Malmesbury Monitor Farm meeting report

Fungicide strategies for 2019 and beyond

Speakers: Dr Jonathan Blake (ADAS)
Date: 4 March 2019
Location: Mayfield House Hotel, Crudwell, SN16 9EW
For more information, visit: cereals.ahdb.org.uk/malmesbury

Meeting summary – key messages

- Regularly crop walk to identify disease risks to direct fungicide management
- Variety choice is a key component to effective disease management
- Monitoring the crop and timing the spray accordingly is essential
- Using multisite products produces a synergetic effect

Non-chemical control

- Non-chemistry decisions can have more of an effect on disease control than product choice or choices
- Between 2002 and 2018, across all Recommended List varieties, there is an average 2t/ha response to fungicide programme between treated and untreated. This however masks a massive variation. Variety choice is key to a cost-effective fungicide programme or strategies to reduce use of fungicides.
- Conditions can sometimes have more impact than variety so it’s key to build your programme on a case by case basis (field aspect, soil, variety, sow date, seed rate, weather pattern, crop condition)
- Regularly crop walking can help identity disease risks which can in turn direct fungicide management, monitoring tools are available at cereals.ahdb.org.uk/monitoring

Spray programmes

- In building a spray programme, determine whether you want to follow and pay for a preventative or curative (or happy for both) strategy. How efficient are you at timeliness – both monitoring crops and then spraying them?
- A traditional half dose of SDHI /Azole mix is not nearly as effective as it used to be. A full dose now required
- Mixing multisite products produces a synergetic effect 1+1 = 2.32. This may be a strategy for the future
• Lower cost 2 spray strategy – only for lower value, later sown crops where critical timeliness can be achieved. Aim to keep the upper 3 leaves clean. Remember you are balancing yield with margin

Find out more – Links to AHDB information sheets or research

AHDB Recommended Lists for cereals and oilseeds
Fungicide performance for wheat, barley and oilseed rape
Disease monitoring and forecasting tools are available at cereals.ahdb.org.uk/monitoring

Next meeting
Date: 25 June 2019
Topic: Summer meeting

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