows and possibly trees

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.



Aphid Roundup

Aphid pressure during spring 2020 has been at the highest we have seen for some time across all crops and aphid species. Many crops survived this with little impact, apart from sugar beet.

Sugar beet

Virus is very visible in most sugar beet crops even following robust aphicide programmes and yield losses of 20-40% can be expected. This clearly gives us concern for growing the crop in the future. In the short term our hope lies with a Neonic derogation and in the long-term breeders will hopefully develop varieties with increased tolerance/resistance to the disease. We have seen a reduced level of virus in crops under sown with barley to reduce wind erosion, this is also something that has been seen elsewhere in the country leading us to believe this is more than just a coincidence. BBRO are going to investigate this further next season. **Under sowing with barley should be something that we look at doing in the 2021 crop.** We know that aphids are attracted to the contrast of small green plants against brown, so a cover crop may change that relationship. It could also affect the chemical signals that attract *Myzus persicae* to the crop.

Cereals - BYDV

This will be our second autumn without a seed treatment for the prevention of aphids. There was very little impact on the 2020 crop, mostly because very little area was drilled and the area that was drilled was established late in the autumn/winter. Initially aphids colonise relatively few plants. The worst damage is caused when the second generation move away from the plant originally colonised, which creates pronounced areas of damage in the crop. Using a T-Sum of 170 (accumulated daily air temperatures above 3 degrees Celsius from crop emergence or following an insecticide treatment) we can predict when a second generation are likely to be present. Drilling later is our best line of defence as it will generally take longer to get to a T-Sum 170. In the future we are going to be very reliant on plant breeders and many will have resistant/tolerant varieties in the coming years.

WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING



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Seed update

A high proportion of seed being drilled this autumn has been overwintered on farm. Germination tests so far have not shown a big drop off in germination; however, all seed should be tested so that seed rates can be adjusted to cater for any differences.

Before dressing any home saved seed this year it would be worth getting it tested for the presence of disease. A lot of samples this year have returned with very low disease scores and many have been zero. In these cases it may not be necessary to apply a seed treatment.

Please also note that there is a big variation in thousand grain weight between seed lots, this may have a big impact on the number of plants that get established this year. Please check and adjust seed rates accordingly.

Seed rate calculator: <http://www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/seed-rate-calculator/>

Wheat Seed Treatments (Source, AHDB)

Active ingredient(s)	Product	Company	Crop	Seed-borne diseases				Other diseases			Pests	
				Microdochium Seedling blight	Fusarium seedling blights	Septoria seedling blight	Loose smut	Bunt	Take-all	Blue mould	Wireworm	Wheat bulb fly
fludioxonil, tebuconazole	Fountain	Certis	Winter	X	X		X	X				
fludioxonil	Beret Gold	Syngenta	Winter Spring	X	X	X		X				
difencnazole, fludioxonil, tebuconazole	Celest Trio	Syngenta	Winter	X	X	X	X	X				
difencnazole, fludioxonil	Difend Extra	Certis	Winter	X	X			X				
silthiofam	Latitude	Certis	Winter Spring						X			
ipconazole	Rancona 15ME	Arysta	Winter Spring	X	X			X				
prothioconazole, tebuconazole	Redigo Pro	Bayer	Winter Spring	X	X		X	X		X		
sedaxane, fludioxonil	Vibrance Duo	Syngenta	Winter	X	X	X	X	X				
cypermethrin	Signal	Arysta	Winter Spring								X	X

Barley Seed Treatments (Source, AHDB)

Active ingredient(s)	Product	Company	Crop	Seed-borne diseases					Pests			
				Loose smut	Leaf stripe	Covered smut	Seedling blight: Microdochium nivale	Seedling blight: Fusarium species	Net blotch	Take-all	Wire-worm	Wheat bulb fly
fludioxonil	Beret Gold	Syngenta	Spring Winter		X	X	X	X				
fludioxonil, tebuconazole	Fountain	Certis	Winter	X		X	X	X	X			
fluopyram, prothioconazole, tebuconazole	Raxil Star	Bayer	Winter	X	X	X	X	X	X			
ipconazole	Rancona 15 ME	Arysta	Spring Winter	X	X		X	X				
prothioconazole, tebuconazole	Redigo Pro	Bayer	Spring Winter	X	X	X	X	X				
silthiofam	Latitude	Certis	Winter							X		
cypermethrin	Signal	Arysta	Spring Winter								X	X

Two NROSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/01/2020 and 31/12/2021 reference NO467809F.

Two BASIS points (1CP/1PN) in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2020 and 31/05/2021 reference CP/101008/2021/g.

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