

Cardiff Monitor Farm

Meeting topic: Designing an input strategy

Date: 18 January 2017

Venue: Six Bells Inn, Penmark

Speakers: Jonathan Blake, Ian Matts



Nutrient management

- Avoid set programmes – focus on the season and plan / adjust accordingly
- Scientific analysis of plant health (e.g. tissue tests) at key growth stages vital to inform decision making
- Improve understanding of test results
- Measure nitrogen to determine quantity to apply
- The optimum timing and product type may mean less has to be applied and allow savings to be made
- Delve deeper than soil indices – certain nutrients may be present, but are they available to the plant?
- Treat specific deficiencies with tailored applications
- Trace elements are essential, but when and how to apply?
- Focus on the first 30 days of the plant's life – sets yield potential

Further information:

- General guides on growing cereals and oilseeds: [wheat growth guide](#); [barley growth guide](#); [oilseed rape growth guide](#)
- Cereal growth stages – [a guide for crop treatments](#)
- Micronutrients for cereals and oilseed rape: [information sheet](#)
- AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Nutrient Management [website](#)



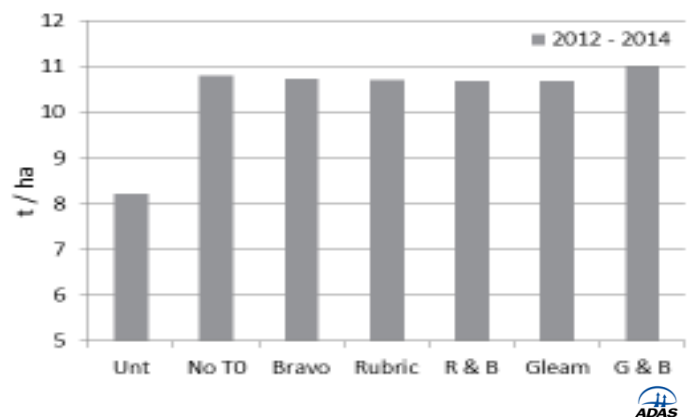
Designing a fungicide strategy

- In wheat the top three are most important and must be kept clean
- Leaf 3 is not a big leaf and the ones underneath are small
- This is why your strategy should be based around T2 – for grain fill
- Robust application at T1 can do most of the Septoria control but it is a big mistake if T1 is too early
- It is better to make sure T0 is not too far ahead
- T0 is not important for Septoria control and could be missed out especially if it is a non-susceptible variety
- T0 is important for rust and mildew (and eyespot)
- You could apply it for peace of mind for Septoria but there isn't much effect on yield (see *Irish data below*)
- Don't miss out T0 if rusts are involved
- If leaf 2 has emerged leaf 3 is emerging
- Leaf 2 would be unprotected if there was a long gap between T1 and T2
- This can be a big problem if it turns wet
- Ideally there should be a three-week gap between T0 and T1 and it is better to be too short than too long

Unnecessary applications?

- An experiment was conducted across 9 sites
- Range of varieties
- T1: Proline 0.8 l & Bravo 1.0 l
- T2: Adexar 1.6 l & Bravo 1.0 l
- T3: Prosaro 1.2 l (Gleam 2.0 l 2012)

A comparison of treatments at T0, showed no significant yield benefit



Further information:

- Fungicide activity and performance in wheat: [information sheet](#)
- Wheat disease management [guide](#)
- AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds fungicide performance [website](#)
- A [guide](#) to fungicide resistance management in cereals
- For more information on fungicide resistance and its management, visit our Fungicide Resistance Action Group UK [page](#)



Next meeting

Be precise for free

Understanding how precision farming can deliver for Welsh producers is the subject of a series of workshops hosted by AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds and Farming Connect.

28 February 12:30pm – 4:00pm

Pavilion, Withybush Showground, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, SA62 4BW

1 March 6:00pm – 8:30pm

Six Bells Inn, Penmark, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3BP

2 March 12:30 – 4:00pm

Monmouthshire Livestock Centre, NP15 2BH

Course leader and independent precision farming expert Ian Beecher-Jones will bring together the theoretical fundamentals of precision farming with a practical application in the field.

Ian said: “Small changes in farming practices can make a big difference to the performance of the farm. By taking a pragmatic, farmer-focused approach, the course will help novices understand whether precision will pay or not, and help more experienced farmers work out the next steps. It will be a course for all and the interaction between farmers of all experiences will benefit everyone.”

Each of the three courses will be split into manageable sections: tractor and machine control, targeted agronomy and data management, so farmers will be able to focus on what needs to be done in each area to make the most of the technology available to benefit their businesses.

To book a free space contact Richard Meredith on: richard.meredith@ahdb.org.uk or 07717 493015

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