

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2018



Assured Agronomy

We see from Benchmarking exercises that a key part of the top 25% of Arable Farms performance is partly due to using an Independent Agronomist. It is good to see actual recognition for the benefits of our work to our clients in financial terms.

Michael Goves speech to the Oxford farming conference seemed to indicate government direction for agriculture. There will be more emphasis on efficiency, use of modern technology and more environmental payments in the future. Payments based on £ per hectare would not be the long term basis for going forward.

We will as a company try to work through all these developments as they happen and help to find our clients the most appropriate way forward for their businesses, to make the best advantages of these changes.

28 Feb: End of quantity restrictions for organic manures with high 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

15 May: Entitlement and land transfers must be undertaken for BPS 2018

15 May: BPS application due

31 May: Countryside Stewardship higher tier, mid-tier and "streamlined offer" application pack request deadline

31 Jul: Closing date for countryside stewardship applications, NOT 30th Sept as in previous years



Getting the best out of your sprays and sprayer

Held on the 25/26th January, both days were well attended. Feedback at the end of each day was very positive with many people taking some useful points away to implement within their own operations.



Speed: 12-14km/ha - *optimum without compromising drift and coverage*

W/V: 100-200 lt/ha - *If product allows, 100lt will give good coverage and may increase efficacy, as droplet chemical concentration is increased. If coverage is not compromised by other factors such as wind/forward speed)*

Height: 50 cm above target - *best coverage/reduced drift*

Tyres: correct minimum pressure = suspension = stability

Nozzles: Vertically aligned down boom and in check valves

Nozzle output: +/- 2% - *change if out of range*

Angles: Alternate angled nozzles - *best coverage of soil, grass and broadleaved plants, can also reduce drift.*

Defy 3D: Pre-em/Graminicides/Broadleaved weeds/T0+T3/Insecticides - *alternate forward and backwards*

Guardian Air: Reduced drift option/T1-T2/OSR Fungicides/Spring wild oats - *angle backwards*

Water Conditioner: Two types of conditioners typically used, which need adding to the spray tank differently

Cation complexer: (X--change) ¼ fill/add conditioner/fill to 90%/add pesticide/fill/continue agitation

Competition Agent: (ammonium sulphate) ¼ fill the tank/add conditioner/add pesticide/fill

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INDEPENDENT AGRONOMY

PRECISION FARMING

After a wet winter we are finding earlier applied propyzamide applications are working well and generally blackgrass control across many crops is very good. We now enter a spring period with stronger yellow rust species and high Septoria pressure in crops. We have the chemical armoury to deal with these threats but we must expect surprises in diseases found on some varieties this spring and be prepared to act accordingly.

Agrochemical prices have come under pressure, particularly some fungicides. Many of you have pre ordered and this will doubtless prove to be a good investment.

We have completed all our winter technical meetings and there is a mixed bag of agrochemical developments. We have excellent new insecticides coming from Dow, a great new triazole type chemical from BASF that should hopefully get approval in the next 12 months. On the negative front continual industry mergers generally reduce the competition and research and development spending such as the Dow and DuPont merger and the Chinese ownership of Syngenta and Adama.

There is an EU meeting in March to discuss Neonicotinoids and it would seem this may result in an outright loss of the chemical group. Most industry commentators are far from optimistic.



Precision Farming

- pH Mapping
- Nutrient Mapping
- PCN Mapping
- Variable Nutrient Spreading
- Variable Rate seeding
- Boundary Measurement



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PRECISION FARMING