

# Basingstoke Monitor Farm



Meeting title: Fungicide Strategies

Date: 6 February 2020

Speakers: **Steve Cook**, Independent crop advisor & NIAB TAG regional agronomist  
**Bastiaan Brak**, AHDB Research Analysis, Crop Production Systems, AHDB

Next & Final Event: 4 June 2020 10.30 13.30 – **The past 3 years and now into the future!**

## Steve Cook

With crops drilled later the focus for the first part of the meeting was based on the future husbandry for these.

### Take-home messages

Late drilled crops require:

- Warmth – temperatures above 5°C
- Sunlight
- Adequate nutrition
- Oxygen in the soil
- No waterlogging or compaction
- Yield potential can still be 85-95% of normal crops.

Rolling

- Rolling will encourage tillering in grassland but that is an established plant.
- Small plants are less able to take any damage.
- Cereals will tiller as they grow and develop.
- Roll only if soil is loose or wireworm/slug grazing

Nitrogen Use

- Late crops need N at start of tillering:
- Feb/March sowing: late start to tillering but 'spring' wheat so treat as spring cereals with seedbed N (25-30%?).
- The rate of N uptake is low during the early stages of crop development.
- The highest rate of N uptake occurs between the onset of stem extension and flag leaf emergence.
- Don't apply N too early as the crop can't use it or in the wrong conditions.

PGR's

- Can reduce apical dominance so, it can help tiller retention but trials have shown no increase on final ear numbers or yield.
- PGRs can reduce yield in absence of lodging.

#### Biostimulants & Micronutrients

- Very little evidence of any biostimulants improving final yield despite some limited evidence of improved rooting from a few products however, leaf size could be increased by bio-stimulants but trials have not shown any yield benefits
- Trace element requirements are lower in later drilled crops and should be applied according to past risk history for the field and visual symptoms
- Most soils can supply the required trace elements at levels appropriate to the crop size and growth.
- Remember – “You can’t magically make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear by the use of such products!”

#### Fungicide use

- Fungicide programmes should be risk based.
- Variety is not the only factor.
- Know your costs and benchmark your operations (if you can’t measure it you can’t manage it)
- Fungicide resistance can be a result of over use.
- Integrated Crop Management should be practised – Cross compliance, Sustainable Use directive
- Fungicide programs are sometimes too expensive.
- Savings should be possible 2020 so match fungicide programme spend to disease risk
- Allow for variety susceptibility
- Buy the best fungicide activity possible within the spend
- Monitor crops
- Late sown crops could have different disease risk and different timings
- Use up the Chlorothalonil before 20<sup>th</sup> May
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#### Seed treatments

Test the seed for Bunt, Smut, Fusarium, even if it is certified

- Untreated seed does tend to keep better
- Unused seed without a seed dressing could be returned to the barn as long as not contaminated by dressing.

## Bastiaan Brak

Choosing the right variety for the right location is vitally important in helping to promote clean and healthy crops. AHDB has now introduced an online variety tool that will:

- Demonstrate the value of ‘*treatment benefit*’ (yield response to fungicide) when considering varieties and fungicide input
- Corroborate with field-based results from AHDB Strategic Farm East (data courtesy of Brian Barker)

#### Take-home messages

- The new Recommended List Variety Selection Tool makes it easier for farmers to select (new) varieties in the context of disease management / fungicide input

## Further information

[AHDB Variety selection tool](#)

[Recommended Lists for cereals and oilseeds](#)

## AHDB resources

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

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