



#### **Farmer representation on the Crop Nutrient Management Partnership**

- There are currently vacancies for farmer members of the following groups that oversee the updates and production of the [Nutrient Management Guide \(RB209\)](#).
  - Steering Group
  - Arable Technical Working Group
  - Grass and Forage Technical Working Group
- Each group meets twice a year – usually in spring and autumn - either online or in-person at the AHDB main office.
- Meetings are typically half a day in duration. However, the time commitment from group members is around 2-3 days per year, including time to prepare for the meetings and follow up any actions as required.
- Independent farmer members of the groups will have their expenses paid in line with the AHDB expenses policy.
- Members of these groups should have a good working knowledge of the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209). FACTS qualification would be desirable.
- All members of the Steering Group and Technical Working Groups are expected to maintain an active participation in the Crop Nutrient Management Partnership and contribute fully to the meetings and decision-making processes.

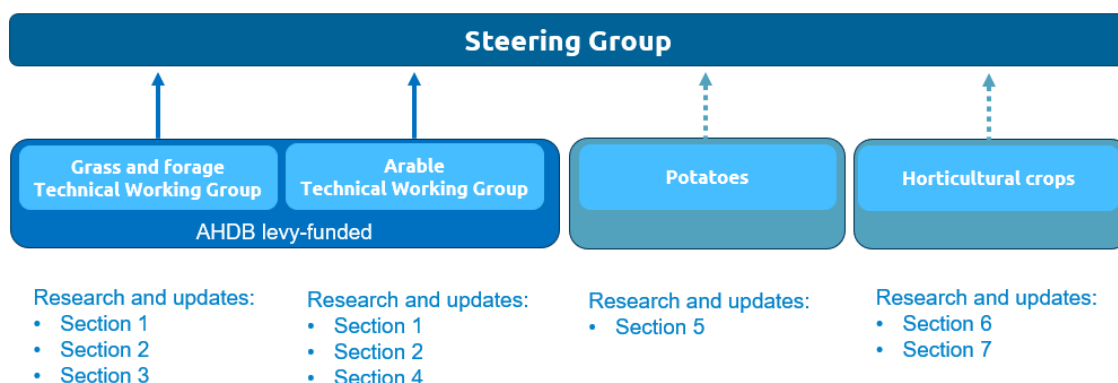
Please email to express an interest in joining the Crop Nutrient Management Partnership:  
[nutrient.management@ahdb.org.uk](mailto:nutrient.management@ahdb.org.uk)

#### **Overview of the Crop Nutrient Management Partnership**

The two main sources of information on crop nutrient management in the UK are AHDB's Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) and SRUC's Technical Notes. Farmers, growers, agronomists, and FACTS (Fertiliser Advisers Certification and Training Scheme) Qualified Advisers (FQAs) use this information to plan crop nutrient management. Over half of farms (57%) with a nutrient management plan use RB209 as the source of recommendations (Defra Farm Practices Survey 2023).

Revisions of the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209) are managed by AHDB in partnership with government departments and other organisations. The Crop Nutrient Management Partnership has an overarching Steering Group, supported by Technical Working Groups (TWGs) (Figure 1).

Levy collected by AHDB for the Cereals & Oilseeds, Beef & Lamb, and Dairy sectors supports the TWGs for arable crops, and for grass and forage crops. These TWGs oversee the updates to Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209).



**Figure 1.** Structure of the Crop Nutrient Management Partnership  
Technical Working Groups have responsibility for specific sections of RB209, with the AHDB levy-funded groups also leading on Sections 1 and 2 of the guide.

### 1. Steering Group

The Steering Group is convened by AHDB and is chaired by an individual appointed by AHDB.

The Steering Group:

- Is responsible for encouraging collaboration and steering the development and uptake of crop nutrient management planning
- Supports the development, management and dissemination of the AHDB Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)
- Supports revisions of RB209 put forward by AHDB levy-funded Technical Working Groups
- Liaises with independently funded groups (potatoes and horticultural crops) to support revisions to Sections 5, 6 and 7 of RB209
- Co-ordinates knowledge exchange and communications on crop nutrient management

Membership of the Steering Group is by invitation with roles as follows:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AHDB - convenor</li> <li>• FACTS</li> <li>• DEFRA</li> <li>• DAERA</li> <li>• Scottish Government</li> <li>• Welsh Government</li> <li>• Agricultural unions</li> <li>• Environment Agency</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AICC</li> <li>• AIC</li> <li>• AFBI</li> <li>• PGRO</li> <li>• BBRO</li> <li>• Potatoes sector representative</li> <li>• Horticulture sector representative</li> <li>• Independent farmer/farm manager (x3; cross-sector representation)</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

## 2. Technical Working Groups

Technical Working Groups are responsible for relevant discrete sections of the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)

Each Technical Working Group is responsible for

- Identifying and prioritising knowledge gaps for respective crops
- Agreeing and deciding the scope of new research calls. For AHDB levy-funded sections of RB209, decisions on new research calls will be in line with the AHDB research commissioning process
- Identifying sources of public and/or private sector funding, including in-kind contributions from industry
- Appointing an appropriate organisation to publish a call for research and manage the resulting project(s)
- Ensuring research data and evidence proposed to update RB209 is collected in an independent and robust way, following the “Guidelines for Crop Nutrient Management Field Trials”.
- Making recommendations to the Steering Group for revisions of relevant sections of the Nutrient Management Guide (RB209)
- Developing knowledge transfer strategies for respective crops/sectors

### 2.1 Arable Technical Working Group

The Arable Technical Working Group is responsible for Section 1, Section 2, and Section 4 of RB209, covering the principles of nutrient management and fertiliser use, organic materials, and crops including cereals, oilseeds, peas, beans, sugar beet, and biomass/energy crops. The Arable Technical Working Group is convened by AHDB and chaired by a person appointed by AHDB.

Membership of the Arable Technical Working Group is by invitation from AHDB as follows:

- AHDB - convenor
- FACTS
- Independent farmer/farm manager (x3)
- Independent agronomist/consultant (x3)
- Agronomy company (x3)\*
- Analytical laboratory\*
- SAC consulting (Scottish Technical notes)
- Catchment Sensitive Farming
- Potash Development Association
- PGRO
- BBRO
- BioCapital (AD)\*
- Fertiliser manufacturers (x3)\*

### 2.2 Grass and Forage Technical Working Group

The Grass and Forage Technical Working Group is responsible for Section 1, Section 2, and Section 3 of RB209, covering the principles of nutrient management and fertiliser use, organic materials, grass and forage crops. The Grass and Forage Technical Working Group is convened by AHDB and chaired by a person appointed by AHDB.

Membership of the Grass and Forage Technical Working Group is by invitation from AHDB, as follows:

- AHDB - convenor
- FACTS
- Independent farmer/farm manager (x3)
- Independent agronomist/consultant (x3)
- Agronomy company (x2)\*
- Feed company (x1)\*
- SAC consulting (Scottish Technical notes)
- Analytical laboratory\*
- Catchment Sensitive Farming
- Potash Development Association
- Fertiliser manufacturers (x3)\*
- British Grassland Society

\* Commercial organisations represented on the Technical Working Groups may be members on a rotational basis, for a fixed 3-term. This may be reviewed at the discretion of AHDB.