



**PROCAM**  
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update  
Dec '20

## EARLY WINTER POINTERS

Unsettled conditions through much of November have delayed and disrupted fieldwork, requiring husbandry plans to be adjusted and on-going crop monitoring.



Record rainfall in October meant that even with 'typical' November weather there have been difficulties in completing planned drilling and spraying operations. In a number of areas field conditions and cropping are very reminiscent of last year at this time. The pros and cons of continuing with drilling plans have been previously discussed and much was learned from last autumn's experience; not least that successful outcomes can be achieved from persisting with 'winter' varieties into the early spring. Suffice it to say that if late sowing is contemplated, seed rates will need to be adjusted. With deteriorating establishment conditions moving into late autumn/winter 450–500 seeds/m<sup>2</sup> may be required to achieve a target plant population of 275–300 plants/m<sup>2</sup>. Rather than 'mauling in' crops and risking slug damage and possible crop failure it may be prudent to hold off and switch to a spring drilling or cropping option.

Cereal aphid numbers have declined in the latter part of November, but despite some frosts, temperatures to date have not been low enough to reliably eliminate aphids that have arrived in crops. If mild temperatures persist aphids will continue to survive, reproduce and spread within crops, so that even relatively low infestations can ultimately cause problems. Crops drilled into late October are likely to have achieved the 170 Day Degree T-Sum threshold spray

'trigger' by mid-late November. If BYDV insecticides have been delayed it will still be worthwhile continuing with applications, if conditions allow, even into early spring.

Predictions of the BYDV risk in your area are available from the AHDB BYDV Management Tool at: <https://ahdb.org.uk/BYDV>

The autumn survey of Wheat Bulb Fly (WBF) incidence has indicated a relatively low risk of damage, similar to the incidence in 2019. Fields sampled were in areas prone to WBF in the east and north. Sites were chosen following crops likely to lead to a risk of WBF damage in each area. Overall, 77% of fields sampled were in the 'low' risk category and only 10% of sampled fields were above the 250 eggs/m<sup>2</sup> threshold for crops sown at a conventional timing i.e. before November. However, late-sown crops from November onwards that may have few tillers at the time of egg hatch in the spring could still suffer significant damage from much lower egg numbers. With no insecticidal options, apart from Signal seed treatment, control measures will revolve around cultural treatments to encourage plant growth and tiller production. Your ProCam agronomist will have full details of the WBF risk in your region.

The early AHDB forecast for Light Leaf Spot (LLS) incidence this autumn was predicting a generally lower risk than recent years, albeit with the typical regional variations. Feedback to date from the Bayer SpotCheck initiative is actually indicating high levels of LLS infections in all areas across the UK and particularly so in crops in the north and west. Close monitoring and incubation of leaves is needed to identify infection levels.

Planned fungicide applications may well have been delayed, but should be proceeded with where practicable. At this stage there are no thresholds for guiding spray requirements and applications should be carried out as soon as possible after the disease is identified in the crop, (weather conditions permitting). Monitoring needs to continue through the winter and into early spring and follow-up fungicides need to be applied if/when re-infection occurs prior to stem extension.



**ANNUAL TRAINING  
EVENT 20/21**

In previous years ProCam has organised and run a series of Spray Operator Roadshows over the winter period, contributing to the annual NRoSO Training Event. This year, due to the impact of the coronavirus, the event will be moving to a web-based platform and will be accessible online. NRoSO is currently working to develop the e-learning course and expects it to be 'live' from 14th January 2021.

The arable e-learning course will involve four topic areas. Each section is followed by a small number of multiple choice questions, requiring an 80% pass rate before moving onto the next module. All four modules are required to be completed before details are passed back to NRoSO for points to be allocated.

The fruit e-learning course will involve three topic areas, and again, each is followed by a small number of multiple choice questions, requiring an 80% pass rate before moving onto the next module. All three modules are required to be completed before details are passed back to NRoSO for points to be allocated.

Members will not need to contact City & Guilds to confirm completion of the e-learning as NRoSO will be advised by the e-learning providers on a regular basis of those who have completed the courses.

It is anticipated that each module will take roughly 30 minutes to complete (35 minutes for the fruit). So, a total average time of 2 hours for each course. As such it has been agreed that the course will be awarded 8 NRoSO points for this year. (5 BASIS points have also been allocated). These e-learning courses will be available until 30th June 2021 and members who sign up before this date will have until 31st August 2021 to complete them, with unlimited attempts to pass all modules.

The cost of taking the annual training course is £30.00 (£25.00 + VAT).

Further details of how to access the course will be made available soon. Please forward any queries relating to the Annual Training Event to [nrosoroadshow@cityandguilds.com](mailto:nrosoroadshow@cityandguilds.com)



**2020  
PAYMENT RATES**

Entitlement values and greening rates for the 2020 BPS in England were announced by the Rural Payments Agency in November and BPS payments should start to be paid from 1st December 2020. As was widely anticipated the payments are very similar to last year, based on the same €/\$ exchange rate i.e. €1 = £0.89092.

As is well known, the calculation of entitlement values is undertaken from scratch each year and the rate can vary depending on how many entitlements are claimed in each region. The table below shows the published rates, in euros and the estimated entitlement value in £/ha that will be paid.

BPS ENTITLEMENT VALUES 2020						
	Gross Payments – €/ha			Net BPS Payments – €/ha		
	2020 Standard	2020 Greening	2020 Total	2018	2019	2020
<b>Non-SDA</b>	182.70	79.07	261.77	228.14	229.54	233.22
<b>SDA</b>	181.34	78.58	259.92	226.66	227.84	231.57
<b>Moorland</b>	49.76	22.02	71.78	61.81	62.52	63.95

Source: RPA \*converted at €=£0.89092.

The small increase in payments this year is largely due to the decision of the RPA not to make the usual Financial Discipline deduction from the 2020 payments.

Despite an extended deadline for submission of BPS claims this year, payments are still expected to be received from the start of the payment window, 1st December. Now is a good time to double-check entitlement statements to ensure any errors can be quickly spotted and corrected. As the post-Brexit era dawns, procedures for farm support payments will undoubtedly change. As has been widely reported, the requirements for 'greening' in 2021 have already been dropped, but full details of the new scheme for next year have yet to be announced.

This is the last newsletter of 2020 and after an unprecedented and most extraordinary year may we take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you and your family a

**VERY HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS  
AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS 2021**

