

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2021



## Assured Agronomy

### Sustainable Farming Incentive – update

The SFI scheme is due to launch for all farmers from spring 2022 and will comprise of four core elements. One of these elements will be the arable and horticultural standard. Practices within this standard will be paid according to the three levels of ambition. Arable and horticultural soils (per hectare):

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

The actions for each level of ambition will run as follows. All three levels will require completion of a basic soil assessment. Green cover over winter will be established over 5%, 10% and 15% area for each level respectively. Soil organic matter increased at 10%, 15% and 20% area for each level respectively.

The use of no, low or min tillage techniques will be required at 25% area in both the intermediate and advanced levels. Finally, a soil management plan will be required in the advanced level.

The scheme will be open to farmers who are eligible for BPS, even if you have an existing agri-environment scheme (such as Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship), provided the SFI standard that is chosen, is compatible with any existing agreement.

For example, if you are already being paid to establish a cover crop under a Countryside Stewardship option on land that is at risk of soil erosion or surface run off, then it will not be possible to also enter that same land into the SFI arable and horticultural soils standard where similar activities are required. However, it is possible to establish cover crops on land on other parts of your holding, which are not in an existing agri-environment scheme.

Applications will be open from spring 2022, these will be a digital service on GOV.UK and simple checks are scheduled to assess eligibility for the scheme. The team will provide support required with applications, as well as generating the assessments outlined.

**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.**

**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.



### Fertiliser – Nitrogen Use Efficiency

Fertiliser prices have increased significantly, following the recent announcements regarding current production.

Nitrogen use efficiency (NUE) is the amount of nutrient removed by the crop, relative to nutrients supplied from soil, applied manures and fertiliser. Measuring NUE requires careful management and good data collection.

- To calculate Total Nitrogen Output, the grain yield should be multiplied by the grain nitrogen.  
 $10,000 \times 2.37\% = 237\text{kg N/ha.}$ 
  - The grain nitrogen is calculated from the percent grain protein  
 $13.5 \text{ (Grain protein)} / 5.7 = 2.37\% \text{ N}$
- To calculate Total Nitrogen Input, the soil nitrogen supply, organic manure N and inorganic nitrogen applications should be added together.  
E.g.  $80 + 40 + 220 = 340\text{kg N/ha.}$
- **The nitrogen use efficiency is calculated by dividing nitrogen output from nitrogen input,  $237 / 340 \times 100 = 70\% \text{ NUE.}$**

[WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK)

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING

### Harvest – winter wheat

Overall winter wheat yields have demonstrated huge variability across farms, following harvest for the 2021 season. Gleam and SY Insitor have had a good year and remain consistent in their performance. Due to their Cougar parentage, Saki and Firefly are now less favourable variety choices. Looking ahead to the 2022 season, growing more than one variety would be advisable to help spread the risk across the farm.

### OSR – update

Oilseed rape fields that were drilled early, are now growing away well. The main issue has been slug pressure with August experiencing a handful of wet weather periods.

The unusual hot spell in early September, allowed an increased level of adult flea beetle feeding in late drilled crops. Threshold is reached when 25% of the leaf area has been eaten at the cotyledon stage, applications are best applied in the evening or early morning.

### Chemical supply

The shortage of Glyphosate amongst suppliers, is now a major issue across the country. We would strongly advise using current stock at conserved rates where possible. The supply of Kerb and Astrokerb are beginning to run increasingly low, with shortages likely from October onwards. If you are growing winter beans this autumn, Kerb is an option at the pre-emergence timing. For those with low manganese stock, it would be worth an autumn order, as the cost will see a large increase early next year.

Final use up on farm for Metaldehyde is the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Ben Vaughan



Tom Clark



Harry Tricklebank



Kathryn Vaughan

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/01/2021 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.

No longer wish to receive our newsletter?

Please email us: [office@assuredagronomy.co.uk](mailto:office@assuredagronomy.co.uk) or visit our website:

[www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/newsletter/newsletter-register/unsubscribe/](http://www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/newsletter/newsletter-register/unsubscribe/)

**WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK**

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING