



R.M. JONES
FARMCENTRES

YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
OPEN DAY
LEDBURY

(OPPOSITE THE RUGBY CLUB AT HJ PUGH)
WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 3PM - 8PM

SPECIAL OFFERS ON THE DAY ONLY

TRADE STANDS AND CATERING

01531 806130

COME SEE US AT USK SHOW

STAND D9 - ENTER OUR COMPETITION

SATURDAY 10th SEPTEMBER

9AM - 6PM

Arable Update – September 2022

UK LIFFE wheat November 22 @ 248– 252/t

MATIF OSR November 22 @ £520 - 535/t

AN34.5% Fertiliser @ £860+/-

Current OSR growth stage Planting/Cotyledon

Comments

Well that went quickly for most people! Yields on the whole have been surprisingly good given the exceptionally hot and dry weather. There have been some standout Oilseed Rape yields and most wheats have produced a really strong average. Quality looks good with high specific weights and decent samples. Even though prices are back significantly from the highs of May the ex-farm prices should make this year a profitable one for most farms. The focus is now on marketing the crop and establishing next year's crop successively.

Maize crops, usually a stalwart in a hot summer, have been disappointing on many farms with short crops caused by drought stress. In these situations crops tend to produce higher starch levels as cobs are a greater proportion of total DM yield. Talk to your agronomist for ideas on how to make up any forage shortfalls.

Tasks

Oilseed Rape

- Where possible use Pre-Emergence herbicides to give better weed control. Even though conditions are dry the use of **Backrow** will improve retention and efficacy of the herbicides it is applied with.
- Hedge mustard is an increasingly annoying weed in OSR that can affect sample quality and act as a disease reservoir. **Clomazone (Centium 360)** pre-emergence will help improve control
- Flea beetle are likely to rear their shiny little heads again this season. There are a number of steps you can take to reduce their damage including:
 - ⇒ Use a fast establishing hybrid
 - ⇒ Use a quality seed dressing like **Take Off** can help the crop establish faster taking it through the risk period
 - ⇒ Early Nitrogen in a form that gives 30kgN/ha of available N to the crop
 - ⇒ Companion crops such as **Berseem Clover, Buckwheat** will help confuse the flea beetle and have been shown to reduce grazing pressure. Both can be removed easily with herbicides later
 - ⇒ Use of organic manures e.g. digestate, slurries and poultry dung can help obscure the smell and flavour of the emerging rape plants. Target application as close to crop emergence as possible.

Cereals

Seed rates should be based on the following formula:

$$\text{Seed Rate (Kg/Ha)} = \text{Target Plant Population M}^2 \times \text{TGW (G)} / \text{Expected Establishment}$$

- The plant population target for wheat is **260 plants/m²** for early October drillings. Where drilling is delayed then establishment will reduce, obviously seed rate will need to be increased. Realistically seed rate will have to be increased by 50 seeds/M² every fortnight after early October or in poor conditions.
- As a guide cereals need approx. 150 deg C/days from planting to emergence (equates to 11 days in September, 15 days in October, 26 days in November)
- Obviously conditions are key – avoid forcing seedbeds where possible as this will cause long term damage to soils and result in poorer crops

Fertiliser: If you haven't organised your fertiliser please talk to your Agronomist ASAP.
Protected urea is looking like a more cost effective option this year.