

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021



Assured Agronomy

Sustainable Farming Incentive – June 2021 update

Through the Sustainable Farming Incentive, the government want all farmers to have the opportunity to be rewarded for:

- Maintaining and enhancing the natural environment
- Reducing carbon emissions
- Improving the health and welfare of farmed animals across the whole farmed countryside

Upon review of the June update, all farmers will be eligible for the SFI scheme from spring next year, **even if there are areas of land currently in one of the existing stewardship schemes.**

During the roll out of ELMS, the government has run an expression of interest process, and as such there are several of our clients taking part in the SFI pilot scheme.

Within the SFI, actions will be grouped into simple packages, set out as standards, with different levels of ambition.

The scheme will begin by offering two soils standards – an arable and horticultural standard and an improved grassland soils standard. After signing up, the scheme will require management practices to be undertaken that improves soil structure, soil organic matter and soil biology.

The practices will be paid according to the level of ambition. These are outlined as introductory, intermediate, and advanced, respectively.

Indicative payment rates are updated to reflect any changes to the standards, following engagement and feedback during the summer.

Arable and horticultural soils (per hectare):

- Introductory: £26
- Intermediate: £41
- Advanced: £60

Soil analysis will be regularly assessed, as a high priority going forward.

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.



Septoria levels in wheat

In late May, the winter wheat varieties KWS Firefly and RGT Saki began showing susceptibility to certain strains of Septoria tritici. Both these varieties have the old variety Cougar in their parentage, and as such the Septoria strains have developed resistance in a single season, with high symptom levels showing up in the canopy. These two varieties had previously shown good resistance to the disease, with Firefly scoring 6.8 and Saki 6.5 in a 1-9 scale.

The Cougar races will undoubtedly become more widespread, particularly if we get a high Septoria pressure situation. Therefore, it is important to consider alternative varieties for next season.

Please refer to our latest winter wheat variety summary video and notes for 2021/2022.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfedyTsMEVw

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OSR Establishment

High levels of flea beetle activity are inevitable this summer. We must all continue to be vigilant as we move towards the OSR drilling window, and as such having a strategy in mind from the onset is critical.

1. Minimal soil disturbance to conserve moisture.
2. Increased stubble height retained from the previous crop.
3. Early establishment is much lower risk
4. Accurate seed placement to ensure even rapid growth.
5. Placed DAP at planting shows clear reductions in damage with fewer flea beetle shot holes. This looks to be over and above the use of straight nitrogen.

Attention should be given to the press wheels on drill systems. These require no or significantly less pressing/rolling afterwards and maintains the previous crops stubble in an upright position.

Fungicide chemistry

Final use up on farm for Epoxiconazole is the 31st October 2021.

Following the withdrawal of older cereal fungicide actives from the market, the introduction of new fungicide chemistry is likely to be available from next year.

Adepidyn is a third generation SDHI fungicide from Syngenta, which contains the active ingredient pydiflumetofen.

The performance of Adepidyn looks very promising in fungicide trials, against Septoria in wheat, as well as both net blotch and ramularia in barley. It will likely fit well into the flag leaf spray timing and partnered with an azole fungicide such as the active prothioconazole. Adepidyn may however, come with a high price tag, therefore varieties chosen should have strong disease resistance built in, to help reduce the reliance on fungicide actives.



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Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/01/2021 and 31/12/2021 reference NO467809f.

Two BASIS points (1CP/1PN) in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2021 and 31/05/2022 reference cp/101008/2021/g.

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