



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
December '16

Early Winter Pointers

Hopefully the main autumn field work is nearing completion. Time to look forward to some seasonal festivities—and start planning for spring 2017.



Following a series of record harvests world grain stocks set at 'comfortable' levels. There is nothing to indicate a dramatic improvement in grain prices in the short term. So, to maintain and improve margins the emphasis remains, as ever, on producing high yields as efficiently and as cost-effectively as possible. In recent years ProCam's trial work has focused on the 3 interrelated elements of variety, fungicide and crop nutrition as the key to building crop yields and performance. Plant breeders have developed varieties with improved genetic yield potential. The challenge for farmers and agronomists is to turn this potential into reality.

Traditionally, micronutrients were applied only to correct observed deficiencies or to ensure yields would not be limited by insufficient access to essential trace elements. Too often this approach meant that crops had become stressed before nutrients were applied and were incapable of recovering lost yield potential.

ProCam has modified this approach and has identified products that proactively supply essential nutrients but also synergise with fungicides to significantly enhance overall yield. Early screening of products under controlled conditions in pot trials at Nottingham University identified products that significantly and reliably improved root and shoot

growth in wheat and oilseed rape. Field trials, applying these products in combination with fungicides at the usual timings, demonstrated clear yield improvements over those achieved from the fungicide inputs alone. More importantly the nutrient products proved to be cost-effective and showed excellent returns over input cost, even with multiple applications. These products have now been put into practice in ProCam's agronomy programmes for cereals and oilseed rape and have been proved to produce valuable yield improvements on a broadacre scale. As temperatures drop spring may seem a long way off but now is the time to discuss these nutrient options with your ProCam agronomist and investigate how they could add value to your agronomic programmes in 2017.

Some excellent improvements in maize establishment, growth and maturity from sowing maize under plastic film were demonstrated at ProCam SW's Open Day earlier in the autumn. This technique using the Samco 3 in 1 machine which sows seed, sprays the soil with pre-emergence herbicide, and lays a thin layer of Biodegradable Plastic Film over the seed bed protects



the young maize plants from late frost, increases the soil temperature and thus maximises the crop yield per hectare. Your ProCam SW agronomist will have all the results from this year's trials and will be pleased to discuss with you how this system could be used to boost maize performance on your farm.

Wheat Bulb Fly



Spring forecast 2017

The autumn survey of wheat bulb fly incidence was completed earlier this autumn and AHDB Cereals and Oilseeds funding for this work is gratefully acknowledged. A total of 30 fields were selected for sampling in September 2016 in areas prone to wheat bulb fly, in the east and north. Sites were chosen to represent some of the main preceding crops leading to a risk of wheat bulb fly damage in each area. In autumn 2016, only one field of the 30 surveyed (3%) was considered at high risk, containing egg numbers greater than the 250/m², seven fields (23%) were considered at moderate risk, containing egg numbers between 100/m² and 249/m² and 22 fields (74%) were considered at low risk, containing egg numbers less than 100/m².

In total, only one field (3% of total samples) was above the 250 eggs/m² economic damage threshold for crops sown in September and October.

At 3%, the overall forecast risk for 2017 is the equal lowest recorded since monitoring began in 1984.

It is possible that as the winter wheat harvest was ahead of that in 2015 there was less time for saprophytic fungi to develop in cereal ears, which in turn meant less food for adult wheat bulb fly females resulting in them laying fewer eggs. Average egg numbers in the north were similar to those in the east with 90 eggs/m² in the east and 89 eggs/m² in the north. Over all sites, the highest risk was after onions, with a mean of 212 eggs/m². The next highest risk was after potatoes, with 123 eggs/m².

Although the overall risk may be low, later sown crops after roots etc. may still be vulnerable to damage. If seed treatments have not been used there are now no post-emergence insecticides for application at egg hatch or first signs of 'deadhearts'. Damage mitigation will have to rely on cultural methods e.g. rolling, and/or nutrient applications to promote plant growth and tillering.

As this is the last newsletter of 2016 may we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a

Very Happy Christmas

and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year



NRoSO



Workshops 2017

Dates for ProCam's Spray Operator Interactive Workshops have been arranged and are shown in the adjacent table. This workshop is part of the farming and crop protection industry's Voluntary Initiative to minimize the environmental impacts of pesticides. This workshop will attract 10 CPD points for National Register of Sprayer Operators (NRoSO) members and 6 CPD points for BASIS members

California Cross Inn, Modbury, Ivybridge PL21 0SG	18th January 2017	am
Aller Barton Cullompton EX15 1QQ	7th February 2017	am & pm
The Shoot Room, Huish Barton, Okehampton SX20 3QE	16th February 2017	am & pm

The workshop will last for half a day and includes training, course material, certificate and lunch.

If you wish to attend one of the ProCam SW NRoSO Workshops email : mikecorp@procam.co.uk or contact the ProCam SW office on 01884 34275.

BPS



2016 Payment

The RPA has published the Basic Payment Scheme entitlement values for 2016. Higher gross entitlement values and a more favourable £/€ exchange rate of 0.85228, (compared with 0.7313 in 2015) means that, overall, payment rates will increase by just under 19% compared to last year. The net

	Gross Payments - € per Ha			2016 Est.	Net BPS Payments - £ per Ha		
	2016 Standard	2016 Greening	2016 Total		2014 (SPS)	2015	2016
Lowland	175.27	77.71	252.98	248.5	192.87	178.85	212.69
SDA Non-Moor.	174.01	77.15	251.16	246.7	154.45	177.57	211.16
Moorland	45.97	20.39	66.36	65.2	27.05	46.92	55.79

BPS payments shown are after Financial Discipline. This reduced the payments by 1.354% (1.393% in 2015) Payments are promised to start on 1st December. The RPA has stated a target of paying 90% of 2016 claims before the end of December