

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2022



## Assured Agronomy

### Harvest Update

Overall, Winter Wheat yields have been very promising this year with good Bushel weights. Varieties bred from European strains have proven to be more resilient in the hot dry conditions we have had this year. OSR yields have varied but all providing good margins. 2023 OSR crops in the ground are getting away well with the recent moisture but flea beetle and slug pressure still remains high.

### Seed Update

Across the board this year seed results have shown low disease pressure as a result of dry early harvests. Seed should be tested to determine germination rates and presence of disease.

### New Chemistry

Blackgrass; **Luximo** (2022) and **Proclus** (2021) have been added to the arsenal of chemistry available for grass weed control this Autumn in winter wheat

Fungicides in Sugar Beet; **Caligula** has been approved with a very good disease spectrum and vital after the loss of Escolta this year.

### Biostimulant products

“Muck or magic” is often used to describe Biostimulants with some providing benefits. Proven efficacy is not required for the approval of a biostimulant, unlike the rigorous efficacy testing required for pesticide approvals. This can result in ineffective products and highly biased trial results entering the market.

### Fertiliser Efficacy

Up to 40% of Nitrogen applied to crops is not utilised by crop efficiently and is lost, with fertiliser prices remaining high increasing fertiliser efficacy is vital.

#### Sources of N

*Ammonium Nitrate*- Less N lost to the atmosphere as ammonia (~3%)

*Urea*- Higher levels of N volatilised into the atmosphere as ammonia (24-58%) However less gas is used in the production, therefore the price of N/kg is cheaper and outweighs the loss through volatilisation.

#### Application

-Avoid applying in warm/dry conditions which favour volatilisation.

-Technology- *Variable rates* of fertiliser can be applied using imagery to map areas requiring higher levels.

-*N Sensors* can be used to determine Nitrogen required by the crop at that time.

-Use of Urease inhibitors to reduce Nitrogen losses and ammonia emissions

-Timing-Good crop growth at application is essential to reduce risk of unutilised Nitrogen leaching

-Split later applications so Nitrogen is provided to the crop when it is needed

### Sustainable Farming Incentive

SFI is now open for applications with up to £40/ha on offer for Arable land entered in the scheme. Please contact your agronomist to find out more about requirements and entering.

*Multi-species cover crops in the scheme must be well established by December.*

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## Dates for the diary

### Hedge Cutting

*1<sup>st</sup> September*-Hedges can be cut.

### Nutrient Applications

*1<sup>st</sup> August*- Closed period starts for organic manure with high available N (Slurry digestate etc) to tillage land on shallow or sandy soils except where crops will be sown on or before 15 September.

*1<sup>st</sup> September*- Closed period starts for manufactured N on tillage land.

*15<sup>th</sup> September*- Closed period starts for manufactured N on grassland.

*16<sup>th</sup> September*- Closed period starts for Organic manure application on crops sown before 15<sup>th</sup> Sept.

*1<sup>st</sup> January*- Open period, organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen to grassland/tillage land on shallow/sandy soils, quantity restrictions apply.

*16<sup>th</sup> January*- Can apply manufactured nitrogen fertilisers to grassland/tillage land.

*1<sup>st</sup> February*- Open period, organic manure with a high readily available nitrogen to grassland/tillage land on all soil types, quantity restrictions apply.

*28<sup>th</sup> February*- End of the quantity restrictions for organic manures with a high readily available nitrogen content.



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Ben Vaughan



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Harriet Beeby



Kathryn Vaughan

Two NRoSO points in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/01/2022 and 31/12/2022 reference NO470606f.

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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