

Basingstoke Monitor Farm meeting report

Meeting: Summer Event – Past Present & Future

Date: 3 June 2019

Speaker: Charlotte Rowley (AHDB Crop Entomologist)

Location: Longmeadow Sports and Social Club, Whitchurch, RG28 7RB

For more information, visit: cereals.ahdb.org.uk/basingstoke



Key messages

- Have a rotation plan, but be prepared to change.
- Understand the pest lifecycles
- There is no single solution to weed, pest and disease control; you have to have diversity in cropping and within cropping to disrupt lifecycles and build beneficials.
- Think about the field, the farm and the landscape
- Integrated pest management (IPM) is *“the use of all available plant protection methods, the integration of appropriate measures to discourage the development of weed, pest and disease populations, keeping the use of pesticides and other interventions to levels that are economically justified, and minimising the risks to human health and the environment.”*

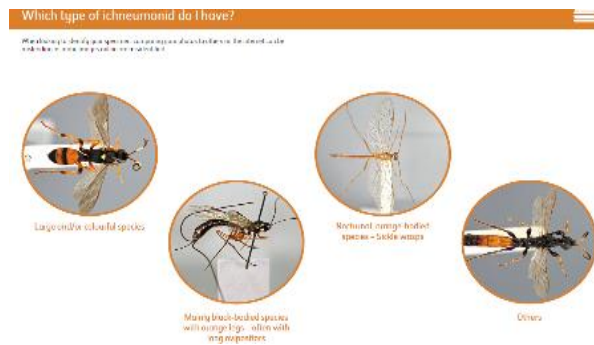
OSR – CSFB Control

Drilling early can increase the ability of the crop to tolerate adult damage, because the crop will be better established by the time migration begins

Late drilling (into September) is likely to result in lower larval pressure and possibly avoid adult damage.

Increasing seed rates for establishment may help when drilling in dry conditions however, this may also escape CSFB larvae

Leaving volunteer OSR until late September can help to act as trap crop to attract migrating CSFB away from drilled OSR.



CSFB is attacked by parasitoids in both larvae and adult form;- Species from the Ichneumonidae, & Braconid family of parasitoid wasps are known to be predators and can be encouraged through flower margins that include flowers from the **Umbelliferae** family and, also, including fallows within your greening or ES schemes.

Defoliation of OSR using a topper and/or sheep before stem extension can also help control CSFB larvae but 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.

Biostimulants

- The term biostimulant is relevantly new and was a term first used in horticulture for substances other than crop nutrients, fertilizer's, soil improvers or pesticides
- The use of biostimulants MAY offer some level of improved control against folia diseases and, an increase in nutrient use efficiency so reducing reliance on high fertiliser and chemical inputs
- Biostimulants in the UK to date haven't been proven so jury still out with much more research and data required

Further information

[Livestock and the arable rotation.](#)

This guide covers the extensive opportunities available, including the grazing of arable land, growing crops for silage or hay and arranging muck-for-straw deals.

Read the Royston Monitor Farm meeting [report](#) on making the most of environmental stewardship and using areas of your farm that you want to develop or improve.

AHDB Cereals & Oilseeds has a range of [publications and tools](#) to assist with environmental stewardship.

[Machinery cost calculator](#)

[Machinery for farming or farming for machinery webinar](#)

[Farmbench](#)

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