

Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG) agronomist update system

What is it and why have the MSG implemented such a system?

- Water companies have been asking for more information about metaldehyde application timing and consider it the key piece of the jigsaw in terms of predicting high risk periods for metaldehyde in water
- The MSG worked with the AIC and AICC to get the buy in from the major agronomy companies and independent crop consultants and emphasise the importance of such an initiative
- Knowing when metaldehyde is being applied will enable water companies to risk assess drinking water catchments accurately and help towards reducing metaldehyde exceedences, which in turn will reduce the likelihood of use restrictions
- Cereals 2015 saw the launch of the initiative on the Water UK stand.

How does it all work?

1. The system runs from August to December, covering the main pelleting season
2. Every Monday, agronomists receive an auto email prompting them to submit an online report (via an easy to use platform) by 5pm on Friday
3. On Thursday, those who haven't yet submitted their reports were sent a further auto email
4. The reports that agronomists submit via the platform look like this (see points below)
5. Once all reports are submitted, each Sunday evening an auto email sends the relevant reports to the water companies in PDF and CSV file format.



Questions covered in weekly reports

- General
- Field saturation %
- Oilseed rape crops
 - Drilling dates
 - Growth stage
- Wheat crops
 - Drilling dates
 - Growth stage
- Slug numbers vs 2014
- Treatment
 - Recommendations
 - % land treated
- Verbatim comments section

Metaldehyde Stewardship Group (MSG)
 Agronomist Updates

Name: Martin Harwood
Report date: 11th December 2015
County: Hertfordshire
Catchment:
Areas: South

Field Saturation

Fields monitored this week are currently:

Saturated	Field capacity	Wetting up	Dry	Dry and cracked
0%	0%	100%	0%	0%

Percentage of fields with drains running:
40%

Oil Seed Rape Crops

Date first OSR crop drilled in the catchment/county:
8th August 2015

Percentage of OSR crop drilled to date in the catchment/county:
100%

Most advanced OSR crop growth stage in the catchment/county:
6 leaves

Date OSR drilling ceased in the catchment/county:
5th September 2015

The Metaldehyde Stewardship Group represents 100% of the UK market for metaldehyde slug pellets comprising of Adams, Corris, Chitem Farm Chemicals, De Bagnosse, Doff Portland, Frontal Delica and Lanza. USE PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS SAFELY. ALWAYS READ THE LABEL AND PRODUCT INFORMATION BEFORE USE.

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Wheat Crops

Date first wheat crop drilled in the catchment/county:
5th October 2015

Percentage of wheat crop drilled to date in the catchment/county:
100%

Most advanced wheat crop growth stage in the catchment/county:
6 leaves 0 tillers

Date wheat drilling ceased in the catchment/county:
2nd November 2015

Slug numbers

Slug numbers compared with last year:
Same

Treatment

Date first metaldehyde treatment recommended in the catchment/county:
n/a

Is slug pellet treatment recommended this week in the catchment/county:
Yes

Percentage of land that will require slug pellets this week in the catchment/county:
20%

The percentage of slug pellets recommended last week that have been applied in the last week to the catchment/county:
100%

Other info

Most of my growers do not have a major slug problem however, there are pockets of problems around the St Albans/Reddough area where the slugs are a problem on OSR and on cereals following a cover crop. Rain fall last week was 10mm at Shefford (Bedfordshire) but higher in the south Hertfordshire area

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