

NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021



Assured Agronomy

Sugar beet virus yellows update

In 2020 sugar beet yields decreased dramatically because of Virus Yellows. There was much relief when an Emergency Authorisation (EA) was announced for the use of the neonicotinoid seed treatment Cruiser SB. It is important to note that this is 'subject to the Rothamsted virus yellows model reaching a trigger level in February' (British Sugar, 2021).

The terms of the EA allow Cruiser SB to be applied at a reduced rate equal to 75% of the concentration previously used. BBRO have advised that this will likely provide 10 weeks protection against aphids, compared to 12 weeks previously. Therefore, growers may still need to consider an insecticide spray, depending on pest pressure later in the season.

The conditions of the Emergency Authorisation outlines that only non-flowering crops may be sown in the same field for the 22 months following sowing of Cruiser SB treated seed. Oilseed rape may not be sown for 32 months following sowing of Cruiser SB treated seed.

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.



ELMS – Sustainable Farming Initiative

From 2021 BPS payments will start to see reductions of 5-25%, with larger reductions year on year. When ELMS and Sustainable Farming Initiative come in over the next few years it is thought there will be several tiers depending on how much 'public good' growers are willing to undertake. How this will be measured, and payments made is uncertain.

To prepare for ELMS growers should be starting to think about IPM, soil health, water quality and hedges and how these could be improved on your land. Growers could also consider starting or renewing existing mid/ higher stewardship schemes to prepare for ELMS and mitigate against some of the losses from BPS. These can be designed to fit rotations, land types and current practices on individuals' farms.

Chemical supply

The estimated inflationary price rises this spring on chemical is thought to be around 3%. Initial signs are that chemical supply this spring should be fine however lead times may be lengthened depending on COVID-19.

With the loss of chlorothalonil last spring and epoxiconazole now no longer available for distribution (use up 31/10/2021), there is some speculation this could place pressure on other actives. This is likely to make fungicide programmes more expensive over time as the rate of multi-sites may need to be increased and the lack mixing partners could mean having to use a formulated mix to access newer/ stronger chemistry.

Vydate has not been re-authorised for sale, distribution and use beyond 31st December 2020. Four emergency approvals have been applied for, but approval has not yet been granted. Bromoxynil has now been revoked, final sales 17th March 2021, final use up on farm 17th September. Possible Mancozeb withdrawal and use up dates are yet to be announced and products supply this spring could be tight.

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INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING

Regenerative Agriculture

The concept of moving towards a regenerative system, has become a keen interest amongst growers. Gabe Brown defines it as 'Regenerative agriculture is a renewal of the food and farming systems which aims to regenerate the topsoil, increase biodiversity, improve the mineral carbon and water cycles whilst improving profitability throughout the supply chain' (Direct Driller, 2021).

It is a systems-based approach to agriculture, aimed at restoring the soil ecosystem through carbon sequestration. The focus is to increase the soil organic matter content, as such improving soil structure and benefiting microbial activity.

The key principles to follow for a regenerative system are:

- Increase diversity through rotation.
- Minimising soil disturbance
- Keeping the soil covered
- Integrating livestock into the system through mob or rotational grazing

If you would like to find out more information, please contact Harry.

Introducing Harry

Back in the autumn we welcomed Harry Tricklebank, the latest agronomist to join the team.

Harry is BASIS and FACTS qualified. Having grown up in Warwickshire, Harry moved to Yorkshire four years ago where he enjoyed a year as an agronomist for Natures Crops specialising in the commercial crop Ahiflower, grown for its omega rich oil. Since then, Harry has been a trials agronomist for Eurofins Agrosiences at their north east base in Yorkshire.

Harry is an active member of York Canoe Club and enjoys white water kayaking activities both in the UK and abroad, with club trips in the lake district being highlights. Harry also has interests in travel, cycling and hiking, having completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks.



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Ben Vaughan



Tom Clark



Harry Tricklebank



Kathryn Vaughan

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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