

# Basingstoke Monitor Farm

Meeting title: Crop establishment vs pests and weeds

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Speakers: Sarah Cook (ADAS)



## *IPM: Pest and weed management*

- Rotational ploughing may be a necessity for weed control (e.g. black-grass)
- Natural predators can be encouraged through flower margins that include flowers from the Umbelliferae family and by including fallows; these could be part of your greening/EFA's or, ES schemes
- We need an integrated approach to weed and pest management – never rely on one aspect alone
- Decisions can be prioritised to try to manipulate the weed/pest biology sufficiently that herbicides/insecticides are a last resort
  - Stage 1: should always be to consider their biology – what are you trying to control (e.g was control last year bad so seed return was high?) .
  - Stage 2: cultural control pre-drilling and if possible in-crop now needs to be considered. Investigate your options – (e.g) for defoliation of OSR using a topper and/or sheep before stem extension can help control CSFB larvae (see [Innovative Farmers Field Lab: defoliation for CSFB control in oilseed rape](#)). Care must be taken when grazing livestock due to sulphur levels so don't use pregnant ewes or stock requiring high DLWG's. Introduce livestock to OSR over a period of time making sure they have adequate fibre (straw) water and minerals
  - Final stage: herbicides/insecticides

## Take-home messages

- I.D your weeds as not all weeds effect yield (e.g. knotgrass, sow-thistle do not)
- Rotations and diversity are key to IPM
- Integrated weed management approaches – rotations, grazing, drilling timings, varieties etc.
- Non-chemical technologies/grazing/crop competition: tall crops are competitive (e.g barley)
- Embrace new technologies (for example System Cameleon, weed wipers, drones and UAV technology etc.)
- Experiment and communicate results to learn (see [Strategic Cereal Farms](#) and [Innovative Farmers](#) for more information on on-farm trials)
- Cleanliness is vitally important for reducing seeds
- Have a long-term strategy plan
- Be persistent and patient

## Further information

- GREATsoils research and publications can be found at [ahdb.org.uk/greatsoils](http://ahdb.org.uk/greatsoils)
- [Livestock and the arable rotation](#)
- [Encyclopaedia of pests and natural enemies](#)
- [Encyclopaedia of cereal diseases](#)
- [Encyclopaedia of arable weeds](#)
- [FAR focus: Integrated Pest Management \(New Zealand\)](#)
- [Recommended Lists for cereals and oilseeds](#)
- Pest and disease monitoring tools can be found at [ahdb.org.uk/tools](http://ahdb.org.uk/tools)

## *AHDB resources*

- Understand your business costs with AHDB's benchmarking tool Farmbench at [ahdb.org.uk/farmbench](https://ahdb.org.uk/farmbench)
- Monitoring tools are available at [ahdb.org.uk/tools](https://ahdb.org.uk/tools)
- Sign up to market information and research newsletters at [ahdb.org.uk/keeping-in-touch](https://ahdb.org.uk/keeping-in-touch)
- Find out what's going on at other Monitor Farms and Strategic Farms at [ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence](https://ahdb.org.uk/farm-excellence)
- All AHDB events can be found at [ahdb.org.uk/events](https://ahdb.org.uk/events)
- For guidance on how Brexit will impact your business, see [ahdb.org.uk/brexit](https://ahdb.org.uk/brexit)

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