

Stowmarket Monitor Farm

Meeting 7: Macro-nutrition & Buying strategy

6 November 2015

Wyverstone Village Hall, Stowmarket

Brian Barker, Ian Richards (RB209) & Robert Gazely (S&P)

For more information, visit: cereals.ahdb.org.uk/Stowmarket



Brian Barker

Meeting summary

- Update on Monitor Farm
- Crop nutrition comparisons between Monitor Farm and record yield
- Group survey of nutrition options on application and timing
- Update on RB209 review
- Buying strategies and options



Nutrition Survey

The Group were surveyed using an automated audience response system and the answers confirmed that the majority undertook or thought the following:

- Test for soil N levels some years, but not all
- Base nitrogen programme on agronomist recommendations
- Analyse gross margins to help inform growing decisions
- Use ammonium nitrate in granular form
- Apply three doses of nitrogen to winter wheat
- Apply three doses of nitrogen to winter oilseed rape
- Apply two doses of nitrogen to spring cereals
- Apply nitrogen in equal amounts
- Make one sulphur application
- Would like to place nutrients with seed, but don't have the capability
- Thought autumn nitrogen would only increase wheat yields in low-till situations
- Heard of Controlled Release Fertiliser (CRF), but not used

Review of RB209

- AHDB are currently in the process of updating RB209
- The ninth edition should be released in 2017 with the 10th edition in 2019
- The ninth edition will only be a revision of the 8th edition due to time limitations
- ADAS have been contracted by AHDB to carry out a review of each section and assess if any of the information can be updated by recent scientific research
- During this process information and knowledge gaps will be identified allowing AHDB to commission research to inform the 10th edition in 2019
- The ninth edition of RB209 will be available in both print and electronic forms
- A draft of the new version should be completed in 2016

Buying strategies

The group was split into two to discuss the pros and cons of various buying options:

Option	Pros	Cons
Buying groups	Save time & money	Loss of control & fees
Farmers joining forces	Better market presence	Complex & needs admin
Tungsten points	Longevity	Expensive
Carrying stock on farm	Convenient & known cost	Expensive & restrictive
Service agreements	Efficient & known cost	Expensive & restrictive

Next meetings

Date	Agronomy Group 11.30 to 1.30	Lunchtime Reports	Business Group 2.00 to 3.30
Friday 4 December 2015	Fungicide strategy	Fertiliser	Marketing theory
Friday 8 January 2016	Micro-nutrition	Grain	Cost analysis
Friday 5 February 2016	Harvest management	Fuel	Marketing practice
Friday 10 June 2016	Farm Walk / Open Day		

All winter meetings start at 11am at Wyverstone Village Hall, Rectory Road, Wyverstone, Stowmarket, IP14 4SH and include lunch, unless otherwise advised.

- To attend the meetings, please contact your AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds Regional Manager: Tim Isaac tim.isaac@ahdb.org.uk 07964 975078