



PROCAM
AGRONOMY THAT DELIVERS™

Technical Update
Dec '21

EARLY WINTER POINTERS

Better autumn conditions than in the last two years have generally given crops a good start to the 2021/22 season. Monitoring is still required as we head into the winter.



A more clement autumn than the two previous years, including a very dry November, has permitted a more 'normal' level of autumn crop establishment and has generally encouraged vigorous and healthy crop growth. However, there are still a few ongoing issues that need to be monitored as we approach the festive season.

Cereal aphid numbers started to decline in early November, but this trend was reversed as numbers caught in the Rothamsted suction traps increased from mid-November. Normally, crops emerging in late October and November would be expected to be at less significant risk from BYDV. With the indication that aphid migration was continuing and even increased through November, later sown crops could still be at risk from infection. Although temperatures dipped in the latter days of November they have not been low enough to reliably eliminate aphids that may 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. The AHDB BYDV tool will calculate the optimum spray timing in relation to T-sum 170 if aphids are present in the crop. Predictions of the BYDV risk in your area are available from the AHDB BYDV Management Tool at:

<https://ahdb.org.uk/BYDV>

This year's AHDB autumn survey of Wheat Bulb Fly (WBF) has indicated that the risk level is one of the highest recorded in the last 10 years. However, it is still below the long-term average. In 2021, 17% of fields were above the 250 eggs/m² risk threshold compared with the long-term average of 19%. Late-sown crops from November onwards that may have few tillers at the time of egg hatch could still suffer significant damage in fields where egg numbers are above 100 eggs/m². In eastern England 40% of fields were found at this threshold, compared with fewer than 3% of fields sampled in the north of England. Apart from Signal seed treatment, control measures will revolve around cultural treatments to encourage plant growth and tiller production.

The AHDB Light Leaf Spot (LLS) forecast is now live and online at: <https://ahdb.org.uk/light-leaf-spot-forecast>

The forecast provides a guide for seasonal risk levels, based on early sown susceptible varieties, but now also incorporates a range of rainfall scenarios. Currently, for an average rainfall scenario, the forecast shows Scotland, the North of England and the South West of England to be at the highest risk for infection. Early drilled crops (before mid-late August) are more at risk from LLS and fungicide applied in late autumn/winter is a key control strategy. The first signs of LLS have been seen on incubated leaves of susceptible varieties from field crops across the UK. At this stage there are no thresholds for guiding spray requirements and applications should be made according to finding the disease in the crop. Monitoring must also continue through the winter and into early spring; follow-up fungicides need to be applied if/when re-infection occurs prior to stem extension.

Incubating leaves for 2-3 days is often needed to accurately diagnose infection. Alternatively, SpotCheck, a collaboration between Bayer and ADAS, will be running until the end of March. Samples received will be examined for LLS and a range of diseases including phoma, powdery mildew and downy mildew. Details from your ProCam agronomist.



In mid-November the Farming Investment Fund was opened. This will provide a total of £27 million of funding to farmers for investment in productivity-boosting equipment. This could include solar powered electric fences, water treatment systems that use ultraviolet light rather than chemicals and cameras for monitoring livestock.

The fund will be split across two strands. Firstly, the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund will focus on smaller grants for equipment from a set list, including electronic seeders and chemical-free disinfection systems.

Secondly, the Farming Transformation Fund will cover more substantial technology with the potential to transform business performance. This strand will focus initially on water management with grants available to improve water use on farms including crop irrigation equipment and constructing on-farm reservoirs.

The deadline for the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund is 7th January 2022 at midday.

Applications for the Farming Transformation Fund can be made using a new online eligibility checker to improve the application process for these grants. Applicants will be able to check in advance their project's suitability in relation to the scheme objectives. Projects that score highly enough against the scheme objectives will be invited to make a full application. This will be open until 12th January 2022, with the deadline to complete full applications by 30th June 2022.

The Farming Investment Fund is one mechanism by which financial support to agriculture will be provided as Direct Payments are phased out. Business support is also available through the Farming Resilience Fund. Where investment in equipment and business infrastructure is being planned, applications for grant funding from these schemes should be seriously considered.

The Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) entitlement rates were published by the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) at the end of October. For 2021 BPS payment rates for England are set in sterling and the payment window opens from 1st December.

As is well known, to simplify BPS payments from 2021 the so-called greening requirements and consequent greening payments are no longer a feature of the BPS. However, while the greening payments have been removed, the budget allocated to them has been added to the overall entitlement rates which have increased to reflect the combined value. The BPS payments rates for England in 2021 are shown in the table below, in comparison with the net payments from the previous two years.

BPS ENTITLEMENT VALUES 2021 £/ha			
	2019	2020	2021
Non-SDA	229.54	233.22	233.30
SDA	227.84	231.57	231.60
Moorland	62.52	63.95	64.00

From this year, Direct Payments in England will be gradually phased out over a seven year period that will see the introduction of alternative support to farming under the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS). Starting from 2021 payments will be reduced, with initial bigger reductions in higher payment bands.

As ever, now is a good time to double-check entitlement statements to ensure any errors can be quickly spotted and corrected. Also, another perennial warning is to be aware of potentially fraudulent contacts as the payment window opens.

This is the last newsletter of 2021 and after another challenging year may we take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you and your family

a very happy & peaceful Christmas
& a happy, healthy & prosperous 2022

