

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2023



## Assured Agronomy

### SFI 2023

The Sustainable Farming Incentives actions have been changed from the first roll out of the scheme last year. Agreements from last year will end, so the new scheme can offer more flexible actions.

-Some actions require no change in farming practise and simply more report writing and paperwork which Assured agronomy can assist with. These include; Nutrient, Soil and IPM management plans and Organic Matter testing.

-Payments of up to £732/ha are also available for taking areas out of food production and either sowing mixes or leaving areas uncropped to increase biodiversity or benefit wildlife.

-Additional options include £45/ha for not using insecticides and £55/ha for sowing companion crops. These can be stacked alongside other actions.

Regulation and rules are more relaxed than the current countryside stewardship system. Further information regarding the new actions can be accessed by the link below and discussed with your agronomist.

SFI Handbook:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1188264/SFI23\\_handbook.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1188264/SFI23_handbook.pdf)

**We are hosting a SFI update meeting.**

***How do the options work on farm?***

**Date: Tuesday 5th December**

**Time: 1pm - 4pm**

**Where: Market Rasen Rugby Club**

Please register here.

[www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/sfi-meeting-register/](http://www.assuredagronomy.co.uk/sfi-meeting-register/)

### Pest pressure this Autumn

**Cabbage Stem Flea Beetle** pressure has been high this year, especially impacting crops sown at the end of August when there was limited moisture.

A wet summer followed by a mild and wet Autumn has seen high populations of **slugs** particularly in situations where OSR and cover crops are in the rotation and where there is reduced tillage. After the loss of metaldehyde, we are reliant on Ferric Phosphate pellets, although they have a better environmental profile cost per ha has increased and efficacy reduced.

Mild conditions this autumn have also favoured **root fly larvae**, we have found populations higher than they have been for several years feeding on the roots of oilseed rape. Unfortunately, there is no chemical control, but some less affected crops will be able to grow away.

### Environmental Farmers Group (EFG)

The EFG aims to form a cluster of farmers in North Lincolnshire to have a loud voice and establish private money from developers, supply chains, water companies and alike that are interested in paying farmers for services including biodiversity, cover cropping, nutrient off setting and potentially industrial offsetting.

Several farmers have already expressed interest and the next step is to create a cluster and to get baseline assessments for all farms to establish what "improvements" they can be paid for.

If this is something that interests you, and if you'd like any further information then please express an interest by following the link below:

[www.environmentalfarmersgroup.co.uk/join/](http://www.environmentalfarmersgroup.co.uk/join/)

**WWW.ASSUREDAGRONOMY.CO.UK**

INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING

## Key Dates

*15 Oct:* Closed period, organic manure with high available N to grassland on soils which are not shallow or sandy.

*1<sup>st</sup> December:* AB12: Supplementary winter feeding for farmland birds.

*1<sup>st</sup> Jan:* Open period, organic manure with a high available N to grassland/tillage land on shallow/sandy soils

*16<sup>th</sup> Jan:* Can apply manufactured N fertilisers to grassland/tillage land.

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

## Agchem Update

High slug pressure this year has left slug pellets in short supply.

Wet weather this Autumn has led to an increase in Spring Cereals, thus leading to a shortage of spring cereal supply.

Further fungicide options approved for the spring will hopefully increase competition and bring prices down.



Graham Chester



Ken Chappell



Ben Vaughan



Tom Clark



Harriet Beeby



Kathryn Vaughan

Two NRoSO points per newsletter have been allocated between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 reference for the Summer 2023 newsletter: NO500970f.

Two BASIS points (1CP/1PN) in total (not per bulletin) have been allocated between 01/06/2023 and 31/05/2024 reference CT/129031/2324/g.



Tom Maplethorpe

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